

Don't exhume her body

Raudha's mother calls on police; insists the medical student was murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The mother of Maldivian medical student Raudha Athif does not want the exhumation of the body buried in Rajshahi after she was found hanging by the college authorities in her dorm.

She, however, believes her daughter was murdered, which was ruled out by the first autopsy report stating that the 21-year-old committed suicide.

The Criminal Investigation Department on Thursday refused a request from Raudha's mother Aminath Muharrimath for not exhuming the body.

Providing an explanation, CID Special Superintendent of Police Nazmul Karim Khan said the investigators didn't have any evidence in support of the family's claim, and so they wanted a separate medical team to examine the body afresh.

Meanwhile, Aminath, upset by CID's rejection, wrote on Facebook, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



ADMISSION CHEATS 4 held, hostage rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four youths, including two students, were arrested in the capital early yesterday for allegedly kidnapping another student who had refused to pay them Tk 4 lakh for getting him admitted to a university through unfair means.

Saleh Sourav, son of Abdul Matin of Tangail's Kalihati upazila, was rescued from a rented room of one of his captors in Nilkhet where the arrests were made, said Rab-12 Crime Prevention Company-3 Commander Bina Rani Das.

Arrestee Anwar Hossain Rokon, 26, a student of political science at Dhaka University, led the gang which swapped photos in identity cards to appear in admission tests in place of their clients, she said.

The remaining three are Anwar's cousin Ismail Hossain Rubel, 27, of Noakhali's Sudharam;

Akhtaruzzaman Khokon, 21, and Jakaria Sarkar, 22, a student of Dhaka College, she told a press conference at the Tangail Rab camp.

Saleh was not content with agricultural engineering at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University and was SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Shakib

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him, which was already on the cards, was officially announced following a board meeting at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur and thus, Bangladesh now have three captains in the three formats, with Mushfiqur Rahim leading the Test side and Mashrafe captaining the ODI side.

"As you all know, Mashrafe is not the captain of Bangladesh's T20 team anymore. There's still a lot of time until our next T20 game. We are probably going to play a few in the Pakistan series, which is some time away. But we still decided on a new captain," Hassan told reporters.

"From now on, Shakib Al Hasan will lead the T20 team. Since he was the vice-captain, his name came by default. There were other names as well for this post, but at the moment he seems to be ahead of everyone. His recent performances have been amazing," added Hassan.

Shakib is by far Bangladesh's best T20 player. He has played in T20 leagues all over the world and had captained Bangladesh in this format for four matches, but was on the losing end on all four occasions.

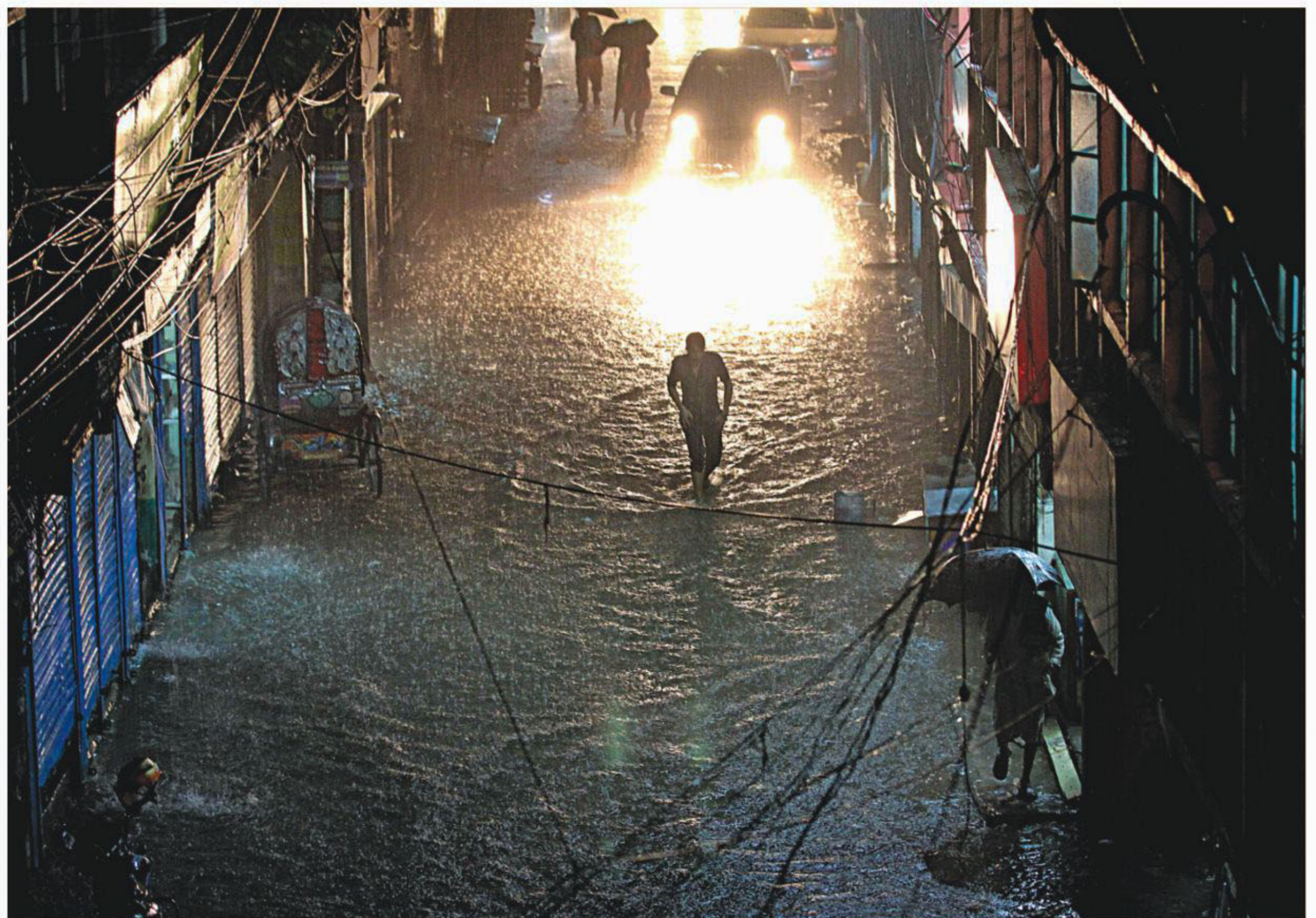
Shakib is currently ranked as the number one T20I all-rounder in the world and also occupies the top spot in the other two formats.

He has scored more than 3,500 T20 runs and taken more than 250 wickets and is regularly hunted in the domestic T20 leagues around the world.

He is currently in India taking part in the Indian Premier League and is expected to join the national team ahead of their tri-nation series in Ireland next month.

Mashrafe is expected to play till the 2019 World Cup and as of now, Shakib is the leading player to take over from Mashrafe. Back in 2009, Shakib was a young and inexperienced player.

However, over the years, the all-rounder has grown a lot as a cricketer and it will be interesting to see how he approaches the role right now.



A man wades through a flooded street near Farmgate last evening. Yesterday's rain caused many streets to go under water around the city.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Rain to reign for two more days

FROM PAGE 1

regions of Chittagong and Sylhet divisions," said a bulletin of the Met Office.

The maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number 3, while the inland river ports have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number 2, Abul Kalam Mallik, meteorologist of Dhaka Met Office, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said most areas of the country witnessed moderate to heavy rain from 6:00am to noon yesterday.

In Dhaka, commuters faced a tough time to reach their destinations due to morning rain. Several city streets, including those in Ganaktuli, Hazaribagh and Shantinagar, went under ankle- to knee-deep water, leaving commuters in trouble.

In Moulvibazar, downpours coupled with onrush of water from the hilly areas in the upstream triggered flashfloods in Kamalganj upazila in the last two days, leaving around 300

families marooned.

Surging water breached the Gupalnagar and Kunagaon embankments on the Dhalai river at many places in the upazila a few days ago. About 2,000 more families would be marooned if the river swells further, said locals and upazila administration officials.

Flashfloods left 23 dykes in the upazila at risk of developing breaches. However, a Water Development Board (WDB) official said they were yet to get budget for repairing the vulnerable points.

Abdul Hannan, chairman of Islampur union parishad, said floodwater submerged many areas of his union and around 1,000 people were already hit by the deluge.

Eight dykes in the union were at risk of developing breaches and the WDB was informed about it, said the chairman, adding that the officials visited the areas, but didn't take any action.

Jewel Ahmed, mayor of Kamalganj

Municipality, said 300 families were already marooned by rising flood water. Several thousand families living on the river banks feared they would lose their farmland and homesteads, he added.

Bijoy Indro Sankar Chowdhury, executive engineer of Moulvibazar WDB, said they had no budget for repairing the dykes on the Dhalai.

In Sherpur, low-laying areas of some 30 villages in Jhenaigati upazila went under water due to heavy rain and onrush of water from India's Meghalaya since Friday night.

Locals and upazila administration sources said flashfloods damaged the embankment on the Maharshi river near Ramerkura area. The Jhenaigati Bazar area was submerged under water.

Korban Ali, upazila agriculture officer, yesterday said boro crop on about 2,500 acres of land went under water.

In Barisal, many areas in the divisional city went under water due to downpour from Friday night till yes-

terday morning.

The Barisal Met office recorded 73.8 mm rainfall in 24 hours till yesterday noon.

Rainwater inundated Sadar Road, Jibanananda Das Road, Sree Nath Chatterjee Road, College Road, College Avenue, Palashpur, Kawnia and Bangladesh Bank areas in the city.

Water entered many houses and shops, schools and coaching centres. Residents were busy scooping out water with buckets from their homes. Some schools were forced to postpone classes yesterday.

Dipok Lal Mridha, conservancy officer of Barisal City Corporation, said they were trying to address waterlogging, but could not do much due to adverse weather conditions.

Meanwhile, the Barisal river port authority yesterday suspended operation of small launch (under 65 feet long) services until further notice.

Our correspondents in Moulvibazar, Sherpur and Barisal contributed to this report.

Shazneen

FROM PAGE 16

Women and Children Repression found contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, then engaged in renovating Shazneen's house, guilty as the main conspirator and instigator of the incident, and sentenced him and five of his accomplices to death.

The five other convicts are domestic help Shahidul Islam Shahid, Hasan's cohort Badal, housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin, and carpenter Shaniram Mandal.

In July 2006, the High Court upheld the death penalty of five of the convicts but acquitted Shaniram. Later, the five lodged appeals with the Supreme Court.

After hearing the appeals, the Appellate Division of the SC on August 2 last year upheld the death penalty of Shahidul and acquitted four others in the case.

The acquitted are Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, Badal, Estema Khatun and Parvin.

Later on, Shahidul, now in custody, filed a petition with the SC seeking review of its judgment on him.

The apex court on March 5 this year dismissed his review petition and affirmed its August 2 last year's judgment.

Shahidul's death penalty has not been executed, as the full judgment of the SC was not released yet, Advocate Abdullah Al Mamun, a lawyer for Shazneen's father, told The Daily Star on April 20.

Like every year, Shazneen's family has arranged a milad mehfil after the Asr prayers at 5:30pm today at their residence -- House# NE(J) 4, Road# 83, Gulshan-2 in the capital.

Shazneen's father Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, and mother Shahnaz Rahman have requested all relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the milad mehfil.

Death toll hits 140

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The attack starkly highlighted the struggle by the Afghan government and its international backers to defeat a Taliban insurgency that has gripped Afghanistan for more than a decade.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani visited the base yesterday, and in a statement online, condemned the attack as "cowardly" and the work of "infidels".

As many as 10 Taliban fighters, dressed in Afghan army uniforms and driving military vehicles, made their way into the base and opened fire on mostly unarmed soldiers eating and leaving a mosque after Friday prayers, according to officials.

They used rocket-propelled grenades and rifles, and several detonated suicide vests packed with explosive, officials said.

Witnesses described a scene of confusion as soldiers were uncertain who the attackers were.

"It was a chaotic scene and I didn't know what to do," said one army officer wounded in the attack. "There was gunfire and explosions everywhere."

The base is the headquarters for the Afghan National Army's 209th Corps, responsible for much of northern Afghanistan, including Kunduz, a province which has seen heavy fighting.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid yesterday said the attack on the base was retribution for recent killing of several senior Taliban leaders in northern Afghanistan.

Yesterday, the US military command in Kabul said that an American air strike killed a Taliban commander, Quari Tayib, on April 17. Eight other Taliban were also killed the strike, according to a statement by the command.

Mujahid said the attack on the base killed as many as 500 soldiers, including senior commanders.

Four of the attackers were Taliban sympathisers who had infiltrated the army and served for some time, Mujahid said.

That has not been confirmed by the Afghan army.

The Nato-led military coalition deploys advisers to the base where the attack occurred to train and assist Afghan forces but coalition officials said no foreign troops were hurt or killed.

"The attack on the 209th Corps today shows the barbaric nature of the Taliban," the commander of coalition forces, US General John Nicholson, said in a statement on Friday.

German forces have long led the international mission in northern Afghanistan.

In Berlin, military officials said advising missions on the base will be on hold for one or two days while the Afghan army investigates, but that work would resume.

"The situation shows that we cannot stop supporting, training and advising our Afghan partners," a German Operations Command spokesman said.

India strongly condemned the terror attack, saying it is a stark reminder of the need to immediately dismantle safe havens sustaining terrorism from outside that country's borders.

The external affairs ministry, in a statement, said India remained steadfast in its support to Afghanistan in fighting all forms of terrorism.

Unstoppable

FROM PAGE 1

hails from Taluk Dulali village in Aeditmari's Bhelabari union.

"For major diseases I recommend going to hospital and sometimes I help them get there."

Jahiron completed a six-month training course in healthcare and family planning in 1973, following which she earned a basic wage as a village health worker for the next decade.

After that she continued on her own. "I was used to visiting patients. I never gave up the habit," she says.

"I've seen her cycling around this area every day for several decades," says Azizul Islam, 68, a farmer from Haziganj village. "She never takes a

fee for her visits, charging only market prices for medicines; and sometimes for the poorest villagers she supplies medicine free-of-cost too."

"She isn't a doctor," says Manowara Bewa, 67, from Chandonpat village, "but she has excellent experience and by following her advice for general diseases we are sure to be cured."

Expectant mother Khadiza Begum, 42, from Dulali village, is equally impressed with Jahiron's care. "She never takes any fee for a prenatal consultation," says Khadiza, "and she has more experience in child deliveries than most."

Jahiron, who studied up to class three at her parental home in Tangail,

says she still visits around 60 homes in up to eight villages per day.

"I cover around 30 villages in total each month," she says, "and I earn about Tk 150 per day from medicine sales."

Her grandson Siddique Ali, 49, admits that he feels nervous as his grandmother ventures off on her own with her bicycle each morning. But her health is thus far exemplary. "She still has all her teeth," says Siddique. "She is physically energetic. But her main asset is her smiling face."

"I haven't suffered any kind of disease for the last 50 years," says ever-determined Jahiron, demonstrating the smile for which she is renowned.

According to her youngest son Torab Ali, 58, the family has some farmland and is not in dire economic need. Jahiron doesn't have to work.

"I have requested my mother many times not to continue but she never takes heed," he says.

"She says her work isn't only about her. She says it is work for the welfare of society and that everybody should strive for that."

Jahiron had three sons and two daughters. Her eldest son Danes Ali passed away eight years ago at the age of 66 and six years ago she lost her husband. Jahiron's dream is as simple as a bicycle wheel turning: to provide healthcare services to the villagers in Aeditmara until her final breath.



Jahiron Bewa hands out some medicines to a villager in Taluk Dulali of Lalmonirhat recently. Apart from giving free medical advice, she also distributes free medicines for common ailments like fever and headache to poor patients.

PHOTO: STAR