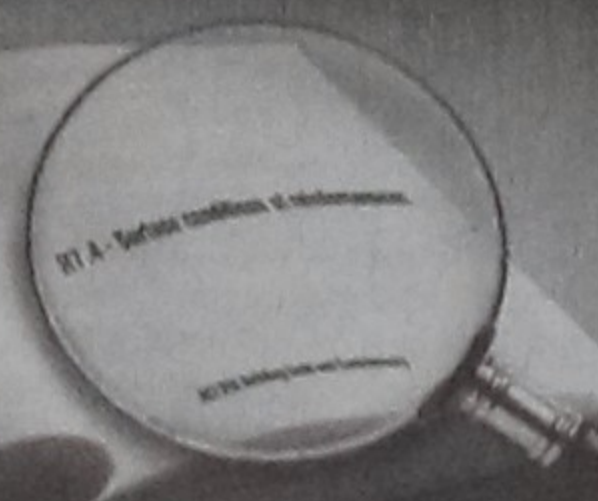


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## Bus service for schools by Oct

DTCB plans to discourage cars for school runs, reduce traffic jams

ERSHAD KAMOL

The government is going to introduce exclusive bus services for school children by late October as part of its effort to ease terrible traffic jams that waste valuable time and energy of people living in Dhaka.

Following an inter-ministry meeting on traffic congestion held on August 20, the Dhaka Transport Coordination Board decided this.

"Our aim is to create easy public transportation for students and at the same time reduce traffic jams by 40 percent," SM Salehuddin, additional executive secretary of DTCCB, told The Daily Star.

The DTCCB has already come to an agreement with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, Bangladesh Road

Transport Corporation and private bus operators to run 100 buses on major arteries of the capital for school children from 7:00am to 10:00am. These buses will again take the children home.

The idea is: the buses would drop the pupils at intersections near their educational institutions. The pupils will then go to schools by rickshaws or on foot. Dhaka City Corporation and traffic police will control the movement of rickshaws at those places so that the intersections are not jammed.

Schools to which The Daily Star spoke to about this move appear to appreciate it as they think it will reduce traffic jams in front of popular institutions.

"It may improve the traffic jam situation," said acting Principal of Viharunisa Noon School and College Rokeya Akhtar

Begum.

However, parents seem to be more cautious. They are concerned about the safety of their children.

"I do not have any confidence in our public transport system. I shall send my daughter only when I am convinced that she would be safe. Till then I shall take my daughter to her school in Gulshan-1," said Aysha Haque, a resident of Old DOHS.

Urban planners are also not convinced that the guardians will accept such experimental bus services. "People do not like to use different types of vehicles when travelling from one place to another. This is why rickshaws and private cars are so popular as people can travel without changing vehicles," said Prof Mahbubun

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## Outlaw killed in 'shootout' Another injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An operative of outlawed Gono Bahini was killed in a 'shootout' with law enforcers in Bamongram in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Police say the victim Baul Joardar alias Baul Member, 42, was a close associate of Gono

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Mobs kill 6 robbers Another killed in shootout

STAR REPORT

Six alleged robbers were beaten to death by mobs and another was killed in a 'shoot-out' with cops in separate incidents yesterday.

A mob beat four alleged robbers to death in South Fedai Nagar village of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong early yesterday, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

Two of the deceased were identified as Yunus, 30, and Bablu, 22, of the same village. Police said a gang of ten robbers was prepar-

ing to commit a robbery in the village at around 3:00am.

Some of the villagers sensed it, captured four of the robbers and beat them to death.

Police recovered two choppers and a knife from the scene. They sent the bodies to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue.

Officer-in-Charge Nazrul Islam of Sitakunda Police Station said, "Bablu might have gathered the robbers for committing robbery. Filing of cases in this connection is under process."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## WHOSE FOOTPATH IS IT, ANYWAY?



A building is being built occupying the pavement and more at Shahjahanpur in the capital, just across the street from Rajarbagh Police Lines. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Grabbers feast on Kuakata beach

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali and MORSHED ALI KHAN, Dhaka

With land prices rocketing in Kuakata, a gang of land grabbers has embarked on grabbing the beach defying court orders.

These individuals have already occupied acres of the beach area, officially earmarked as khas land, and hung large signboards claiming ownership of demarcated 'plots'.

Grabbing of this natural beach is happening so fast that by the time the administration in Patuakhali learns about it, the organised gangs 'procure enough documents' to fend off any action, local people said.

In the absence of a master plan for development, Kuakata, known for its natural beauty, is fast losing its landscape to mindless allocation of 'plots' and haphazard construction.

In 1998, the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared Kuakata an exclusive tourist zone and asked the local government to take all measures to develop it in a planned way. Since then nothing has been done mainly due to lack of allocation from the government, according to eminent citizens and

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## Jubo League leader killed in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Criminals hacked a local Jubo League leader to death in Belkuchi upazila of Sirajganj yesterday.

The victim, Humayun Kabir, 30, of Adachaki village, was vice president of Bhangabari union Jubo League.

A group of miscreants stormed into his house about 2:00am and attacked him when he was asleep. Humayun's family said. Hearing him screaming, locals and family members went to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Aug	Sehri	Iftar
8	30	7-22	
9	31	5-18	7-21
10	1 Sept	5-18	7-20

Prayer Timing		
August 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-17	5-27
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-22	7-32
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Aktel Internet -এর সাথে

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## OnlinePoll

Do you think under the current circumstances hospitals and private clinics are capable enough to tackle Swine Flu outbreak?

- Yes (8.1%)  
No (87.9%)  
No Comments (4.0%)

Total votes: 1052  
TODAY'S POLL

Do you think tussle between HT Imam and JS body over sending two district judges into retirement demonstrates unauthorized political interference into judiciary?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

## Doctor killed for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female physician was allegedly killed by her husband, also a doctor, for dowry at her Bibir Bagicha residence in the city's Uttar Jatrahari yesterday.

The victim was identified as Tamanna Haque, 28, a physician of Gynaecology Department of Mitford Hospital. Her husband Fakrul Islam is also a doctor at the same hospital.

On information, police recovered the body of Tamanna from the bedroom of her house at around 8:00am. The body was hanging from a ceiling fan.

Jatrahari Police Station Officer-in-charge Mohammad Moniruzzaman said they detained Tamanna's mother-in-law



Tamanna Haque

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

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