



An unconventional finish worked for Bahama's Shaunae Miller, whose desperate dive, inset, at the finish line saw her clinch gold in the Women's 400m of the Rio Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

# A Kenyan king and a golden dive

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too fast it can cost you in the last 100m and that is what I wanted to be aware of," the Kenyan said at the press conference. "It is unfortunate they did not follow what I said as it cost them."  
While Rudisha's title defence was more of a routine exercise, there was a big upset and drama in the women's 400 metres where Bahama's Shaunae Miller dived at the finishing line to beat defending champion and four-time Olympic gold medallist Allyson Felix by the smallest of margins. The 22-year-old Bahamian was the quickest off the blocks, and her long strides consoli-

dated her lead even as a burst of speed from the defending champion made things very tight at the final bend.  
Felix looked like catching up to Miller in the final 50, only to be denied by a desperate dive from the Bahamian at the finishing line. Exhausted, both Miller and Felix lay on the track for long, the former from anticipation of a win and the latter from the disappointment of losing.  
"I didn't see anyone until the last 20 metres and the only thing I was thinking was that I must get that gold medal," Miller said as she pulled herself up after the giant screen con-

firmed her victory. "I think (the dive) was just a reaction, my mind went blank, the next thing I knew I was laying on the ground. I've got a few cuts and bruises but I'm okay."  
Meanwhile, the men's pole vault saw a big upset too as Brazil's Thiago da Silva broke an Olympic record to beat defending champion Renaud Lavillenie of France. Starting with two failures, the Brazilian passed an attempt at 5.98m and pushed Lavillenie to 6.03. With the Frenchman failing twice, Silva cleared the height at an Olympic record to set the crowd into raptures.

# Flood affects

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Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. It also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.  
It expressed particular concern for Jamalpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha as these are the first affected districts with 30 percent of the population living below the lower poverty line.  
Without mentioning any districts specifically, the report said there are some districts where no immediate humanitarian responses have yet been made by any international aid agencies.  
The OCHA reported damage or destruction of as many as 250,000 houses across the country in the current deluge stalking the affected areas since mid-July.  
The report stated that the Bangladesh government has allocated 10,060 tonnes of rice to 19 affected districts as well as Tk 4.29 crore in cash and dry food worth Tk 2.8 crore to the affected population.  
In a report published on August 11, the Brussels-based European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) has meanwhile stated that 37 lakh people have been affected by floods in Bangladesh and more than 40,000 of them have been displaced as over 280,000 houses have been either fully or partially damaged.  
The ECHO said some 106 people have drowned and 10 others have been killed by snakebites in the wake of flooding.  
Like the OCHA, the ECHO has also identified Jamalpur, Kurigram, Sirajganj, Tangail and Gaibandha as the worst affected districts. These districts have been the longest affected and correspond to more than 70 percent of the affected population, said the ECHO.  
An ECHO mission is currently underway to further assess the situation on the ground.  
There has been no picture of flood-induced crop damage in either of the OCHA or ECHO reports.  
However, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) has preliminarily estimated that more than 1.25 lakh hectares of cropland went under floodwater this year and crops, mainly paddy, of around 20,000 hectares of land were completely damaged.  
The agriculture ministry has plans to provide farmers with Aman saplings as flood-water recedes from their croplands.  
The government would provide paddy saplings to the flood-affected farmers, as many seedbeds have been washed away by floodwater, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said.  
"Farmers would not be able to plant paddy saplings if floodwaters submerge their land. The government will try its best to supply paddy saplings to the flood-hit farmers and different government agencies, such as BADC [Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation] have been prepared for this," she added.

# It's murder

FROM PAGE 1  
Some 30 years ago, Dr Reza Khan rescued an elephant, which fell into a ditch, with the help of university students and locals. We have the experience of recovering tiger cubs in recent times and successfully saving their lives. These were possible because of expert help.  
But this time we find an amateurish approach by the forest department people. They tranquilised the elephant, not once but twice and probably thrice. The last two tranquilization attempts were made within 24 hours.  
No international protocol says an animal as weak as the elephant was should be tranquilised twice in 24 hours. It is now obvious that the weak animal could not take the tranquilisers and died.  
It is also beyond our understanding why it had to be shot twice. Why this risk of tranquilising him twice was taken? This was a big mistake.  
But once it was shot, there was no preparation for its rescue. An elephant is not a tiger that it could be easily carried. So, all the preparations had to be in place before it was tranquilised. Why was that preparation not in place?  
What we find in Zimbabwe and other African countries is that they use heavy belts and straps to be put round animals once they are put to sleep and then lift them by cranes or helicopters.  
Our forest department used chains and ropes. These are certainly not the implements to employ to rescue an elephant. The chains and ropes would have dug deep into the animal's flesh and caused it to die.  
This is probably why the forest department did not remove it once it went to sleep.  
Elephants have a large body and so they need a lot of effort to keep themselves cool. That's why they constantly fan themselves with large ears and often immerse their bodies in waterholes.  
Once the elephant was tranquilised, it just lay on its side. We have not seen any effort to keep it cool. In this monsoon heat, it dehydrated and overheated. And so its heart, weak from the heavy doses of sedatives, stopped beating.  
What else can this be called other than a murder?  
Now we do not know if the forest department took the institutional steps when it came to removing the animal. Was the wildlife advisory board informed and taken advice of? A big project on elephants is already in place in Bangladesh. Were the project officials involved? We know IUCN staff went to the spot. So what did they do? What was their advice? Did we try to contact any international organisation such as Elephant Care International?  
Were our local experts called to the rescue?  
We also have no idea if proper dose of tranquiliser was applied and if antidotes were administered as was required.  
So what else could be done other than tranquilising the animal?  
There were many other choices, actually.  
First of all, Dr Monirul H Khan, a wildlife expert and professor of Jahangirnagar University, says the elephant could be scared into the

Indian territory. Torches could be lighted and drums beat and crackers exploded to scare the elephant into the territory it came from immediately after it was reported. This way it could return to its own habitat.  
If the current in the river was a problem, the elephant should have been given food and officials could have bid time until the monsoon was over. It could have been tranquilised once it had regained its strength, Dr Anisuzzaman Khan, a field biologist who studied elephants, said.  
Alternatively, Dr Anisuzzaman says, the old practice of Kheda or enclosure to capture wild elephants could be applied. The elephant could have been harried into the Kheda and captured.  
So we see a great deal of callous approach to "rescue" the elephant, which instead cut its life short.  
We call it a murder, plain and simple.

# Mother sues

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Asked why Babul's name was faked in the passport, he kept mum.  
Contacted, accused Udhir said he was not involved in human organ trade.  
"I had no idea that Babul would donate a kidney," he claimed.

# HC sets aside

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City authorities can now resume the project following yesterday's verdict.  
The Ashiyani City authorities had stopped all activities of the project after the earlier HC verdict on January 16, 2014.  
Mustafizur said Ashiyani City had received a certificate from the deputy commissioner of Dhaka in favour of the housing project after the HC declared the project illegal on January 16, 2014.  
The DC's certificate was annexed with the review petition filed by the housing company, he said.  
The lawyer, however, could not say anything about the content of the DC's certificate.  
The HC came up with the January 16, 2014 verdict following a writ petition by eight rights organisations - Ain O Salish Kendra, Association for Land Reforms and Development, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Institute of Architects Bangladesh, Nijera Kori, and Paribesh Bachao Andolon had filed the petition on December 22, 2012.  
After yesterday's verdict, writ petitioners' lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan, however, told this correspondent that they would not be able to comment on whether or not the Ashiyani City housing project is legal before receiving the full HC judgment.  
She said it is very rare that the HC scraps its earlier verdict following a review petition.  
Rizwana also said they would move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging yesterday's HC verdict.

# Obama takes

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the Bush administration, 532 prisoners were released from Guantanamo, often in large groups to Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.  
The latest batch of released prisoners had been held without charge at Guantanamo, some for over 14 years. They were cleared for release by the Periodic Review Board, comprised of representatives from six US government agencies.  
The UAE successfully resettled five detainees transferred there last year, according to the Pentagon.  
Lee Wolosky, the State Department's special envoy for Guantanamo's closure, said the US was grateful to the United Arab Emirates for accepting the latest group of 15 men and helping pave the way for the detention centre's closure.  
"The continued operation of the detention facility weakens our national security by draining resources, damaging our relationships with key allies and partners, and emboldening violent extremists," Wolosky said.  
In the United Arab Emirates, the state-run WAM news agency had no reports on the Guantanamo transfers yesterday and UAE officials declined to immediately comment on the Pentagon announcement.  
Obama has been seeking to close the detention centre amid opposition from Congress, which has prohibited transferring detainees to the US for any reason. The administration has been working with other countries to resettle detainees who have been cleared for transfer.  
Naureen Shah, Amnesty International USA's director of national security and human rights, said the transfers announced Monday are a "powerful sign that President Obama is serious about closing Guantanamo before he leaves office."  
US Rep Ed Royce, a Republican from California who is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, criticised the Obama administration for recent releases, portraying the freed detainees as "hardened terrorists."

# Faraaz Square

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a friend in the decades to come.  
When the nageswar sapling matures, it would symbolise Faraaz, he added.  
The lawmaker said the tree would remind the students about Faraaz's courage and inspire the future generation to fight against militants.  
It's true that militancy is on the rise in Bangladesh. They are killers and brutes, and they disgrace Islam by killing people, said Mainuddin.  
The lawmaker asked the students whether they want to see Faraaz's mother at the Square, reports The Prothom Alo.  
In response, all of them said, "Yes". Samir Kanti Das, principal of the college, said Faraaz sacrificed his life the same way the freedom fighters did during the 1971 Liberation War.  
Mohsin Uddin, teachers' representative at the college, said they would invite Faraaz's mother to visit the square.

# 2 suspected

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Rajshahi and was planning to kill a local Hindu homeopath, he said.  
Acting on a tip-off, a team from the Detective Branch of police in Rajshahi and Bagmara police jointly arrested Rumi, a student of Bagmara College, from his home around 2:30am yesterday.  
Based on information gleaned from him, the team arrested Sabuj, a student at Rajshahi Government College, from Hatibandha Ramguta village in the upazila around an hour later.  
The arrestees were "active" members of Ansar Rajshahi, claimed the SP.  
The group, which aimed at establishing a new governing system based on the Shariah law, has just six members, he said.  
The group is headed by one Abu Ibrahim alias Ripon of Boalia area in Rajshahi city, said police, adding that they were trying to arrest its other members.  
SP Moazzem said Sabuj had lately been making preparations to visit Saudi Arabia. He had also applied for police clearance for his passport.  
Police also claimed to have seized the passports and mobile phones of the arrestees.  
A case was filed under the anti-terrorism act with Bagmara Police Station, accusing the six members of the group.  
One of the other accused in the case is Shariful Islam, a 3rd-year student at the English department of Rajshahi University. He is also the prime suspect in the murder case of RU teacher AFM Rezaul Karim Siddique.  
According to text messages exchanged between the two arrestees, the group was planning to murder homeopath Nirendronath Sarker.  
During their primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed their involvement in the group, claimed police.  
Nirendronath has been provided with police protection, added the SP.

# Marzan

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Shathi of the ICS unit, said the proctor.  
Later, the university authorities ran an investigation through police and found his active involvement with the ICS, he added.  
Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star couldn't reach any of the ICS unit leaders.  
On Friday, police released a photo of Marzan, saying he is a "top-level militant organiser" and was the "operational commander" of the July 1 Gulshan café attack which left 22 people, mostly foreigners, dead.  
On Monday, Marzan's family in Pabna confirmed his identity.  
Marzan got admitted to CU in 2013. He passed his first year final examinations with CGPA 3.48 the following year. But he attended only a few classes in his second academic year, said the proctor.  
In the second year final exams, he appeared in six of the 10 tests. He was last seen on the campus on February 14 last year when he came to attend an exam, added Ali Asgar.  
Asked, CU Vice Chancellor Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury said Nurul Islam's studentship was cancelled automatically as he neither got re-admitted to the third academic year nor sat for improvement tests for the second year exams.  
Nurul Islam's classmates think he got involved in militant activities from his second academic year as they saw some changes in him at that time.  
"He regularly attended classes in the first year but started skipping classes from the second year," said Touhidul Islam, one of his former classmates.  
His batchmates are now fourth-year students of the department.  
Some of them said he used to attend classes wearing panjabi and pyjamas. But he put on shirts and pants outside the class.  
They also said he stayed with other students at "Al Hera Cottage" in Zero Point area of the university in 2013. He left the place in 2014 and moved to the city area.  
The students now residing at the cottage couldn't provide any information on him.  
**MARZAN'S BACKGROUND**  
Nurul Islam Marzan passed Dakhil (equivalent to SSC) from Darul Ulum Markazia Madrasa in 2010 and Alim (equivalent to HSC) from Arifpur Fazil Madrasa in Pabna in 2012.  
He was a student of Darul Hadis Qawmi Madrasa at Banshabazar in Pabna town. But he sat for Dakhil and

Alim exams from the Alia madrasas as the Qawmi madrasa is not a government-affiliated educational institution, according to Madrasa sources.  
Nurul Islam had close ties with Mushfiqur Rahman, a suspended teacher of Darul Hadis Qawmi Madrasa and follower of Asadullah Al Galib.  
Galib is the ameer of Able Hadith Andolon Bangladesh, many of whose members have alleged links with banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).  
"Mushfiqur was a follower of Galib. For this reason, he was suspended from the madrasa in September 2013. We don't know where he is now," said Abdur Rahman, superintendent of Darul Hadis Qawmi Madrasa.  
Contacted, Motiur Rahman, superintendent of Arifpur Fazil Madrasa, confirmed that Nurul Islam was a student at his institution. He, however, said Nurul took the Alim exams from his institution as an "irregular student".  
"Actually, he was a Qawmi Madrasa student. But he got his registration through my institution and then appeared in the Alim examinations," Motiur said.  
Jahid Hasan, superintendent of Darul Ulum Markazia Madrasa, said that while a student at Qawmi madrasa, Nurul took Dakhil exams from his institution in 2010 and got GPA-5.  
**JAMAAT-SHIBIR'S ALLEGED LINKS WITH MILITANTS**  
Jamaat-Shibir's alleged involvement in militant activities came to the fore when militancy saw a sharp rise during the rule of the BNP-led four-party alliance of which Jamaat was a key component.  
JMB chief Abdur Rahman and his father were Jamaat activists. Abdur Rahman joined Islamic Chhatra Shibir when he was a student.  
Siddiqui Rahman Bangla Bhai, head of the killing squad of banned Islamist outfit Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), was an active Shibir member till 1995.  
Former Habiganj Jamaat ameer Maulana Saidur Rahman alias Zafar took over as the JMB chief in mid-2006 after JMB kingpin Abdur Rahman was arrested in February 2006.  
On July 23 this year, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said Jamaat's link was found in the Sholakia attack near the Eid congregation in Kishoreganj on July 7. Four people, including two policemen, a local and an attacker, were killed in the incident.

# Another 7-8 people

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"Alongside the militants killed, several other people were involved in the recruitment, planning and financing," he said, referring to the development of the investigation.  
All these suspects were home-grown and were staying in the country, the DMP official said, adding that investigators were yet to learn if anyone from abroad had been involved in the Gulshan cafe attack on July 1.  
A group of militants stormed into upscale Holey Artisan Bakery and Restaurant in the capital's Gulshan on the evening of July 1 and killed 20 hostages, including 17 foreign nationals.  
An army-led commando operation the next morning ended the 11-hour hostage standoff, rescuing 13 hostages and killing six militants, according to Inter-Services Public Relations.  
The police claimed to have identified Canada-Bangladesh citizen Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury and Nurul Islam Marzan as "masterminds" of the militant attacks at Gulshan and Sholakia Eid congregation.  
Investigators showed former private university teacher Hasnat Reza Karim, one of those rescued from Gushan cafe, arrested in the case filed over the incident. Hasnat is the lone arrestee in the case so far.  
Tahmid Hasib Khan, a student of a Canadian university, also rescued from the cafe, has been shown arrested under section-54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and placed on remand by a Dhaka court.  
Briefing journalists, Monirul said law enforcers had found prima facie evidence of Hasnat's involvement in the incident, which was why they showed him arrested in the case.  
"His alleged militant link, presence at the restaurant on the fateful night and photos surfaced on different mediums made us suspect primarily that he is connected to the incident," he said.  
Replying to a query, the DMP additional commissioner said the police were yet to find any link between Hasnat and any of the slain militants.  
Investigators could tell about the matter after scrutinising evidences collected from the crime scene, he said.  
They are yet to summarise Tahmid's involvement as he is still on remand, Monirul added.  
Police learnt from different sources that Tamim was in Dhaka during Kalyanpur special operation on July 26, in which nine militants were killed in a flat.  
"Investigators have found Tamim's involvement in the Gulshan attack."  
The police, however, don't know his present whereabouts, said Monirul, dismissing media reports that spoke of

# Pyramid older

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will begin within days. All finds will be passed to the archaeology museum of Karaganda State University.  
Images released Monday of what Novozhenov called a 'sensational find' show artefacts already unearthed at the site, and the layout of the foundations of the pyramid.  
The discovery was made by specialists from the Saryarkinsky Archeology Institute in Karaganda under the leadership of Igor Kukushkin.  
"The shape of this magnificent construction reminds us of the famous Djoser pyramid (in Egypt)," said Novozhenov.  
In Soviet times, Karaganda was nicknamed the 'middle of nowhere' and was a destination for political exiles from many parts of the former USSR.  
Yet the discovery of the pyramid shows that a rich culture thrived here in the deep past. Pictures of the archaeological site highlight a 'step mausoleum' named the Begazinskaya (or Begazin) Pyramid, built between 3,000 and 3,500 years ago.  
Archaeologist Varfolomeev said the mausoleum was found in the Shet district of Karaganda region, in central Kazakhstan, on the right bank of River Talda. The whole burial includes no less than 27 constructions dating to different epochs.  
The biggest building has five levels of stone steps. The burial chamber is slightly over seven metres in diameter.  
Pyramids exist in places other than Egypt, for example Mexco and China, but this 'copycat' would be the first in Kazakhstan.