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IS ANYBODY WATCHING?

A public but private road

Police have little say about solution to terrible traffic mess

TAMANNA KHAN and HELEMUL ALAM

Inching through traffic in the capital's Russel Square, Sonia Ahmed hoped to take the left lane past Bashundhara City mall to reach her destination on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, only to find the left lane closed with roadblocks and ropes.

She got down from her car waiting at the traffic signal, and asked the police constable nearby why the lane was closed.

Pointing at the shopping mall's exit, he said, "This is market's property, so they can explain why the blocks are there."

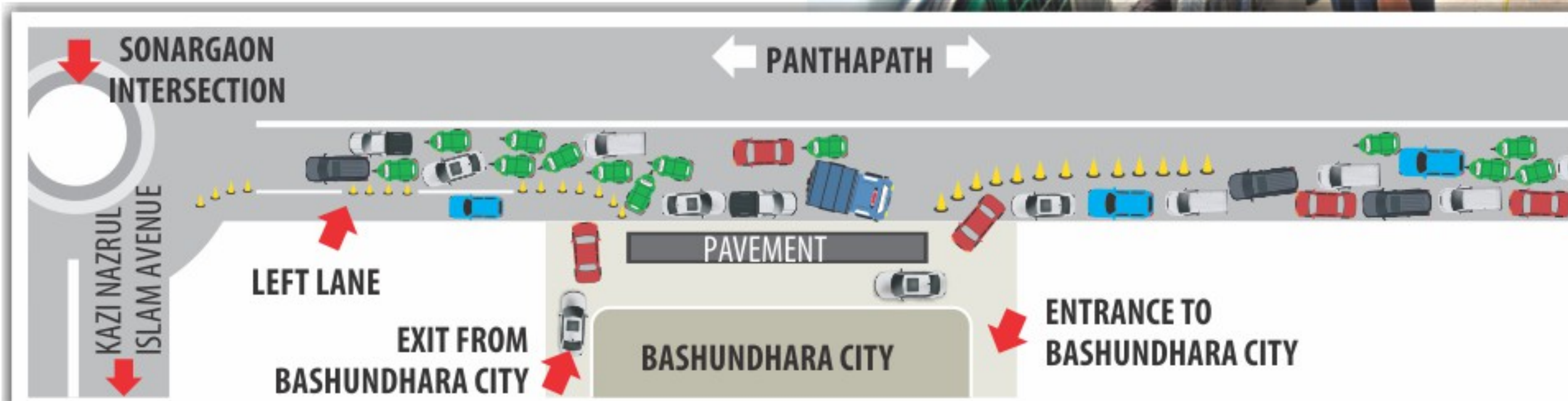
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SPOT PANTHAPATH

Vehicles bound for Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue used to get on to the left on the Panthapath road through the gap in the divider in front of Bashundhara shopping mall. But it has been closed since the beginning of Ramadan. Traffic authorities, however, left open a gap in front of the UTC tower. This too was closed off by security guards and community police working for the mall with ropes. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



COMPENSATION CLAIM FOR BLOWOUTS
Arbitration verdict goes against Niko

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international arbitration court has banned Niko Resources from selling assets in Bangladesh without government permission until an ongoing lawsuit at a local court is settled, officials say.

Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur yesterday said the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) came up with the verdict against the Canadian oil company.

"It is a positive development. It has paved the way for Bangladesh to realise compensation from Niko if the [Bangladeshi] court

verdict goes in favour of Bangladesh," he told The Daily Star.

He said the authorities came to know of the ICSID verdict on Sunday.

The government filed a case with a district judge's court in 2008, demanding Tk 746 crore as compensation for the blowouts at Magurchhara and Tengratila under the Chhatak gas field in 2005.

In another case filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), the High Court ordered Petrobangla to

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MARITIME DISPUTE WITH INDIA
Govt to disclose verdict today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government will disclose the outcome of the verdict on the maritime boundary dispute between Bangladesh and India today.

"We have received the judgment copy from the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) this [Monday] afternoon," said Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, director general (external publicity wing) of the foreign ministry.

"We will share the outcome of the verdict with the media at 2:00pm tomorrow [Tuesday]," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Hague-based PCA delivered the verdict after nearly five years of argument and counter argument by the two

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NIKO GRAFT CASE
Canada wants to quiz Morshed, Mahmudur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Canada has requested the Anti-Corruption Commission to help it interrogate former foreign minister M Morshed Khan and ex-energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman over allegations of graft in awarding an energy deal to Canadian oil company Niko.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) made the request as part of their investigation into the allegations against former Canadian senator Mac Herb of taking undue facilities from Niko to lobby for a



Niko-Bapex (Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company) deal in 2003.

Through a Mutual Legal Assistance Request (MLAR) sent to the attorney general, the Canadian authorities asked the ACC to play the role of a facilitator and arrange everything for them to interrogate former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, Morshed Khan and Mahmudur Rahman, said ACC Commissioner Shahabuddin.

Of the three BNP leaders, Saifur Rahman

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Commuters cross the road at Banglamotor intersection in the capital on Saturday, putting their lives at risk, though there is a footbridge at the very spot.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

SALARY FOR RMG STAFF
Robbers loot Tk 1.33 crore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Armed robbers took away Tk 1.33 crore from three officials of a knitwear factory in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur yesterday.

Rabiul Islam, assistant manager of human resources department of Knitwear Fashions Ltd, said three officials along with the money in a microbus were going to their factory in Board Mill area in Kaliakoir.

They were coming from the factory head office at Jamgora, Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital. On the way, six robbers, riding three motorcycles, halted the microbus on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Purba Chandra area around 3:00pm.

They robbed the factory officials of the money at

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS				PRAYER TIMING July 8		
Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar	Azan	Jamaat	
9	8		6-54	Fajr	3-50	3-55
10	9	3-46	6-53	Zohr	12-45	1-15
11	10	3-46	6-53	Asr	5-00	5-15
				Maghrib	6-54	7-04
				Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star
Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with the Human Rights Watch that the draft law proposed by Bangladesh government on NGOs to impose draconian restrictions should be withdrawn?
Yes (73%)
No (27%)
TOTAL VOTES: 154
TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the new BASIC Bank chairman would be able to bring back orders within the bank?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Indian SC rules against fatwa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's top court yesterday ruled that Shariah courts and fatwas did not have any sanction of law, and fatwas could not be issued to trample upon rights of individuals.

The ruling came following a petition by a Delhi-based advocate who challenged religious courts run by institutions like the Darul Qaza and Darul-Iftaa.

A Supreme Court bench, led by Justice C K Prasad, held that such institutions cannot

issue diktat affecting the rights of people and their decrees will be illegal.

While refraining from issuing a blanket order prohibiting parallel courts run by institutions like the Darul Qaza and Darul-Iftaa, the bench made it clear that fatwas cannot be used to punish innocent people.

"No religion, including Islam, encourages people to punish innocents through decrees not sanctioned by law," it said.

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4-yr-old used as 'collateral' for a loan

MAIL ONLINE

A Cambodian woman who 'borrowed' a young girl as 'collateral' for a loan she had given to another villager kept the child chained to a post for eight hours a day over two years, it was revealed yesterday.

The shocking case of child

