

DOHAR VIOLENCE  
156 AL men  
including Noor  
get bail

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 156 Awami League (AL) leaders and workers, including its Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor MP, in two ransacking and vandalism cases filed by the government with Dohar Police Station in Dhaka.

The accused AL leaders and workers appeared before the court for bail in the cases.

After hearing a petition, a High Court bench comprising Justice Abdur Rashid and Justice Fazlur

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'3 Pak religious bodies may face UN sanctions'  
Reports Qatar-based newspaper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN spokesperson Alexandra McLeod in New York recently said the Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami along with two other Pakistani religious organisations may face UN sanctions, according to a

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Tigers fly to Sri Lanka today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team will leave Dhaka this afternoon for a month long Sri Lanka trip to play three one-dayers and two Tests.

Four players from the 15-member squad, which leaves by a Thai Airways flight, will return after

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#### Prayer Timing

August 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Blasts designed to create division among people

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said militants are carrying out repeated bomb attacks across the country to create division among the people in the name of religion.

"The 14 crore people of the country are passing their days in a sense of insecurity due to frequent bomb explosions here and there," he said while addressing a conference of Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi

Samiti at the Supreme Court yesterday.

Referring to the recent countrywide bomb blasts, he said the government took no steps although it was warned about the possible danger.

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, said the spirit of the constitution must be upheld for the greater interest of the country.

The rule of law in the country is under threat as the constitution is being violated, he said, adding that if

the constitution is not properly followed in the running of state affairs, the country would face a grim future.

Dr Kamal said the democratic institutions of the country must function properly in order to establish rule of law and true democracy.

He urged the lawyers to be united and spread their ongoing movement across the country to resist any kind of conspiracy.

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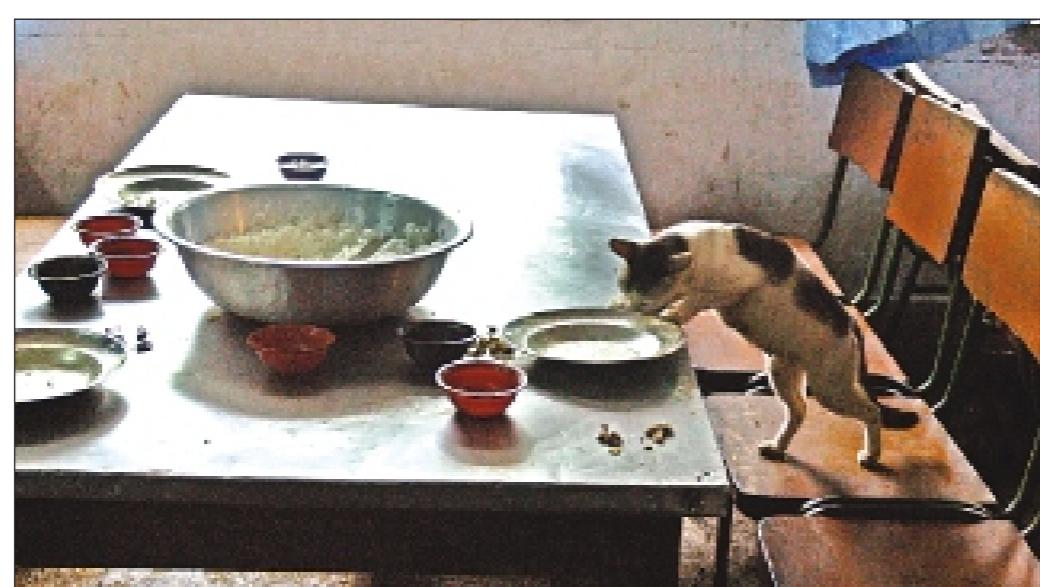


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## PEPZ to meet Sunday on KEPZ licence

SHARIER KHAN

After 28 months of delay, the Private Export Processing Zone (PEPZ) Board of Governors headed by the prime minister (PM) is finally holding a meeting on Sunday to approve the licence for the country's biggest and private Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ), sources said.

Earlier this month, the government approved two government-run

EPZs—the Adamjee EPZ and the Chittagong Steel Mills EPZ. With the KEPZ the number of EPZs in the country will come to nine.

According to the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), the investment and export volume from all these EPZs will create a visible impact within a couple of years with export earnings

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## UK top Muslim group faces 'extremism' charges

AFP, London

The most respected voice of Britain's 1.6 million Muslims is under fire for pandering to radicalism, just as it is being called upon to play a bridge-building role in the wake of the London bombings.

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is a coalition of some 400 organisations, making it a privileged dialogue partner for Prime Minister Tony Blair's government after the July 7 attacks in the capital.

But a BBC documentary last

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BNP to choose 30 women MPs from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP Parliamentary Board headed by party Chairperson Khaleda Zia sits today and tomorrow to pick 30 candidates from 286 aspirants for party nomination for the September 6 election to women's reserved seats in parliament.

The aspirants are now engaged in hectic lobbying with party policymakers, senior ministers and other leaders before facing the parliamentary board.

The prime minister's Primary and Mass Education Affairs Adviser

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## SC rejects WorldTel plea for exclusive right to landlines in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed WorldTel's petition for retaining its co-exclusive right with Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) to provide landlines in Dhaka, paving the way for private landline operators to operate.

Following the court order, there remains no legal barrier for Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to license private Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) operators to work in the capital, said sources in the telecom industry.

A long-drawn legal battle between the telecoms watchdog and

UK-based WorldTel has deprived for a long time thousands of prospective subscribers of receiving private fixed phone connections in the capital.

In August last year, WorldTel filed a case with the High Court against BTRC and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, accusing

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