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# EXTORTION BY COPS Too eager for Savar posting

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TAMANNA KHAN

The police stations at Savar and Ashulia on the outskirts of Dhaka are in high demand among police personnel as posting to the industrial zone opens up opportunities to make money from extortion.

Different sources in the police department say police personnel at different tiers usually spend a huge amount of money to get postings to these two police stations.

Once they get a posting, they try to recoup the amount by extorting, the sources added.

Allegations also run rife that Officer-in-Charge Mostafa Kamal has allegedly paid Tk 30 lakh to get his posting at Savar Police Station.

Mostafa, however, denied the allegation brought against him.

He said, "I joined Ashulia Police Station in 2009 as sub-inspector, was promoted to Inspector as OC (investigation) in 2011, and later posted to Savar Police Station."

Meanwhile, the custodial death of businessman Shamim Sarkar, who died in police custody a day after police picked him up from an area under Savar Police Station on June 5, has opened up a wide array of crimes committed by the police in a desperate bid to earn money through illegal channels, which substantiates the version of the police sources.

The Daily Star also talked to some people who had the horrific experience of torture for money at the hands of the police before and after the death of Shamim.

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Although more than two weeks are left until Eid-ul-Fitr, city dwellers have already gone on a shopping spree for the festival. As yesterday was a weekend, they thronged different shopping centres in large numbers. In this photo, shoppers are seen browsing at Bashundhara Shopping Complex yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Two shot at Tk 3 lakh mugged in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were shot by alleged muggers riding motorcycles in Old Dhaka's Lalbagh Chowrasta yesterday evening.

Both the injured Abdul Matin, 42, owner of a cosmetics wholesale shop at Chawk Bazar and Saiful Islam, 60, an employee of a shop at Urdu Road were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hospital sources said Matin sustained bullet injury to the abdomen and stabs on both hands.

Lalbagh Police Station Officer-in-charge Nurul Muttakin said Saiful

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# Nightmare after Eid

Fear grows politics left to turn more violent

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The months of September and October look rather ominous for politics as there is no visible move to resolve the growing crisis over the mode of an election-time government through talks between the Awami League and the BNP.

Instead, both camps are preparing to step up their organisational networks to get ready for a face-off after Ramadan.

That means the country is to brace another bout of turbulence ahead of the upcoming parliamentary polls likely at the end of this year. The economy will also suffer badly.

The main opposition BNP is preparing to intensify its agitation after Ramadan and also contest the elections. As per its plan, the party along with its alliance partners will start enforcing agitation programmes at the end of next month and try to make the middle of October a turning point for its movement for the restoration of a non-party election-time government.

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# Citizens rally round the Sundarbans

Unite to force govt to relocate Raampal power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A citizens' group yesterday formed a national committee to protect the Sundarbans saying the government's development project, if implemented, would destroy the forest already under several threats.

The 101-member national committee would work as a pressure group to persuade the government to cancel development projects like Raampal power plant. It would

also work at policy level to protect the forest. Sultana Kamal, chairman of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), has been made the convener of the committee. Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa), would work as its member secretary.

"The Sundarbans is one of our great national resources. Destruction of the Sundarbans means depriving people of

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A trench dug for installing utility lines on the capital's Malibagh Bazar Road, which is already in a bad shape, has made life for locals and commuters difficult. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: FERAZ AHMED

# ME peace talks may resume

Israel to free Palestinians as 'gesture' for talks after Kerry efforts break deadlock

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday announced it will release some Palestinian prisoners as a "gesture", after the two sides agreed to lay the groundwork to resume peace negotiations frozen for three years.

Some of those to be released have been held in Israeli prisons for decades, Israeli Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz told public radio.

His announcement came hours after US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had agreed to meet to pave the way for a resumption of direct peace talks.

The last round of direct talks broke down in 2010 over the issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Kerry gave away very little detail of the agreement, which came after he spent four days consulting the Israeli and Palestinian leadership.

Just minutes before boarding a plane to fly home from Jordan, Kerry told reporters both sides had reached "an agreement that establishes a basis for resuming direct final

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# Bangladeshi shot dead in South Africa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Criminals shot dead a Bangladeshi national in Johannesburg of South Africa early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Taj Uddin, 32, son of Syed Ahmed of Mahatabpur village under Companiganj upazila of Noakhali district.

Taj, father of a son, used to run a crockery shop in Johannesburg, said his family members.

Raihan Islam, brother of the victim, said, "A gang of criminals were demanding money from Taj as extortion for the last couple of days."

Failing to get the money, the criminals had opened fire on Taj at his shop about 6:00am, leaving him dead on the spot, Raihan added.

A pall of gloom descended in his village upon receiving the death news.

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Members of British and European parliaments that ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP had failed to protect the minority communities of the country?

Yes (78%)  
No (22%)

TOTAL VOTES: 227

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it is the government which should take initiative to resolve the prevailing political impasse?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

# MARITIME DISPUTE WITH INDIA Arbitrator appointed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has appointed Jean-Pierre Cot as arbitrator to settle the maritime border dispute between Bangladesh and India.

The president of the tribunal appointed him to the arbitral court on Thursday following consultations with the two parties.

A French professor of international law and a judge at the tribunal, Cot has replaced Tullio Treves (Italy), who resigned the five-member court.

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**BRB**

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
11	21		6-50
12	22	3-54	6-50
13	23	3-55	6-50

PRAYER TIMING July 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	3-53	3-58
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	7-00
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Stretching the limit

WWW.ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Shay Horay, better known as the Rubberband Boy, is one of the world's most unusual performers. During his unique act, Horay twists tight rubber band across his face until he looks like a grotesque monster out of a horror movie. Strangely enough, kids love him.

The 34-year-old is one of those lucky few who knew what they wanted to do with their

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