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One point trouble

Rush to Bashundhara mall brings down traffic system

TAWFIQUE ALI

It was a traffic nightmare around Bashundhara City shopping mall in the capital yesterday.

With people flooding in to the mall, one of the biggest and busiest in the capital, to do their Eid shopping on the weekend, traffic management virtually collapsed on all the roads and alleys around.

Impatient honking by cranky drivers, angry cries of police officers, and desperate jostling and frequent cursing by annoyed pedestrians marked the scenes on the Farmgate to Ruposhi Bangla stretch of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, the entire stretches of Panthapath, Garden Road and Green Road, and at Sonargaon Intersection throughout the day since midday.

"I have been waiting right here for about an hour to enter Panthapath

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Traffic around the capital's Sonargaon intersection went haywire as Eid shoppers were flocking to the nearby Bashundhara City yesterday. A sudden diversion there and illegal parking of vehicles, *top right*, on the main road in front of the mall contributed to the mess. It forced people, *bottom right*, to wait way longer than usual for transport. *Inset*, a bus carrying the national cricketers stuck in traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

PHOTO: STAR

Split Greece teeters on brink over referendum

Greeks clear out store shelves in panic buy

AFP, Athens

Greece hurtled yesterday towards a crunch bailout referendum which could determine its financial future and even its place in the eurozone, as polls showed the 'Yes' and 'No' camps neck and neck.

On the eve of the vote that could also make or break the radical-left government, Greeks were increasing spooked by rumours that capital con-

trols were leading to food and medicine shortages, as was growing uncertainty over when the country's banks would re-open.

"I've heard shops are running out of flour, sugar and salt. I'm really worried, how will we manage if we can't get to our money and there's no food to buy?" Lena Antoniou, a 35-year old mother of two, told AFP.

Nikos Archondis from the Panhellenic Exporters Association

(PEA) told AFP "certain supermarkets are very concerned because they cannot forecast how the situation will evolve," adding that stocks of meat, cheeses, fruits and vegetables "risk running low in the following weeks".

Many businesses said they had been forced to ask workers to take unpaid leave, some shops were refusing card payments in an effort to hoard cash and there were reports of companies

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Masdar judgment needs a review

Muhith dwells on separation of judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday suggested the judiciary review the landmark Masdar Hossain judgment over the separation of the judiciary from the executive.

"I have a feeling that our judiciary should look into the Masdar Hossain judgment. It needs some review. I suggest, very humbly, that it needs some review," Muhith said.

"Because, a society must always find a balance between the various institutions, which give them rights, which ensures that

these rights are properly observed," he added.

He, however, did not explain why a review is exactly necessary and what specific part of the judgment should come under review.

Muhith was addressing a workshop titled "Digitalisation of Bangladesh Judiciary" where Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Surendra Kumar Sinha was present as chief guest.

In 1995, Masdar Hossain along with many other judicial officers who were judges in different lower courts, filed a writ petition which later came to be known as

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS				
Ramadan	July	Sehri	iftar	
17	5		6-54	
18	6	3-44	6-54	
19	7	3-45	6-54	

PRAYER TIMING JULY 5				
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3-44	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-17
JAMAAT 3-54	1-15	5-15	6-64	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The 12-member British-Bangladeshi family that fled Luton and reportedly reached Syria to join the so-called Islamic State.

PHOTO: BBC

12 'safer' in IS 'caliphate'

UK family of Bangladeshi origin releases statement from Syria

AGENCIES

A missing British family of Bangladeshi origin, which was feared to have joined the Islamic State in Syria, released a statement yesterday confirming that the family of 12 indeed fled to the self-proclaimed caliphate.

The Mannan family, from Luton, including a 75-year-old patriarch and a baby of one, said in the statement that "we are in the Islamic State" and "we feel safer than we have ever felt before", reports The Independent.

They had not been seen since 17 May, having flown to Bangladesh on 10 April

and then to Istanbul in Turkey on 11 May – prompting Bedfordshire Police to launch an appeal to trace them.

Now the Mannans have declared that they have made it to Syria. A statement posted on the Isis website amounts to a broadside against the "so called freedom and democracy" of the "totalitarian" West, which they said is trying to brainwash Muslims.

The statement, released on the family's behalf, says: "Yes, all 12 of us and why should this number be shocking, when there are thousands and thousands of Muslims from all corners of the world that are crossing

over land and sea every day to come to the Islamic State?"

"Don't be shocked when we say that none of us was forced against our will. In fact it is outrageous to think that an entire family could be kidnapped and made to migrate like this."

Relatives of the family back in Britain earlier released a statement through police, describing their disappearance as "completely out of character" and expressing concern for the welfare of 75-year-old Muhammed Abdul Mannan and his wife Minera Khatun, 53, who have health issues.

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ANTI-GOVT MOVEMENT

Police made arson attacks

Claims Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday claimed that policemen carried out the arson attacks during the BNP-led 20-party alliance's anti-government movement earlier this year.

Addressing an iftar programme organised by the Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Forum at the Supreme Court Auditorium, the BNP chief said, "Police set fires to and hurled petrol bombs at buses. BNP leaders and activists are not involved in those incidents."

"If police had not hurled the petrol bombs, our three-month-long movement would not have stopped. They had set fire

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Rab rescues kidnapped teenager

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion rescued a teenager from Bangshal in the capital on Friday, a day after he was kidnapped from the area.

Raiding different places of Bangshal and Keraniganj, the elite force also detained eight people who were allegedly involved in the abduction, Khairul Alam, operation officer of Rab-10, told a press briefing at the

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Nun brings life in DR Congo

AFP, Zongo, DR Congo

Still going strong at 81, Italian nun and midwife Sister Maria Concetta Esu recently asked Pope Francis to bless her hands, which have delivered more than 34,000 African babies.

"The task of a midwife brings me great joy because God gives life but he doesn't give birth," she told AFP at a maternity clinic in Zongo in the north of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I asked him [Pope Francis] to bless my hands because they touch all the children," she added.

Small and bespectacled, the nun from Sardinia has spent more than a half-century in this country that spans the equator, watching as it won independence then dissolved into wars. She's braved rampant looting and angry rebels -- and was once spared from death because she "helps give birth".

Watching her bustle about the clinic run by her order, the Daughters of Saint Joseph of Genoni, it's hard to believe she turns 81 on July 8. The facility's medical equipment, provided mostly with Italian funds, is more modern than maternity wards in several of the country's big city hospitals.

About 40 babies are born in the Zongo clinic each month and several happy parents have named their newborns after Sister Maria.

Trained as a nurse in Italy then in tropical medicine in Belgium when it was

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Sister Maria Concetta talks to a mother at a Congo hospital.

PHOTO: AFP