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Lotus Kamal gets bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted interim bail for one month to detained former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal alias Lotus Kamal in a corruption case.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad stayed for one month proceeding of the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Upon a quashment petition filed by Lotus Kamal, the HC bench also issued a rule on the government to explain why proceedings against the petitioner in this case should not be quashed.

The ACC on March 22 last year filed the case against Lotus Kamal, his wife Kashmiri Kamal and their

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More lawmen may follow Fida suit

Commotion over attorney service ordinance continues to brew

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More law officers in the Supreme Court (SC) may resign from office if the government does not remove some discriminatory provisions amending the Government Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008.

Sources in the Attorney General's Office say at least 10 more law officers are considering resignation as they are not ready to accept the discriminatory provisions in the ordinance.

"We have already demanded that the government repeal or amend the ordinance providing rules which can keep our dignity, status and financial support protected," says a law officer asking not to be identified.

"The government has not taken any initiative to change the ordinance. We're waiting for the government's response to our demands. If the government does not do anything, we'll quit."

The law officers, however, told The Daily Star they would wait before taking any course of action until appointment of new attorney general.

Earlier, Barrister Fida M Kamal resigned from the office of the attorney general on July 16.

The law officers said the government didn't consult the attorneys including Fida M Kamal before promulgating the ordinance, under which the Government Attorney Department has been set up to deal with cases in courts and performing other duties on behalf of the state.

"There are some discriminatory provisions in the Ordinance including a top tier with two bosses -- the attorney general (AG) and the director general (DG). The provision of replacing existing attorneys

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Poverty mission attainable

Asserts CA
UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday asserted that Bangladesh would be able to achieve its missions of eradicating poverty, making life easier and ensuring socioeconomic progress in all fields.

Visiting Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee Prof Ole Danbolt Mjos hoped that Bangladesh would be able to see its dream come true through building a prosperous Bangladesh free from poverty.

The note of optimism was struck at the inauguration of Nobel Peace Prize exhibition at Grameen Bank headquarters in Mirpur, Dhaka, yesterday.

The CA, who chaired the meeting, directed maintaining good coordination among the commerce and food ministries and BDR as well as carrying out con-

stant monitoring to ease the prices of essentials during the Ramadan.

Commerce ministry apprised that they are holding meetings with businessmen and millers as well as procuring essential items like pulses, chickpeas, edible oil, onion, sugar and potatoes. The paramilitary BDR also informed that they also procured essential foodstuffs under a contingency plan.

The meeting was informed that the food ministry would launch Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice across the country, likely in the third week of August.

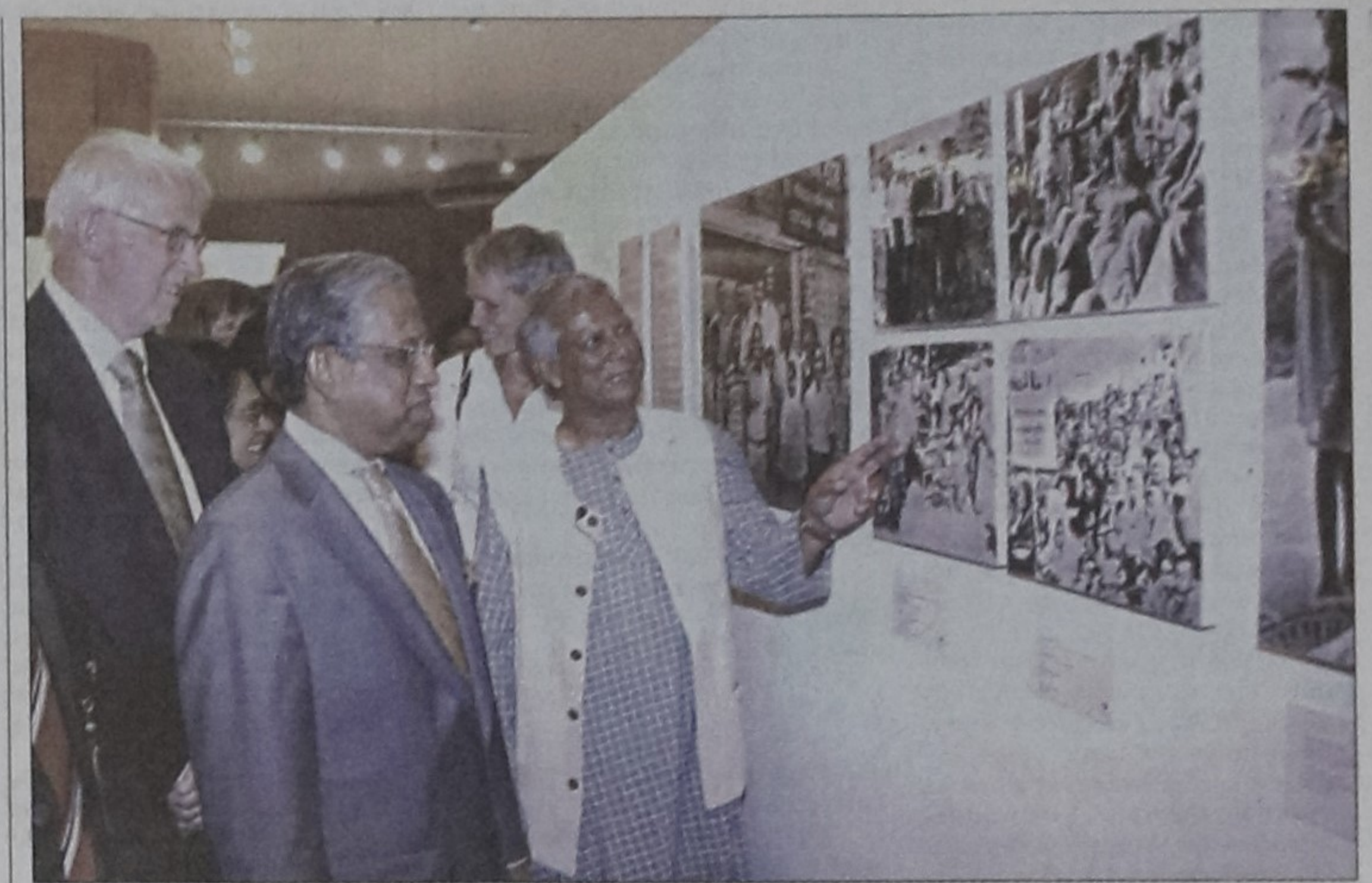
Presently, the amount of rice in government stock is 10 lakh metric tonnes and it will be 11 lakh MT next month," the meeting was informed.

"Process of importing rice is on, while initiative to import rice from Myanmar is also being taken," it was stated.

The procurement drive will continue and present stock of various food items is sufficient, the meeting was further apprised.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim briefed newsmen about the outcome of the meeting. Home Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) MA Matin, Food Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali, Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, Cabinet Secretary Syed Ali Imam Majumder, commerce secretary, food secretary, CA's press secretary, the director general of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the inspector general of police were, among others, present at the meeting.

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Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus shows Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed photos at the Nobel Peace Prize Exhibition at the Grameen Bank headquarters in Mirpur, Dhaka, yesterday.

8 killed, 20 hurt in Ctg road crash

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least eight people died and 20 others were injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

Sources said the accident occurred at around 1:30pm when a Chittagong-bound covered van collided head-on with a Sonapur (Noakhali)-bound passenger bus at Barabkunda, killing four bus passengers on the spot and injuring 24 others.

The injured were rushed to Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex and Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Of them, one succumbed to his injuries at Sitakunda health complex and three died at CMCH.

Four of the dead were identified as Momin Ullah, 55, Mohammad Mustafa, 40, Asmaul Husna, 18, and Mohammad Abdullah, 24. The identity of the rest could not be known.

Of the injured, 16 were identified as Bachchu Mian, 45, Kusum, 27, Rafiqul Islam, 35, Morjina, 45, Mizan, 44, Masud, 40, Sharif Ullah, 30, Fulbanu, 28, Azizul

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Firemen try to remove casualties from the wreckage of a bus that collided with a covered van at Sitakunda on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday.

Govt makes preparation for Ramadan essentials

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken advance preparation, including keeping enough food stock, to ease prices of essentials during the holy month Ramadan.

A high-level meeting held yesterday under the initiative of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office took stock of the present position of preparation and steps in this regard. Similar advance steps were taken ahead of Ramadan last year under the personal initiative of the chief adviser.

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Charge sheet against 11 graft suspects okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved the submission of four charge sheets against 11 people, including detained Beximco Group Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman.

The ACC yesterday also approved filing cases against seven people including Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Abul Hossain in connection with misappropriating government money, amassing wealth beyond known sources of his income and concealing information about his actual wealth.

ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal disclosed the matters during a regular press briefing held at the ACC headquarters.

Against the backdrop of detained high-profile corruption

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Middle income country status 17 years away

Forecasts UNCTAD's LDC report on Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will require another 17 years to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) to a middle-income one if 6.5 percent growth is sustained.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) made this prediction in its LDC report 2008 released yesterday.

The report based on fiscal 2005-06 said Bangladesh ranked 15th among 50 LDCs in achieving real GDP growth during the period.

Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Mustafizur Rahman read out this brief report at a press briefing at his office. He expressed the hope that Bangladesh would become a middle-income country sooner than the UNCTAD predicted.

Many of the economic indicators including export growth of manufactured products, high volume of remittance and success in implementing various MDGs brightened the prospects of Bangladesh moving out of its LDC status earlier than the stipulated period, he noted.

The report indicating poverty situation and based on Household Survey 2000 said 26.4 percent of Bangladesh population live on \$1 or below \$1 a day while 74.8 percent between \$1 and \$2 a day. This estimate differed from a previous

World Bank estimate of 41.3 percent and 44.2 percent respectively.

Bangladesh exported 34 percent of the LDCs' total manufactured exports and 7.4 percent of their merchandise exports, the UNCTAD report said.

It mentioned that Bangladesh ranked 4th among the LDCs in fiscal 2005-06 in receiving foreign direct investment (FDI). Three oil-exporting LDCs -- Sudan, Equatorial Guinea and Chad -- were ahead of it.

Bangladesh's share was 6.7 percent of FDI in the LDCs during the period.

And it received 41 per cent of the total workers' remittance to the

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Govt appeals against Nizami bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court (SC) to vacate the High Court (HC) order granting bail to Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami in the Gato corruption case.

Meanwhile, the Jamaat ameer yesterday filed a writ petition with the HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hossain Ahmed challenging the legality of the Gato corruption case. He also prayed for quashing the proceedings against him in the case.

Detained former BNP minister MK Anwar also filed a petition yesterday with the HC asking for bail in the same case.

The lawyers concerned said the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

21 Indian cops die in Maoist attack

AFP, Bhubaneswar

At least 21 Indian commandos were killed Wednesday in a Maoist rebel attack in the mineral-rich but impoverished east of the country, officials said.

The attack came as top officials met in New Delhi to try and devise a strategy to stamp out the worsening left-wing guerrilla revolt in a large swathe of the country left out of India's economic boom.

Federal home ministry and state officials said a special counter-insurgency unit was hit by a landmine blast while patrolling Malkangiri district, a known Maoist stronghold in the far south of Orissa state.

"So far we can confirm 21 policemen belonging to special operations group were killed in the landmine blast," Orissa's police chief, Gopal Nand, told AFP in state capital Bhubaneswar.

"The policemen were travelling to locate landmines, as the rebels had organised roadblocks on a strategic road," he said, adding that fighting was continuing into the night.

A group of special commandos was attacked on a reservoir in the same area on June 29. That incident left around 35 dead and dozens injured.

Rebel activity is mainly concentrated in Chhattisgarh state, which borders Orissa, but has spread to around half of India's 29 states.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has described the rebels, known here as Naxalites, as the biggest threat to the country's internal security.

The latest heavy death toll to be

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Former roads officer jailed over graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced Abul Kalam Samsuddin, former administrative officer of Roads and Highways Department, to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information about his actual wealth to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

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Prayer Timing

	July 18	
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Horror still haunts them on outlaw trail

SHARIFUL ISLAM, back from Kushtia and Jhenidah

Selina Begum from Khoksha upazila in Kushtia still relives the horror that took place two years ago.

Members of an outlawed party butchered her husband, Soharab Hossain, before her very eyes after hanging him by the legs from a tree.

Selina is among the few victims who filed cases with police against the outlaws, while the majority did not even dare to follow that path.

Ayesha Khatun's husband

Sharafat Hossain was the then chairman of Ganna union parishad in Jhenidah Sadar upazila when the outlaws slain him in a similar fashion, but she also refrained from seeking justice.

In the southwestern region of the country, there are over 300 people who, like Selina and Ayesha, lost their loved ones to the atrocities of the outlaws, but are too afraid to come forward and complain against the criminals.

Following the recent deaths of three top leaders of the

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Some foreign nations want unelected govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said some foreign nations want to keep an unelected government in power in Bangladesh to serve their interest.

He feared military aggression on Bangladesh in the name of transit or corridor if given to India, saying that Poland had such experience during the World War II.

Delwar made the remarks at a discussion organised by the four-party alliance on "Transition: Aggression Resistance Day" at Jatiya Press Club.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Lanka gets tough on UN, aid visas

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's government yesterday unveiled new restrictions on how long United Nations and other foreign aid staff are allowed to work on the war-torn island.

The new regulations come amid a backdrop of mounting tensions between the government and the United Nations and key member states, who have been highly critical over how the war against Tamil Tiger rebels is being conducted.

Under the new Sri Lanka foreign ministry rules, foreign nationals will not be allowed to stay more than four years in a single place, while experts and advisers will only be allowed into the country for a year.

Previously rules regarding foreigners were flexible and allowed for people to stay in the country for long periods of time.

UN and other aid agencies will also not be allowed to create new positions without prior approval from Colombo.

The ministry said the rules were designed to "consolidate the linkages between the UN and other international organisations with ministries dealing with the relevant sectors of activities."

Sri Lanka's government, which pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire with Tamil Tigers in January, has seen its

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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PRICE SENSITIVE DISCLOSURE

This is for kind information of the valued Shareholders of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited and others concerned that the Board of Directors of the Bank in its 159th Meeting held on 17th July 2008 took the following Price Sensitive decisions:

SL. No.	Particulars	Decisions
01	Enhancement of Authorized Capital of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited by amending Memorandum and Articles of Association.	Authorized Capital of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited is proposed to raise from Tk.5000 Crore (Tk.5000 Million) to Tk.10000 Crore (Tk.10000 Million) subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank and by Honourable Shareholders in the EGM.
02	Changing of Denomination of Face Value of shares of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.	Face Value of IBBL share will be Tk.100/- each instead of existing 1 (one) subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank, Securities & Exchange Commission and by Honourable Shareholders in the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM).
03	Declaring Date & Time of Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM).	29 August 2008 at 9.00 A.M.
04	Record Date in connection with EGM.	29 July 2008.

Dated: Dhaka, 17 July, 2008

By order of the Board
Md. Shouquat Ali
Executive Vice President & Secretary

Islami Bank My Bank