



## LONDON RIOTS

Kumar Murshid looks at the high-handedness of police

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## WIKILEAKS AGAIN

It publishes all US cables unredacted, disappointing media partners

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## MAWOYO'S LONG HAUL

The Zimbabwe opener carries his bat through the innings for his 163 runs

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# High hope for trade

### 61 products might get duty-free access to India; MoU on port use likely during Manmohan's visit

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

After a long wait, 61 Bangladeshi products on a negative list, mostly readymade garment items, are going to get duty-free access to India, reported BBC Bangla Service.

The Indian government already approved a related proposal of Bangladesh that is expecting an announcement during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka next week, said the August 30 report, quoting unnamed sources of the Indian commerce ministry.

During Manmohan's visit, Bangladesh and India might also sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the use of Chittagong and Mongla seaports as transit ports for Indian goods, high officials in Dhaka told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Ghulam Hossain said there has been no official communication from India on the matter of duty-free access for the 61 products. He however acknowledged that Bangladesh had



47 of selected items are apparels

Exports may treble to \$1 billion

One or two transit routes to be used on trial basis

made such a proposal.

Exports from Bangladesh to India will increase two to three times the present volume, if the new access is granted, he said. If that happens then Bangladesh's annual export to India will cross \$1 billion.

Bangladesh's second highest trade deficit is with India, right after China.

Bangladesh's import from India was \$3.21 billion, while its export to that country was \$400 million in fiscal year 2009-10.

India earlier offered Bangladesh a quota of exporting 10 lakh pieces of garments, and garment exporters of Bangladesh met the quota in seven months, the commerce secretary said.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin, and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Selim

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## Long-pending issues must be resolved

Suggests Indian defence think tank

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A taskforce report released yesterday by premier Indian defence think tank recommended settlement of legacy issues--border demarcation, enclaves, water sharing and unilateral trade concessions to Bangladesh--at the earliest possible.

The Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) released the report four days ahead of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka.

The report that highlighted the improving relations between the two countries holds special significance and admitted that Bangladesh's attitude towards India's security issues has created an

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## Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muslims across the country celebrated the Eid-ul-Fitr on Wednesday with great religious zeal, fervour and festivity.

Millions of devotees attended Eid jamaats (congregations) seeking divine blessings for peace, progress and prosperity of the country as well as for the Muslim Ummah.

The main jamaat was held at the National Eidgah on the High Court premises in the capital at 8:30am. President Zillur Rahman offered his prayers there along with thousands of people.

The chief justice, judges of Supreme Court, several

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## Argentine soccer team due on Sep 5

SPORTS REPORTER

After much deliberation throughout the last couple of days, it was finally revealed that football sensation Lionel Messi and his Argentina side will now be arriving in Dhaka in the morning of September 5 to play the international friendly against Nigeria the next day.

In a hastily arranged press conference, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) confirmed fears that Argentina would not be arriving on September 3 as originally scheduled

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## TEESTA WATER SHARING

# Push for a fair deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India are going to share the water of the Teesta in "equitable" manner based on water availability at Gazoldoba barrage, 25km away from Bangladesh border.

Even though it has never been officially declared how the water would be shared, a number of officials on condition of anonymity said India would get slightly bigger share of Teesta water than Bangladesh.

"A 15-year interim deal with 52-48 [52 percent for India and 48 percent for Bangladesh] water sharing will be signed keeping 20 percent of the water for the river," said a member of the Bangladesh delegation in the Joint River Commission.

"This offer was put forward by India and we are considering it. A long-term deal will be signed later on after observing the flow of water," the member said.

However, Moshir Rahman, adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, yesterday

told the BBC that experts are yet to know the volume of water of the Teesta. "So, we will measure the volume of the water in

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## Khaleda accuses Khairul

Says the ex-CJ gave caretaker verdict for money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has accused immediate past chief justice ABM Khairul Haque of annulling the caretaker government system "in exchange for money."

"Khairul Haque destroyed the judiciary and it's now crystal clear that he gave the verdict in exchange for money," she noted while talking to newsmen at an Eid reception at Eskaton Ladies Club on Eid day (Wednesday).

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## Woman dies in arson attack

House torched for protesting cheating by manpower broker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A physically challenged woman at the district's Kabirhat has been burnt to death allegedly by hired goons of a manpower agent after her father claimed back money he paid for sending his sons abroad.

Shirin Akter, 20, died at Noakhali Medical College Hospital around 10:00am Thursday, seven hours after the arson.

Four other family members injured by the gang were also admitted to the hospital.

Abdul Matin of Sribaddi village of the upazila, had taken Tk 5 lakh from his neighbour Tofazzal Hossain two years ago promising to send the latter's two sons to a foreign country. But he had failed to keep the pledge, Ranjit Barua, officer-in-charge of Kabirhat Police Station, told The Daily Star.

On the Eid-ul-Fitr night, the two were locked in a

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## AMNESTY IN MALAYSIA 4 lakh expat workers get registered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 4 lakh Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia got registered under its amnesty programme, said Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

On June 22, Kuala Lumpur announced amnesty to foreign workers, allowing them to get registered for regularisation or to return home without facing any penalty.

Malaysia started registration of regular foreign workers on July 13 and

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## ROAD SAFETY Unique protest at Shaheed Minar on Eid day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people on the Eid day rallied at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital to press their seven-point demand including resignation of Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain and ensuring road safety.

Expressing solidarity with the move, members, leaders and activists of civil society, different political, social and cultural organisations took part in the four-hour sit-in that began around 12:30pm on Wednesday.

Many people along with their families attended the programme and carried placards demanding safety on roads.

Singer Mahmud-uzzaman Babu read out the demands of the sit-in organisers while Robayet Ferdous, associate professor in journalism department of Dhaka University, conducted the programme.

The other demands

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People demonstrate at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital on the Eid day for seven-point demand including resignation of Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain and ensuring road safety.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

## PM critical of protesters

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was critical of those who staged demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar on Wednesday instead of going home to celebrate the Eid.

"The people who are staging demonstration at Shaheed Minar did not go to their village homes. How could they know it was not possible to go to their village homes?" she

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## Concern over 'use of Shaheed Minar'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some intellectuals, cultural activists, writers and poets yesterday expressed concern over the holding of the protest rally at the Central Shaheed Minar on the Eid day.

In a joint statement, 24 citizens observed that every individual has the right to protest and express his opinion, but

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