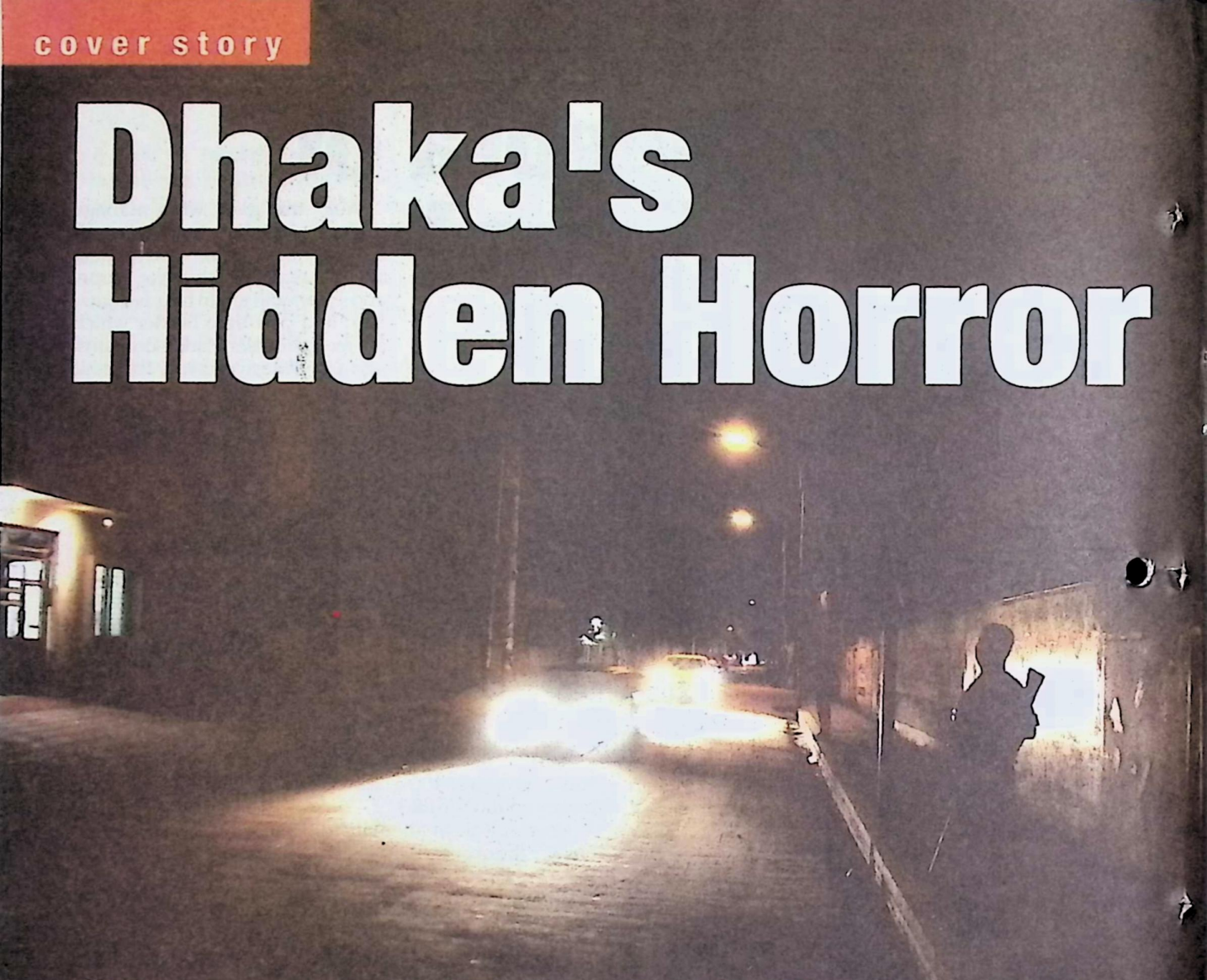
Dhaka's Hidden Horror



Dhaka is experiencing a worrying spike in street crime. After dark, many areas of the city become a happy hunting ground for muggers and carjackers. Extortion and hold-ups are also on the rise. Mugging which used to be confined to certain rundown parts of town is spreading fast, with criminals using newer and more aggressive techniques. The middle class is bearing the brunt of this crime wave. Lack of public confidence in the police remains high, and many attacks go unreported. Businessmen say politically connected thugs have emerged to terrorise small and medium enterprises while sociologists suggest the economic downturn and high unemployment are contributing to the general slide in law and order.

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