

PM inaugurates 20-storey car parking in city

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the 20-storey Sadharan Bima Tower with huge car parking facilities and United Hospital Limited, a modern private hospital, in the city.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

4 customs men suspended for mistakenly raiding IGP's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The National Board of Revenue (NBR) suspended four customs officials yesterday, a day after they were arrested for 'mistakenly' entering the Uttara residence of the inspector general of police (IGP).

AL objects to polls monitor by NGOs in question

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said election-monitoring by NGOs controlled by ruling party men and accused of financial corruption will bring no good result for democracy.

Shab-e-Barat on Sept 8

BSS, Dhaka
The holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed on the night of September 8, a press release of Islamic Foundation said last night.

Israeli army chief admits failures in Lebanon

AFP, Jerusalem
Israel's embattled army chief Dan Halutz admitted for the first time yesterday to failings during the Lebanon war amid increasing public discontent over how the offensive was handled.

and the errors. We have to extract professional lessons, as we are faced with more challenges... This test concerns us all, from me down to the last soldier.

His spokeswoman Miri Eisin told AFP that Olmert 'will let it be known soon what parameters the inquiry into the Lebanon failures should have'.

Hasina ridicules PM over graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has fuelled 'terrorism, corruption, price hike and looting' during the present regime.



Seized illegal rickshaws piled up in Agargaon in the capital for long are being moved to Feni by trucks yesterday, allegedly to distribute among destitutes.

US envoy hopes hurdles to go for fair polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis yesterday expressed her hope that all the impediments would be removed to make the coming national election free and fair.

VAT on mobile phone SIM card declared illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the supplementary duty and Vat amounting to Tk 1,628 on mobile SIM (subscriber identification module) cards imposed by National Board of Revenue (NBR) last year.



Wastewater from a dyeing factory floods Tejgaon-Gulshan link road in the city causing difficulty to pedestrians and spreading stinking odour in the area. Locals say the factory often releases wastewater on the road.

Dialogue decries systematic violation of citizens' rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Legal experts and academics at a dialogue in the city yesterday apprehended that ignorance about the urgency of protecting fundamental rights and preventing extra-judicial killings in the name of 'crossfire' would lead the society to self-destruction.

presentation said when the state ignores its fundamental duty of safeguarding rights of citizens, and systematically violates citizens' rights, it cannot but become a matter of grave concern and apprehension.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said the present government is pushing the nation towards moral destruction since it is killing people violating their right to justice and speaking lies that the killings took place in 'encounters'.

11 killed in two road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Eleven people, including seven retired army personnel, died and 30 others were injured in road accidents in Jessore and Comilla yesterday.

home in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj by the truck after lifting ration from Jessore Cantonment.

Nat'l minimum wage to be announced by October

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The long-awaited national minimum wage for the workers is likely to be announced by October, said Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, secretary of labour and employment ministry, yesterday.

Nepalese constitution ducks monarchy

AFP, Kathmandu
The committee drafting Nepal's interim constitution said it would present the document today but Maoist rebels said they were angry it had sidestepped the central issue of the monarchy's future.

The rebels who have waged a decade-long 'people's war' to oust the monarchy said Thursday the committee's inability to decide whether Nepal should remain a kingdom raised doubts about the government's sincerity in seeking peace.

Iran heads for showdown at UN in nuke row

AFP, Tehran
Iran appeared headed for a showdown at the UN Security Council next week over its nuclear programme, facing the threat of sanctions after failing to freeze key fuel cycle work.



Travellers heading for Chittagong thronged Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday as a transport strike in the port city left Dhaka-Chittagong bus services stalled. (Report on page-2)

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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 Pabna on August 19.

Prayer Timing August 25
Table with columns for Fajr, Juma, Asr, Maghrib, Esha, Azan, and Jamaat.