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# Extortion, mugging go unabated

Gangs, political elements active ahead of Eid

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Petty crimes--extortion and mugging--have increased at an alarming rate in the capital in recent times as criminal gangs and a section of ruling party men are desperate to make a quick buck ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Police have been deployed in at least 10 business establishments, including renowned furniture shop Hatil in Kafrul area after criminals demanded extortions while a shop owner on Elephant Road has been asked by his fellow party men to pay Tk 20,000 extortion per month.

Thugs beat up an Iranian national Ashraf Aghazadeh alias Mina and

snatched her cash and gold ornaments on August 26 while she was travelling on a taxicab while another criminal identifying himself as top criminal Shahadat demanded money from a physician of Mirpur over cellphone recently.

Mina alleged that following the incident she met with a joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), who gave an assurance of arresting the criminals and asked her not to file a general diary instantly in this connection.

These are a few instances among a plethora of such criminal acts that force the city dwellers to live a wretched life.

At least six people were killed and over 20 others injured in over 15 incidents of

gun attack either by extortionists or muggers in the city in the last two months, according to newspaper reports.

A three-member police team equipped with firearms has been guarding the multi-storied furniture shop Hatil on Rokeya Sarani at Shewrapara after a top criminal demanded a hefty amount of extortion.

"We have deployed our forces in at least 10 business establishments and at a few under construction building sites in Kafrul after the victims sought our help following demand of extortion money," said a top police official in Mirpur.

In another incident on August 25,

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## Uproar in JS over minister's Liberation War remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pandemonium broke out in the House yesterday when State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (ret'd) ABM Tajul Islam said military leadership led the Liberation War in 1971, and it was a military war.

The House proceedings were disrupted for around 10 minutes due to the pandemonium as the chair faced difficulty in restoring order.

In the face of stormy protests, the state minister later said the Liberation War was a political war, and political leadership led it.

Tajul said they would place a proposal to the government suggesting steps to honour the

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## Khairuzzaman not returning

He applies for 'My Second Home' scheme in Malaysia

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Malaysia

Former Bangladesh high commissioner to Malaysia M Khairuzzaman, accused in the jail killings case of 1975, has decided to settle down in Kuala Lumpur and not return home in compliance with an order of Bangladesh government.

A few of his close associates in Malaysia said Khairuzzaman has applied for a home in Kuala Lumpur under the country's Malaysia My Second Home scheme, fulfilling all criteria to stay a long time over there.

"He [Khairuzzaman] will not go back to Bangladesh at least during the tenure of the Awami League government," a

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## JUDGES APPOINTMENT Law secy gets 3 more days to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry yesterday adjourned its meeting till Sunday and asked the law secretary to send necessary documents to all the members before the meeting.

"We could not proceed with the agenda today [yesterday] as both the minister and the secretary had to join a cabinet meeting," Suranjit Sengupta, chief of the parliamentary body, said at a press briefing at the parliament's Media Centre after a short meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal was present at the meeting.

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## BCS cadre for primary edn underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament said formation of a BCS (primary education) cadre for officials involved in primary education management is under scrutiny.

"Efficient manpower will be engaged in supervising and conducting the primary education system if a separate BCS cadre service for primary education is constituted," Hasina said replying to a query

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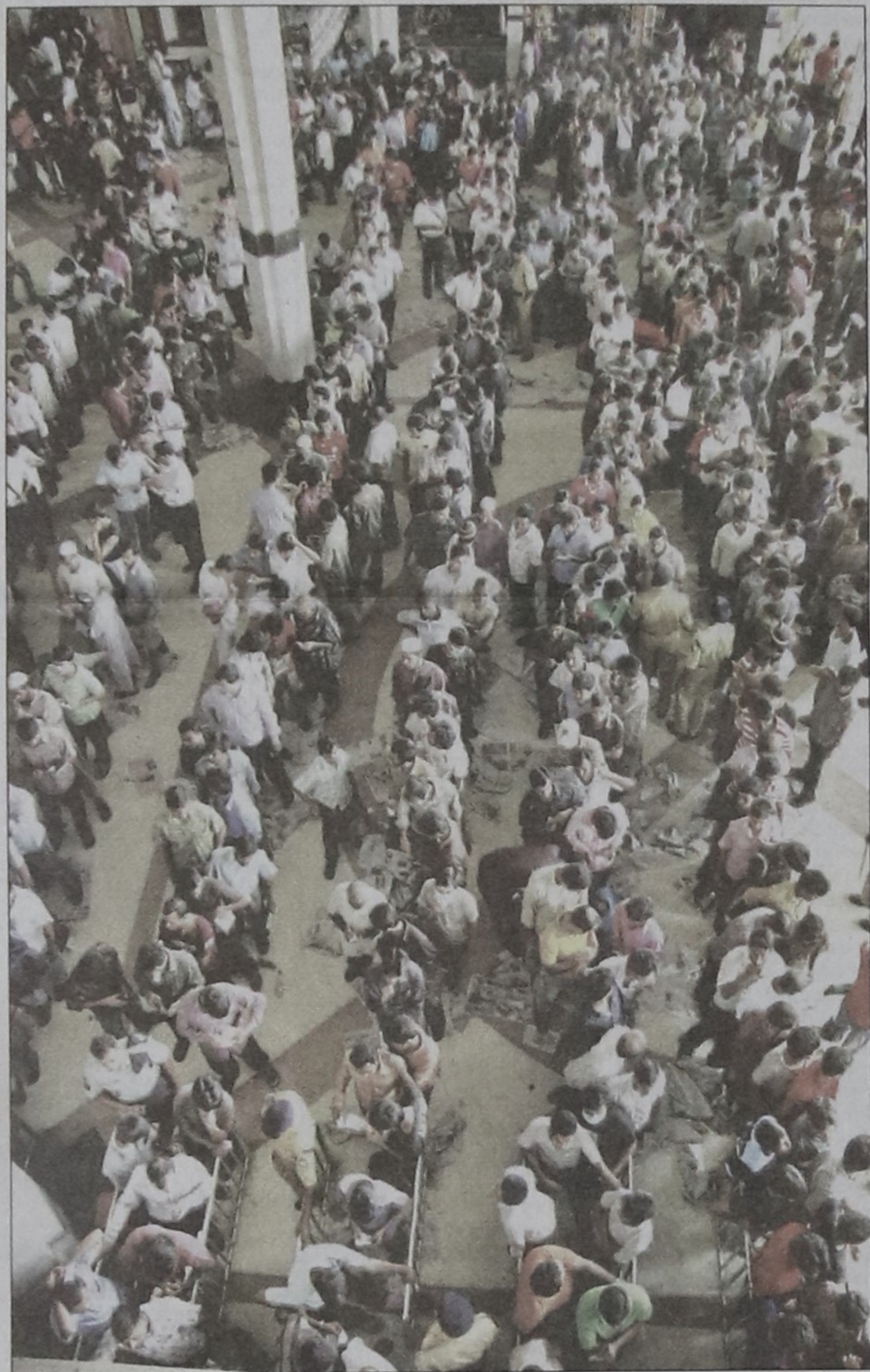


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The home-bound people are on patience-test in long queues at the Komolapur Railway Station in the city yesterday to purchase advance tickets for Eid vacation.

## TRAWLERS SINK 21 missing in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 21 fishermen are feared dead as five trawlers sank in the turbulent Bay on Tuesday while 51 fishermen of another five trawlers were rescued yesterday.

Of the missing fishermen, six were identified as Abdul Mazid, Sekandar, Manik, Kabir Khan, Zabbar and Kanchon Ali.

The capsized trawlers are FB Kalam Khan, Tariqul, Lal

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## 'Crossfire' goes on in Kushtia

17 deaths in 14 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An outlawed party leader was killed in 'crossfire' in Mahadevpur village under Mirpur upazila of Kushtia early yesterday raising the number of such deaths in the district to 17 in 14 days.

The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain Kalu alias Kala Anu, 39, son of Amu Malitha of Gacherdia at Daulatpur upazila in the district.

Anwar was a leader of Lal Pataka, a Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) faction, and also a close associate of party's founder Ronny Biswas, who was killed in an 'encounter' last year, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab-12 members raided a house at

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## Khaleda may visit KSA Sept 11-12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is likely to go to Saudi Arabia on September 11 or 12 to perform Umrah.

According to the party official, Khaleda's brother Shamim Iskander and his wife, daughter-in-law Sharmili Rahman, former foreign secretary Shamser Mobin Chowdhury, her press secretary Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel, personal aide Shimul Biswas,

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## BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down a Bangladeshi cattle trader along Poladanga border of Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Monir Hossain, 24, son of Entaj Ali of Kodalkathi village of Sadar upazila.

Major Nazrul Islam, operation officer of 39 Rifles Battalion of BDR, said the BSF troops from DMC outpost of Murshidabad in India opened fire on some Bangladeshi cattle traders while they were

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## Correction

Our back page photo caption published yesterday in the "Hello Mayor" section reads "A mobile phone company sets up a police box...", which should be "DMP sets up a police box in the middle of a footpath in Shyamoli". We regret the inadvertent error.

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think there should be continuous mobile court drive against noise and air pollution by vehicles instead of once a while?

☐ Yes (93.7%)  
☐ No (4.8%)  
☐ No Comments (1.4%)

**Total votes: 1182**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think Dhaka is becoming a non-functional city in the present traffic situation?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**Sehri, Iftar timings**

Ramadan	Sept	Sehri	Iftar
19	10	5:22	7:11
20	11	5:23	7:10
21	12	5:23	7:09

**Prayer Timing**

**September 10**

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:22	5:32
Zohr	1:45	2:15
Asr	5:30	5:45
Maghrib	7:11	7:21
Esha	8:45	9:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## NYT reporter rescued

4 killed in the Afghan commando operation

AP, BBC ONLINE, Kabul

British commandos freed a New York Times reporter early yesterday from Taliban captors who kidnapped him over the weekend in northern Afghanistan, but one of the commandos, a Times translator and two Afghan civilians were killed in the rescue, officials said.

Reporter Stephen Farrell was freed unhurt. But his Afghan colleague Sultan Munadi was killed along with a UK soldier and two Afghan civilians.

Farrell was taken hostage along with his translator in the northern province of Kunduz on Saturday. German commandos had ordered US jets to drop bombs on two hijacked fuel tankers, causing a number of civilian casualties, and reporters travelled to the area to cover the story.

One British service member died during the early morning raid, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said, while the Times reported that Farrell's Afghan translator, Sultan Munadi, 34, also was killed. Brown said that "we send his family our condolences." Farrell was unhurt.

Gunfire rang out from multiple sides during the rescue, and a Taliban commander who was in the house was killed, along with the owner of the house and a woman, said Mohammad Sami Yowar, a spokesman for the Kunduz governor.

Munadi was killed in the midst of the firefight, he said.

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## US missile attack kills 10 Taliban militants

Pak troops kill 24 extremists

AFP, Miranshah Peshawar

A US missile strike from a drone aircraft Tuesday killed at least 10 militants in a tribal area of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan while 24 other militants were killed in fighting in Khyber district, Pakistani officials said.

"The strike targeted a Taliban compound in Dargamandi village of North Waziristan, killing 10 militants," a senior security official told AFP.

Another official confirmed the casualties and said that a US drone fired two missiles to hit the compound, five kilometres (three miles) northwest of Miranshah, the main town of North Waziristan.

He said it was not immediately clear whether any "high-value" targets were present in

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