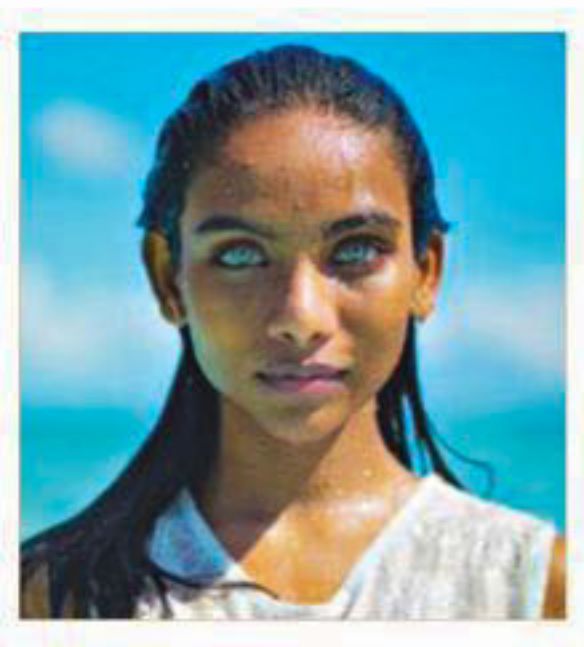


HOW DHAKA DEALS WITH RAIN



Raudha's mother flies to Dhaka for support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Raudha's mother Aminath Muharrimath flew to Dhaka from Rajshahi yesterday to seek legal support regarding the death of her daughter -- a Maldivian student and a model who was found dead at a dormitory of Islami Bank Medical College in Rajshahi on March 29.

"Our embassy is there. Besides, my two sisters are living in Dhaka. I can get some help there," Aminath, a staff at the human resource department of the Maldives Police Service, told this correspondent at Shah Makhdum Airport in Rajshahi before her departure around 3:15pm.

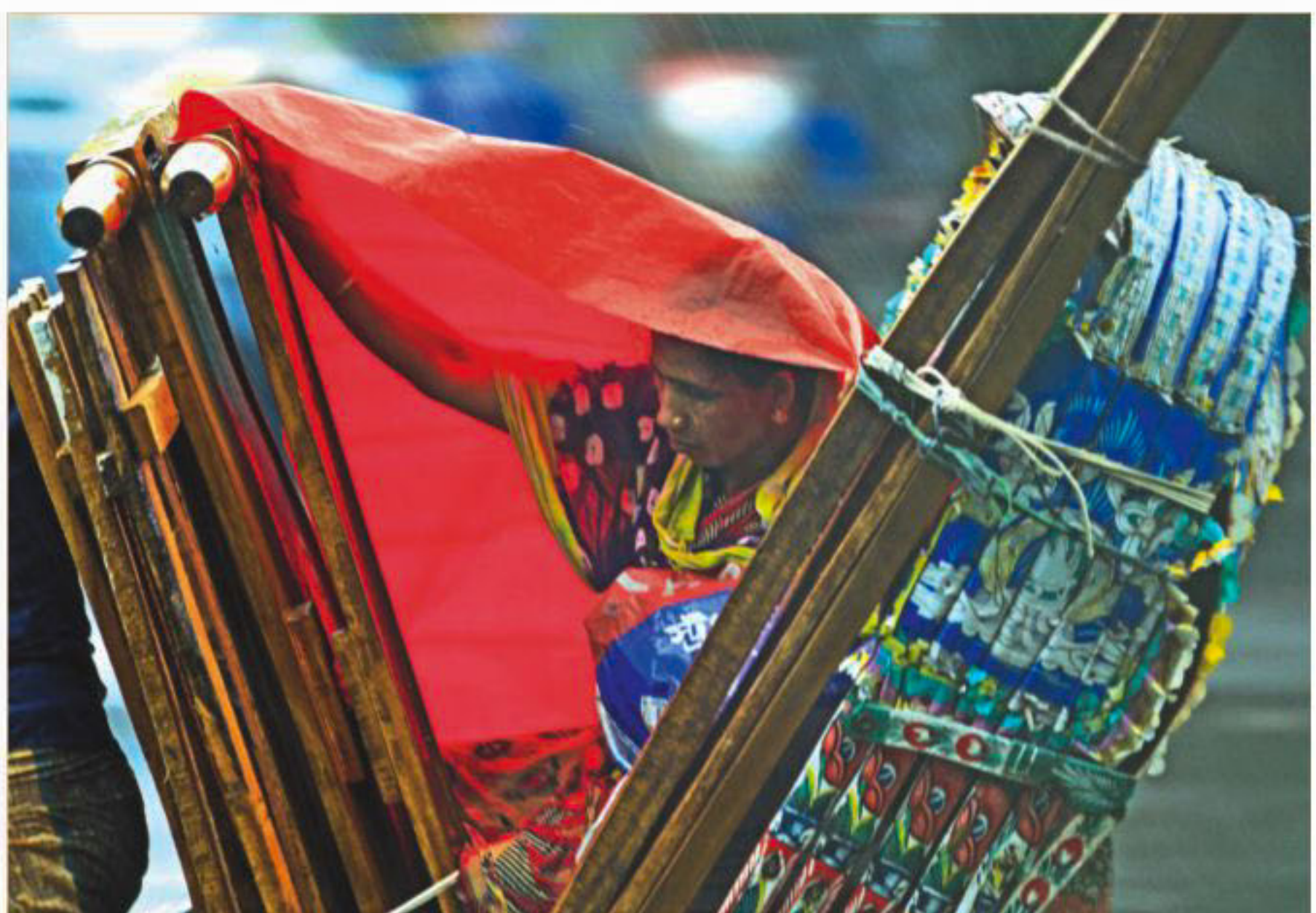
She said they need legal assistance, because their opinion regarding Raudha's death differs from the local authorities'.

"Local police provided us with some photographs of my daughter lying dead inside her room, but they declined to give us the autopsy report that claimed she committed suicide," she said. "We want to know the cause of her death."

Meanwhile, Maldivian police officials yesterday again spoke to the family members of Raudha and chief of the medical board that performed her autopsy.

In the morning, Chief Superintendent Mohamed Riyaz and Chief Inspector Ahamed Ali of the Maldives police, who flew to Rajshahi on Monday to assist Detective Branch of police in probing Raudha's

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A pedestrian helps another cross a puddle and onto the footpath at Farmgate while several others wait to follow suit after it rained yesterday afternoon submerging most streets of the capital and causing waterlogging at places. At Moghbazar a rickshaw-van puller tries to get the vehicle back on its wheel after it tripped over a hole hidden under water. Holding a polythene sheet overhead, a woman tries to protect herself and a dismantled wooden bed from rainwater as she transports on a rickshaw at Shahbagh.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN, FIROZ AHMED

DU student drowns in campus pond

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student drowned in a pond at Shahidullah Hall on the campus yesterday.

Bayezid Bostami was a first-year student of Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT) and a resident of the hall.

"He drowned in the pond while bathing along with his fellow students around 6:00pm," said DU Proctor AM Amzad.

On information, fire service personnel rushed to the spot and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the proctor said.

Cricketer Sunny gets bail on surrender in dowry case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Cricketer Arifat Sunny secured ad-interim bail after he surrendered



before a Dhaka court yesterday in connection with a dowry case filed by a woman who claims to be his wife.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Nur Nabi passed the order when Sunny surrendered before the court complying with a court order and sought bail.

The 23-year-old woman, Nasrin Sultana, sued Sunny on January 23 alleging that he demanded Tk 20 lakh from her as dowry.

According to her, Sunny demanded the money six months after they got married on December 4, 2014.

On Nasrin's refusal, Sunny verbally abused her and left her, she claimed.

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Man to die for rape, murder in 2012

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death for raping and killing a girl before slicing her body into 26 pieces at a hotel in the capital's Nahar Plaza in June, 2012.

Judge Jayasri Samaddar of the Third Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women & Children Repression pronounced the verdict in absence of the convict, some five years after the shocking murder.

The convict went into hiding after he got bail from the High Court on June 26 last year.

Saiduzzaman Bachhu, the lone accused who had confessed to the raping and killing, was also fined Tk 1 lakh as compensation for the bereaved family.

The punishment of the convict will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge said in her judgment.

Soon after the verdict, victim's mother Shirina Begum told the reporters that she got justice but she urged the government to arrest the killer and bring him to book immediately.

Victim Roksana Akhter Rumi, 15, of Alfadanga upazila, Faridpur, lived with her relatives in the capital.

According to the case statement, Saiduzzaman Bachhu, proprietor of Sonali Tours & Travels, had said he had developed a relationship with the girl over the phone and took her to his office on the 12th floor of Nahar Plaza on June 2, 2012.

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ARSON CASES Khaleda seeks stay on trial proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has filed two separate petitions with the High Court seeking a stay on the trial proceedings against her in two arson cases.

Police filed the cases with Darussalam Police Station on February 10 and 20 in 2015, on charge of setting fire to vehicles during the anti-government movement.

Police submitted charge sheet of the cases on May 12 and 14 last year to the trial court implicating Khaleda along with other accused, which took cognizance of the charges on August 10 last year.

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BDR carnage hearing may conclude in June

Hopes Attorney General Mahbubey Alam

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The hearing proceedings of the BDR carnage case might be concluded in June this year as the High Court might need 30 to 40 more workdays for it.

Speaking with The Daily Star, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday said the HC will need the additional time as the government recently has filed three separate appeals with the HC, seeking tougher punishment for all the accused who were acquitted and given imprisonment of various terms by the lower court.

The government, prior to April 2, had already appealed against the acquittal of 69 out of a total 277 acquitted by the lower court.

The total government on April 2 filed the three latest appeals against the 208 accused who were acquitted and the 416 who were given imprisonment of various terms including life imprisonment by the lower court.

The attorney general said the HC is likely to finish the hearing proceedings of the case in June, as this court will go on a three-week vacation from April 14 and resume on May 6.

The three appeals were filed by the government for the highest punishment of the accused in the interest of justice, he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Attorney General AKM Zahid Sarwar Kazal, who has been dealing with the case, told this correspondent that a special HC bench -- that has already held hearing of death reference and appeals in the BDR case for 363 days -- could have finished the proceedings before April 14, if the three fresh appeals were not filed by the government.

The government has already placed arguments before the HC to uphold the trial court verdict that sentenced 152 convicts to death in the case, the DAG said.

After concluding the hearing, the HC will

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Uncle 'kills boy after abduction'

Decomposed body recovered in Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Tuesday recovered a decomposed body of a nine-year-old boy from Savar and arrested his paternal uncle on charge of abduction and murder of the boy 23 days back.

Police unearthed the body from tannery industrial area in Hemayetpur of Savar after arresting the boy's uncle Sujon, 18, and his associate Shahidul Islam, 20, from Mirpur area in the capital.

Fourth-grader Mahin, only son of rickshaw puller Mohiuddin, was abducted on March 12 on way home from his school in Monipur area of Mirpur, said investigation officer of the case sub-inspector Matiur Rahman of Mirpur Police Station.

Later that night, Mohiuddin filed a general diary with the police station after he and his family members failed to find the young boy, added Matiur.

On March 13, Mohiuddin received a call demanding Tk 5 lakh ransom for his son's release. The GD was turned into an abduction case after Mohiuddin informed the police of the ransom call.

Police located Shahidul from Agargaon area after tracking the mobile phone number. They also found Sujon's connection after scrutinising Shahidul's call list.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over the documents of a land plot to a police officer at the Prime Minister's Office in the capital yesterday. The plot was under a housing scheme for police officers, which was implemented by Bangladesh Police Officers' Multipurpose Cooperative Society. A total of 20 officers received plot documents yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

TIB urges govt not to allow money whitening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the government not to allow money whitening in the budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

TIB also expressed its concern over reported demand of various organisations to the National Board of Revenue to allow them to conceal the source of their money invested in different sectors during the upcoming national budget.

The anti-corruption body in a statement issued on Tuesday demanded that the government abolish such scope permanently.

TIB Executive Director Iftekhazzaman said allowing opportunity of whitening black money is contradictory to article 20 (2) of the constitution.

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This Friday, on World Health Day, the Star Weekend puts the spotlight on the important but oft ignored issue of depression and the stigma surrounding it. Celebrated novelist Kamila Shamsie writes about what post-Brexit Britain looks like for migrants, and columnist Nazmul Ahasan highlights Anandabazar's alt-journalism when it comes to stories on Bangladesh. Don't forget your copy of the Star Weekend!

"NOT IN MY HEAD."
The stigma surrounding depression