

43 more return from Lebanon

UNB, Dhaka  
Despite the ceasefire in Lebanon, some 43 Bangladeshis in two batches returned home yesterday by Emirates and Qatar Airways, said an official of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).  
Another batch of 75 Bangladeshis will return home this morning by Qatar Airways.  
IOM Media Officer Nahreen Farzana told the news agency that 25 Bangladeshis returned to Dhaka yesterday by Emirates and 18 by Qatar Airways.  
When contacted, Director General (DG) of External Publicity Zahurul Haque said with the enforcement of UN sponsored ceasefire, Bangladeshis will resume their work in Lebanon.

Community pry teachers call off strike without any assurance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association yesterday withdrew their indefinite strike without any assurance from the government after observing a twelve-day hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.  
The teachers said that they decided to withdraw the indefinite strike and the hunger strike in the greater interest of the students as the second term examinations are due from August 23.  
Teachers of community primary schools had been on indefinite strike since August 1 and went on hunger strike until death at the Central Shaheed Minar since August 6 demanding nationalisation of their jobs.  
They brought out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar at 12:00 noon yesterday to lay siege to the prime minister's office, but instead, they staged a sit-in protest for an hour at the Doyal Chattar as the police intercepted the procession and foiled their attempt.  
Later, five representatives of the teachers led by the association President Habibul Ahsan Bablu were allowed to go to the Prime Minister's Office for submitting a memorandum to the prime minister.  
Bablu told The Daily Star that

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17 fishermen missing after trawler sinks in Bay

UNB, Bagerhat  
Seventeen fishermen went missing as seven trawlers capsized in the Bay on Wednesday night.  
Survivors returning to the coast said seven trawlers with 98 fishermen on board were caught in a violent storm and sank in the Bay. Other fishing trawlers and coast guards rescued 81 fishermen.  
Coast Guard Commander Anwar Hossain said they have rescued four fishermen of the sunken trawlers. Search for the missing fishermen is going on, he added.

Govt's bank borrowing rises 180pc in 25 days

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government borrowing from banks rose 180 per cent in the first 25 days of the current fiscal year (FY) and stood at Tk 2,061 crore, compared to Tk 736 crore borrowed in the same period (July 1 to 25) of the last FY.  
The gap between the government's earning from the revenue collection and spending is responsible for the increased borrowing, finance ministry officials said.  
Besides, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) did not release about \$300 million as budgetary support in time, which also contributed to the government's higher borrowing from the banks.  
The government's expenditure has risen significantly at the fag end of its tenure, but there has not been a consistent rise in its income, resulting in the government's

dependency upon borrowing, finance ministry sources said.  
There was only nine per cent growth in revenue earning in the first month of the current FY against the target of 21 per cent, said a source at the National Board of Revenue (NBR).  
The revenue earning growth was 14 per cent in the same period of the last FY.  
In the first month of the current FY, there was Tk 2,400 crore revenue earning against the target of Tk 3,400 crore, marking a shortfall of Tk 1,000 crore, NBR sources said.  
Despite an ambitious target of revenue earning against huge expenditure in the development programme, the current budget did not have adequate measures to achieve the target.  
The IMF also raised question about the mechanism to collect the revenue under the budget when the government neither increased the

existing taxes nor fixed any new tax.  
Expenditure in the Annual Development Programme increased a lot at the end of the last FY and in some cases the government issued cheques for projects, sources said.  
The government has to borrow about Tk 1,400 crore in the first month of the current FY against the cheques, which were issued at the end of the last FY.  
"The government had a plan to adjust such expenses with the donor agencies' (World Bank and IMF) development support credit," a finance ministry official said, adding, "But we are yet to get the money and it forced us to borrow from the banks."  
The government will have to continue taking huge loans from the banking sector if its fails to get the World Bank and IMF support

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US for Bangladesh troops to watch Lebanon truce

UNB, Dhaka  
The US wants Bangladesh's participation in peacekeeping in south Lebanon following the UN Security Council resolution on the ceasefire.  
But Dhaka wants to know the details of the UN terms of reference for fresh deployment of 13,000 troops to expand the strength of the Unifil (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) to 15,000 to monitor the ceasefire.  
Talking to reporters, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said the US State Department has communicated its desire to Bangladesh Mission in New York for Dhaka's contribution to the Unifil, which has now 2,000 troops.  
"We're taking a very positive line, but we want to know what our troops will have to do in south Lebanon and also see our capacity and capability," Morshed said.  
The foreign minister said "most important thing is the question of security and safety of my soldiers."  
Bangladesh is the largest troop

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Workers of a garment factory barricade Rokeya Sarani in Mirpur in the capital yesterday during a demonstration demanding better wages and other facilities.



Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad waves through the sunroof of his vehicle as he leaves the Judge Court premises in Old Dhaka yesterday after the court acquitted him of a graft charge.

No extension of time for voter list update Says EC secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Secretary to the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat yesterday ruled out possibility of further extending time for updating the voter list even though he said the task was unlikely to be completed before the scheduled date of August 20.  
"We are hoping 95 percent of the task would be complete by the scheduled time. If anyone is left out, he or she would have to apply to be registered," Secretary to the EC Abdur Rashid Sarkar told reporters at his office yesterday.

More labour unrest if wages not settled soon Warn representatives of garment workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Leaders of garment workers' unions at a roundtable yesterday said the owners' 'dilly-dallying' in settling the minimum wage for the employees will not bring any good for the industry.  
Besides, the owners' offer of minimum wage is much below their expectation, the workers' leaders said at the roundtable on 'Social Standards in the Readymade Garment Industry' held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.  
"Labour unrest will repeat if the owners fail to resolve the issue of fixing the minimum wage in an acceptable time," said Nazma Akhter, workers' representative in the minimum wage commission.  
The German Development Cooperation (GTZ) and the Foreign Trade Association of the German Retailers (AVE) jointly organised the roundtable that was moderated by Paul Weijers, programme coordinator of GTZ.  
Criticising the garment owners

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Derailment halts train services for 5hrs

UNB, Bhairab  
Train services on Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Kishoreganj routes remained suspended for over five hours after two bogies of a goods train derailed near Bhairab Bazar railway junction yesterday.  
Railway sources said two bogies of the Dhaka-bound goods train from Bhairab went off the track at about 2:30am.  
A number of trains running on these routes remained stranded at different points, causing sufferings to the passengers.  
A relief train from Akhaura reached the spot at around 4:00am and removed the derailed bogies. Train services, however, resumed at about 7:45am.

Lebanese army takes control of south Israeli troops pull back

AFP, Marjayun  
Lebanese soldiers began taking control of the war-battered south for the first time in four decades yesterday, moving across the Litani river to shore up a UN truce ending a month of deadly conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.  
Waving national flags from jeeps, tanks and armoured troop carriers, the troops crossed the strategic river after dawn broke to replace withdrawing Israeli soldiers who had seized swathes of the border area during the Jewish state's devastating 34-day offensive on Lebanon.  
In a sign of efforts to restore some semblance of normal life to Lebanon, a passenger plane landed in Beirut on Thursday for the first time since Israeli fighter jets bombed the runways the day after the war began.  
Thousands of families displaced by the conflict were still flocking south on the fourth day of the fragile UN-brokered ceasefire, although aid groups voiced concern about getting emergency supplies through Israel's continuing air and sea blockade to the most stricken regions.  
A total of 15,000 government troops are due to take control of the longtime Hezbollah bastion in southern Lebanon along with a promised expanded UN peace-keeping force.  
"We should deploy within 24

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New IO for Jamal Uddin murder case

UNB, Ctg  
A new investigation officer (IO) was appointed yesterday for the sensational abduction and murder case of business tycoon and BNP leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed.  
Hamidul Haq, additional police superintendent of CID, Chittagong Zone, has been made the 9th investigation officer of the case by an order of Additional Inspector General of CID, headquarters, Khoda Box.  
On August 10, Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court rejected the charge sheet submitted by former IO Anwar Hossain, terming it not satisfactory.  
The court ordered the additional inspector general of CID to appoint "an honest and unbiased officer" as the IO of the case.  
Jamal Uddin was abducted at Chandgaon in the port city on July 24, 2003. He was later murdered. Rab personnel dug out his skeleton from a remote village in Fatikchhari on August 21 last year.



Activists of Islami Oikya Jote pelted the police with brickbats yesterday after the law enforcers tried to disperse the Jote men who blocked a city street near Zero Point to hold their meeting.

**NOTICE**

সিপিডি  
প্রথম প্রকাশ  
The Daily Star  
জাতীয় দিবস ২০০৬  
জবাবদিহিতার উত্তর প্রস্টার  
দুপিল সমাজের উত্তর

Channel i will telecast a special programme today at 5:30pm on "Regional Dialogue on National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development" organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Channel i in Faridpur on August 12.

**Prayer Timing**

August 18

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation