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**Biman finally makes profit**  
*Earns Tk 5.91cr in 2007-08*  
RASHIDUL HASAN

Ending three years in a row in the reds and decades of mismanagement, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd achieved a net profit of Tk 5.91 crore in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Biman insiders said this is something to cheer about in the problem-riddled national flag carrier especially when it is struggling to maintain flight schedules with its seven age-old aircraft.

Several Biman officials said Biman could have gained more profit had it two to three additional planes in its fleet.

"Biman needs some two or three more aircraft on emergency basis as the existing Biman fleet can hardly maintain flight schedules, giving opportunities to its competitors to capture its market share," said Abdul Mamdud Khan, a Biman high official.

Biman made huge losses over the last few years due to

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**Sale of sugar through TCB from tomorrow**  
*Max price Tk 42 a kg*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private sector refiners will distribute sugar in the capital through the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) dealers from tomorrow in a bid to bring its price down, said the sugar refiners yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting between the refiners and Commerce Minister Faruk Khan at his secretariat office.

Recently, the price of sugar in the local market soared despite efforts from both

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# Reserve forests turn barren

*Timber traders team up with forest officials to plunder Rangamati greens*

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Illegal logging continues unabated in the reserve forests in Rangamati, contributing to deforestation and destruction of wildlife and depriving the government of huge revenue.

Almost all the reserve forests stretching over 6.85 lakh acres in four upazilas -- Longudu, Barkal, Bilaichhari and Kaptai -- in the district have assumed a barren look due to mindless logging and felling of trees.

Sources say dishonest timber merchants in connivance with a section of corrupt forest officials smuggle thousands of cubic feet precious teak every night.

There are four reserve forests in the district -- Riyingkhiyang Reserve Forest in Farua, Bilaichhari, Sitapahar Reserve Forest in Kaptai, Kachalong Reserve Forest in Longudu and Barkal Reserve Forest.

Lumberjacks have depleted two-thirds of these forests by unabatedly felling the valuable trees of teak, mehgan and gamar.

Locals allege every night at least 10 to 15 Chandergari (an improvised motorised vehicle), trucks and boats laden with illegally logged timber pass through Kaptai to Balirhat in Bakalia, Chittagong.

They also allege the foresters under the CHT South Forest Division engage local poor people in the theft of wood. Sometimes the officials also hire outsiders as day labourers to cut down trees, they add.

The locals also blame a few influential timber traders from Rangamati and Chittagong for this daily plundering of the greens.

The menace of illegal logging has recently reached a new height, prompting two authorised timber merchant bodies -- Upajatiya Kathbabsayee O Jotemalik Kalyan Samity and Rangamati Kathbabsayee Samobay Samity Ltd -- to formally appeal to the state minister for forest for immediate intervention.

The timber merchants, who are in the trade for long and doing business with repute, allege

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Loggers are seen carrying stolen wood from the reserve forests of Farua in Rangamati.

**MADDHAPARA Miners confine 100 staff for 10hrs to office**  
*Call strike to protest sacking*  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Following the sacking of 10 miners at Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Ltd without notice, miners launched a daylong strike and confined around 100 employees to the administrative building yesterday for 10 hours.

Police and Rab personnel rescued the officials and staff at 7:40pm. However, the miners hurled brickbats at the officials when they tried to leave around 5:15pm and

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**Protect S Asian water resources**  
*Climate conference calls for quick action*

PINAKI ROY from Kathmandu, Nepal

Terming the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region 'hot spot for climate change', the south Asian delegates at the conference in Kathmandu declared their visions saying immediate actions are required to protect the water sources that the climate change mostly affect.

Uday Raj Sharma, secretary of Nepal's ministry of Environment, read out the visions at the end of the two-day conference on 'Climate Change' focusing the Himalayas.

Though the government and non-government delegations discussed about the cooperation and setting common agenda for south Asia, the representatives could not come up with any official 'Kathmandu declaration' as Indian delegation left Nepal on Monday, the first day of the conference, and Bhutan did not join the conference.

"The Indian environment secretary Vijay Sharma left on the

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**UN CLIMATE MEET PM reaches Geneva**  
UNB, Geneva

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached Geneva yesterday afternoon leading a 44-member Bangladesh delegation to attend a five-day UN-sponsored international meet on climate change.

On her arrival at the airport to attend the World Climate Conference-3, State Councillor of Geneva Canton Francois Longchamp received the PM.

Chief of Protocol of UN Office in Geneva Sergei

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## We apologise

Due to an error in computer operation the wrong photo caption and photographer's credit were published in the City In Frame page of September 1 issue of The Daily Star. We regret the inadvertent error and apologise for any inconvenience it may have caused to our valued readers. The page contained several photos taken by Shafiqul Alam on the iftar trade in Dhaka.

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Sept	Sehri	Iftar
11	2		7-19
12	3	5-19	7-18
13	4	5-20	7-17

Prayer Timing		
September 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-19	5-29
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-19	7-29
Esha	8-45	9-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



A woman cleans up shards after a gang of criminals attacked the houses of three Hindu families at Puthia of Rajshahi.

**Three families attacked for land grab**  
*12 injured*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A gang of criminals attacked three Hindu families at Dighalkandi Sahapara village in Puthia upazila of Rajshahi Monday night, injuring 12 people.

Police and locals said the hoodlums also looted five houses and shops during the attack in an attempt to grab land of those families.

Of the injured, Profulla Chandra Saha, his wife Bijli Rani Saha and brother Bijoy Saha, Sukumar, Chand and Nomita were admitted to Puthia Health Complex in a

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**Pak forces kill 35 in Khyber**  
*41 bodies found in Swat*

AP, AFP, Peshawar

Government forces destroyed four militant bases and killed more than 35 insurgents yesterday in battles near Pakistan's famed Khyber Pass, the main route for supplies to Nato troops in Afghanistan, the military said.

Elsewhere in the northwest, the army claimed that 105 Pakistani Taliban fighters had surrendered to the military in the Swat Valley, where a suicide bombing over the weekend prompted a security crackdown that has left scores of militants dead.

Eight of them are close aides to Swat Taliban chieftain Maulana Fazlullah, said Brig. Salman Akbar, the army commander of Kabal town in the valley.

Earlier at least 41 bodies, mostly of Taliban militants, have been found in Pakistan's Swat valley over the past 24 hours, officials said Tuesday, describing them as revenge killings by residents.

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### বিআরটিএ'র জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা মহানগরীতে ২০ (বিশ) বছরের অধিক পুরাতন সিএনজি চালিত বাস-মিনিবাস চলাচল নিষিদ্ধ করা হয়েছে। ২০ (বিশ) বছরের অধিক পুরাতন বাস-মিনিবাস ঢাকা মহানগরীতে চলাচল করলে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। এ বিষয়ে ইতিপূর্বে বিভিন্ন পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত বিআরটিএ'র 'জরুরি সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি' প্রাইভেট কার/মাইক্রোবাস/জীপ/মোটর সাইকেল ইত্যাদি এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে না।

বাংলাদেশ রোড ট্রান্সপোর্ট অথরিটি  
(বিআরটিএ)

৩১৬-৪০৪২

### OnlinePoll

Do you think the government's decision of introducing special buses for schools will help ease the traffic congestion?

☐ Yes (57.0%)  
☐ No (42.1%)  
☐ No Comments (0.9%)

Total votes: 1265

### TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should immediately issue an order to shut down all educational institutions in the wake of swine flu outbreak in the country?

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

## ইদের গাড়ি!

রমজান কার লোন উৎসব  
চলবে ২১ সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত

ইদের কেনাকাটার তালিকায় এবার সহজেই যোগ হতে পারে দারুণ একটা গাড়ি।  
কারণ ঢাকা ব্যাংক এর 'রমজান কার লোন উৎসব'-এ থাকছে:

- মাত্র ০.৫% প্রসেসিং ফি
- লোন প্রসেসিং ৩ দিনে
- আকর্ষণীয় ইন্টারেস্ট রেট মাত্র ১৪.৭৫%\*

ফোন: ০৬৬৬২৩০৪৪৪৪, ০৬৬৬২৩০৫৫৫৫, ০১৯২২১০১০৫০, ০১৯২২১০১০৫১  
\*শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

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