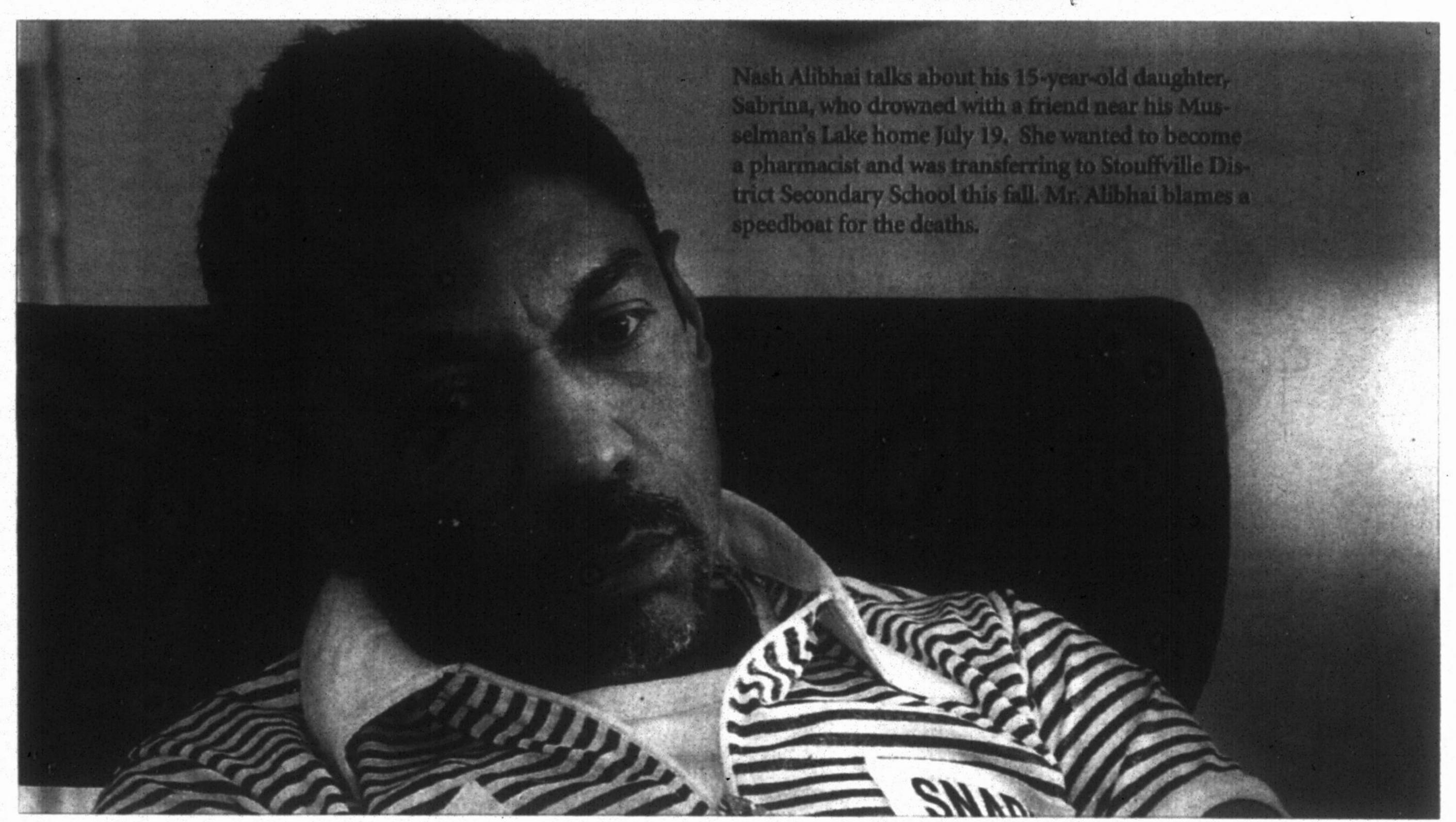
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EXCLUSIVE: DROWNING VICTIM'S DAD SPEAKS



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

'God has better things for her'

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

"Papa, I'm an excellent swimmer and I know how to swim. ... Don't worry, Papa. Don't worry."

Those were among the last words Nash Alibhai heard from his 15-year-old daughter, Sabrina, who along with her best friend, Gift Diji, drowned July 19 on Musselman's Lake.

"I told them stay near the shore. If something happens, stay on the boat. Don't get out of the boat and you will be drifted to the shore," Mr. Alibhai, 46, told The Sun-Tribune this week in an exclusive interview.

Mr. Alibhai, who has been living in a little red bungalow on the south side of the lake for about two years, didn't want the girls to take the dinghy on the lake that day.

"They made up their own minds what they were going to do. They wanted to go to the water," said the slight man who sat in a leather chair in his living room, looking exhausted and overwhelmed.

His best friend. Moe Amro, was at his side

and his younger brother, Mohsin, who flew in from Tanzania, was puttering around in the kitchen and making telephone calls.

Despite his misgivings, Mr. Alibhai let the girls go. But what they did not know was he kept an eye on them.

See 'I HAVE', page 8.

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