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## SMALL STRETCH, BIG PROBLEM



It was not a  
drama, I was  
abducted

Mazhar also claims  
police scripted his  
judicial statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet and writer Farhad Mazhar yesterday insisted he was a victim of abduction, rejecting law enforcers' claim that it was a stage-managed drama.

A staunch critic of the government, Mazhar also claimed the statement he submitted before a Dhaka court was scripted by police.

"I can assure you I have not staged any drama. Rest 100 percent assured about it," he told a press conference at his Adabar house in the capital.

Mazhar was talking to the media for the first time since he was allegedly kidnapped near his house on the morning of July 3. He was found in a bus in Abhynagar of Jessore about 18 hours later.

The evidence that police

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

The puller of an overloaded rickshaw van trying to get his vehicle across a stretch of Bir Uttam Rafiqul Islam Avenue near Hatirjheel yesterday. This particular 100-metre stretch is plagued by development work – installation of storm-water drainage pipes and repaving of sidewalks. Yesterday's rain only added to the sufferings. Tailbacks were long and people were seen wading across stagnant water, left.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Traders beat up policemen in Mouchak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders of Fortune Shopping Mall at Mouchak intersection in the capital beat up six policemen who went there to detain a trader.

Of the injured, four are Detective Branch of police personnel and the others are sub-inspectors of Noyatola police outpost, said Officer-in-Charge Kazi Mainul Islam of Ramna Police Station.

He said four DB men in plainclothes went to the market around 9:30pm to detain a trader accused in a case, but he could not say anything more.

The traders did not believe that they were members of the DB police and beat them up.

Two sub-inspectors from Noyatola police outpost went to the market to rescue the DB men but they too were detained and beaten up by the traders, the OC claimed.

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## TRUMP'S EMBASSY MOVE TO JERUSALEM Israeli air strikes kill two in Gaza

Protests, clashes continue; France, Turkey to press US to reverse decision

REUTERS, Gaza

Israeli air strikes in Gaza killed two Palestinian gunmen yesterday after rockets were fired from the enclave, in violence that erupted over President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

In Cairo, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki said the Palestinians will seek a UN Security Council resolution over Trump's decision on Jerusalem.

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan and French President Emmanuel Macron will work together to try to persuade the United States to reconsider the move, a Turkish presidential source said.

Trump's reversal of decades of US policy has infuriated the Arab world and upset Western allies, who say it is a blow to peace efforts and risks sparking more violence in the region.

Gaza militants launched at least three rockets towards Israeli towns from the Gaza Strip - which is controlled by the Islamist group Hamas - after dark on Friday. The day had been declared a "day of rage" by Palestinian factions protesting against Trump's announcement on Wednesday.

"IAF (Israeli Air Force) aircraft targeted four facilities belonging to the

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Zia family has \$12b invested in 12 countries

Alleges Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that members of Zia family, including Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman, have invested about \$12 billion in 12 countries.

"Foreign media revealed that former prime minister Khaleda Zia, her sons and a brother have invested around \$12 billion in different businesses in 12 countries, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar," he said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was addressing a press conference at the AL president's Dhanmondi office.

He raised the allegation a day after Prime Minister

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Human race has reached its peak Reveals major study



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Humanity has reached its peak and is now probably in its downfall, according to major new research.

People have long thought of human development as one long process of improvement, going on forever. But we are now running up against the limits of how good we can be, say scientists – and most likely we'll now just begin to fall again.

The major research review looked at 120 years

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Govt spreading fake news

Alleges Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government has resorted to bad politics to spread confusion among people ahead of the next general election.

"After the news [on assets of Khaleda and Tarique

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Children looking at a pair of macaws at an exhibition in Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Science University yesterday. There were around 300 species of exotic birds, rabbits, fish and rodents on display at the day-long event.

PHOTO:  
RAJIB RAHMAN

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## Of fish and feathers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Animal lovers and pet breeders gathered at the campus of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) to partake in the 'Pet Birds, Pigeons, Aquarium Fish and Poultry Exhibition-17' yesterday.

Around 300 species of pet birds, 20 species of racer pigeons, 30 species of high flyer pigeons, different types of poultries, aquarium fish, red eared turtles, different species

of rabbits and garden trees were showcased in different stalls.

People from all walks of life were drawn to the exhibition.

King, Lahore, Jacobin, Bokhara, Fantail, Pomeranian Pouter and Satin were among some of the various fancy pigeons that were being showcased.

Shakil Md Israt Hossain, an official of Bangladesh Racing Pigeons Fanciers Club,

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