



PHOTO: ANINSUR RAHMAN

Hundreds of buses parked on Toyenbee Circular Road in Gulistan, now almost off-limits to other vehicles, have turned part of 120-foot wide two-way thoroughfare into a terminal.

## Judgement in Simi suicide case today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement in the Simi suicide case will be given today.  
Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahidul Islam will pronounce the judgement at 11.00 am, court sources said.  
Earlier, both the prosecution and the defence sides completed hearing arguments in the case on September 12. The court recorded statements of 23 out of 44 prosecution witnesses.  
Simi, 21, a final year student of Narayanganj Institute of Fine Arts, committed suicide on December 23, last year after being "harassed" by

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## Illegal terminal blocks busy thoroughfare

JULHAS RIPON

The illegal terminal for buses on a stretch of Toyenbee Circular Road in Gulistan has made the thoroughfare nearly off-limits to other vehicles over the years.  
Since about 700 buses are parked on the 120-foot wide two-way road every day, commuters have to make a long detour through Motijheel or the narrow road through the park in front of the Bangabhaban.  
The circular road, a link between eastern and western parts of the city, originates from the Sonargaon intersection and merges into the

Chittagong Road, meandering through Katabon, Zahir Raihan Road near the BUET and finally through Hatkhola.  
All vehicles except the buses bound for at least ten destinations outside Dhaka, including Kishoreganj, Daudkandi, Narayanganj and Munshiganj, are barred from plying the thoroughfare.  
Top officials of the transport department of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the traffic department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) have said the bus terminal is illegal and was set up without any permission of the DCC.

A part of the Gulistan area near Toyenbee Circular Road was designated as a stop, not terminal, for inter-district buses, they said.  
General Manager (transport) of the DCC Abdul Gani admitted, talking to The Daily Star, that the DCC men collect Tk 10 in 'revenues' from each city bus parked there.  
Asked if the DCC monitors use of the stop, he said, "It's not our responsibility...the DMP traffic department should monitor it."  
The traffic department tried many a time to shift the terminal but could not do so, as there was no alternative, said sources.  
Deputy Commissioner of Traffic

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## BUET reopens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) reopens today after a closure of 20 days since September 8.  
The BUET halls remained open yesterday for resident students.  
Earlier, the BUET closed indefinitely on June 9 upon the killing of Sabequn Nahar Sony, a student, in crossfire between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on June 8.  
The university resumed its academic activities on August 11, slapping a ban on all forms of political activities and student unions and clubs.  
Upon reopening, students, mostly left-leaning, went on an agitation against the authorities under the banner of 'BUET Students against Violence' with a seven-point demand.  
Meanwhile, the BUET Students against Violence at a press conference in the city yesterday vowed to continue its demonstration until all demands are met.

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## 2 teenage boys drown in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two teenage boys drowned in a river at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday afternoon.  
Shahiduzzaman, 14, son of later Syed Monowar Hossain, and Kabir Hossain, 15, son of Yunus Mallik, both residents of Mohammadpur, went for a swim in the river.  
Earlier, they went on a picnic with about 25 teenagers to Dhaka Udyan at Mohammadpur yesterday morning.  
Fire-brigade divers recovered the bodies from the river and sent them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

## Siege relaxed?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police stepped down from the Central Shaheed Minar and were seen positioned at the adjacent road intersection yesterday.  
The atmosphere there seemed eased a little as the policemen were seen in a relaxed mood, people there said.  
For over three weeks, police had laid a virtual siege around the Shaheed Minar, denying entry of people there.

## A month after probe into wheat scam Ruling party men go untouched

REAZ AHMAD

One month has passed after submission of the two wheat scam probe reports to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia but no action has been taken against any of the ruling party men involved in it.  
Eight high officials of the food ministry, the DG and the additional DG of the food directorate were made officers on special duty (OSD)

and three of them were later removed from service in the last one month for their involvement in the scam.  
The reports named one state minister and five ruling party lawmakers who were involved in the scam but no action has been taken against them.  
The reports revealed that imported low quality Indian wheat were procured instead of home-

grown wheat during this year's extended internal wheat procurement programme.  
Earlier, when the official probes were going on, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman had told newsmen that stern action would be taken against officials if found guilty. Asked about the ruling party men, Noman had said, "Action would be taken politically if any party man is

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## Sri Lanka crush Australia to reach Trophy final

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka powered their way into the final of the ICC Champions Trophy with a crushing seven-wicket win over world champions Australia in the second semifinal at the Premadasa Stadium here yesterday.  
Superior in every area, Sri Lanka bowled out Ricky Ponting's side for 162, their lowest ever score batting first in meetings between the two, and then knocked off the runs with 10 overs left.  
It was a humiliating defeat for Australia in the first meeting between the teams in three years and just six months before they defend the World Cup in southern Africa.  
For Sri Lanka, the win meant a place in Sunday's final against India, both those sides vying to win the title for the first time.  
Friday's match turned in more ways than one on Sri Lanka's reliance on spin bowling, with five slow bowlers used by the home side, and Australia's inability to cope with it on a surface that offered significant turn but was by no means unplayable.  
Australia made a flying start after Ponting won the toss with Adam Gilchrist (31) and Matthew Hayden (13) rattling up 49 inside seven overs against Sri Lanka's only two seam

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PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya sweeps one fine for four while Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist looks on during their ICC Champions Trophy semifinal at Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.



## 'Nine-shooter' identifies the rifle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ziku Babul alias 'Nine-shooter' Liton, arrested on several criminal charges, has identified the rifle deposited by former Awami League lawmaker Haji Selim to the Lalbagh Police station, police said yesterday.  
Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Kotwali Police Station ABM Sultan Ahmed told The Daily Star that Babul was taken to the Lalbagh Police Station Thursday night for verification of the weapon.

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## Gunmen kill shoe shop employee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen killed a shoe shop employee at Rayerbazar in the city last night.  
Mockbul Hossain, 35, son of Late Karam Matobbar of Mitali Road, was shot in the chest at about 9:00pm, said police.  
The on-duty doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) declared him dead on arrival.  
Police did not reveal more details about the killing.