

# 11 charges against

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people, according to the charges levelled against him by the prosecution.  
"On perusal of the documents, it appears that there is a strong prima facie case against Khokon," the tribunal chairman said while accepting the charges.  
"We are inclined to take cognisance of offences under International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973," he added.  
Prosecutor Mokhlesur Rahman Badal told The Daily Star that 11 charges had been brought against Khokon.  
He, however, said the date for hearings on charge framing may be deferred as no counsel has yet been appointed for Khokon, who is still at large.  
"After the submission of police report, the tribunal will publish advertisement in newspaper.  
"After that the state counsel for him [Khokon] will be appointed, and then the hearings on charge framing will begin," he said in reply to a question whether it is possi-

ble to begin the hearings on July 30.  
The prosecution submitted the charges against Khokon, also known as Khokon Razakar, to the tribunal through its registrar's office on June 23.  
The investigation agency designated to probe war crimes completed investigation into Khokon's alleged war crimes on May 29.  
According to the investigation agency, Khokon, who was a close associate of Abul Kalam Azad, a condemned war criminal from Faridpur, had taken part in an election campaign for a Jamaat-e-Islami candidate in 1970.  
He was involved with the party and later, he joined the BNP.  
As the vice-president of Nagarkanda unit BNP, Khokon contested the municipality election in 2011 and became its mayor.  
After taking the oath, he went into hiding and the agency "assumed" that he is now in Sweden with his son and daughter.

# Buck stops at SC

FROM PAGE 1  
Under the 1973 act, the state and defence can appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court within 30 days of the verdict delivery.  
International Crimes Tribunal-2 on Wednesday sentenced Mojaheed to death for his leading role in intellectuals' killing and participatory role in the murder of Hindus in Faridpur.  
His stipulated time to appeal will end on August 16.  
But the appeals in Jamaat leader Quader Mollah's case have been pending with the SC since the first week of March.  
Tribunal-2 awarded him a life term on February 5. The government appealed against the verdict, claiming the punishment was inadequate and he deserves death sentence. Defense appealed for his acquittal.  
The Supreme Court started hearing both the appeals in

May, though it had been expected to deliver judgment by the first week of this month. The hearing is still going on.  
The apex court is now also hearing opinions from the amici curiae (friends of court) on whether the amendment that cleared the way for appealing against "inadequate" sentence of war crimes convicts is applicable to the case of Quader Mollah and whether the customary international laws are applicable in the trial of war crimes in Bangladesh.  
The lawyers concerned could not specify how many days would be needed to complete proceedings in the Quader Mollah's case with the SC.  
On the other hand, the Appellate Division is yet to start hearing the appeals against the judgment in Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee's case.

Tribunal-1 on February 28 awarded Sayedee the death sentence and the defence appealed against the verdict on March 28.  
The government also filed an appeal seeking capital punishment on all charges against Sayedee as the court acquitted him of 12 charges and convicted him on eight charges.  
The hearing on the appeals against the judgment in Sayedee's case has not started even in the 112 days since their filing.  
Another Jamaat leader, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, was convicted for war crimes and sentenced to death by Tribunal-2 on May 9. He appealed against the verdict on June 6.  
The hearing on this appeal has not started yet.  
The chief justice formed a six-member bench to hear Quader Mollah's appeal. One of the members has gone on retirement.

If only one bench hears all the appeals one after another, justice to the victims of crimes against humanity committed in 1971 will be further delayed, observed some justice seekers.  
Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, however, has told The Daily Star that the Appellate Division will start hearing the appeals in Sayedee's case after finishing the hearing in Quader Mollah's case.  
Meanwhile, only 10 working days are left before the SC goes on annual vacation for one and a half months from August 2. The SC will resume on September 15 and again it will go on vacation from October 10 to November 1 and from December 10 to the end of that month.  
So there is a clear indication of further delay in the proceedings relating to Quader Mollah's appeal and hearings in other pending appeals.

# Think of economy

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people are afraid to step out of home in times of general strikes.  
The prices of vegetables such as green chillies have been a barometer of the adverse effects of the recent hartals, Akram said, although the government had already taken steps to rein in the prices of the item.  
This is a time to revive the rural economy for higher sales of commodities. But the rural people will lose business opportunities if strikes continue, said the chief of the country's apex trade body.  
The businesses of basic commodities have taken the full brunt of strikes due to transport problems that disrupt their supplies.  
Many private companies are worrying that they will have to pay staff salaries and

bonuses together. They may not be able to pay those on time if there are more strikes, he noted.  
"The import and export of goods is also being seriously hampered."  
Akram said he would step up efforts to hold dialogues between the government and the main opposition BNP after the Eid, since the previous attempts have failed due to a political party's non-cooperation.  
"From the FBCCI, we urged the government to make laws to put an end to hartals, but no governments have taken heed. The growing economy of Bangladesh cannot afford strikes."  
The Jamaat-e-Islami enforced four days of hartal this week, protesting against the verdicts on its leaders facing war crimes charges.

# PM defends job quota

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resorted to vandalism for cancellation of the quota provision, will be excluded during their viva exam, she noted.  
The government has evidence against those who had vandalised public property in the name of protesting the quota system, mentioned Hasina adding that, she has already given directives to the PSC in this regard.  
Images and video clips of the vandalism have been provided to the PSC, which would help it identify the miscreants, she maintained.  
"Those who can vandalise people's property can in no way be meritorious."  
Defending the quota provision, she said the constitution has guaranteed rights for the women, ethnic minority and the disabled.  
"Had the freedom fighters not liberated the country, there would have been no PSC and the people would not get any job," pointed out the PM.

to go to their respective constituencies, hold iftar parties and meetings to publicise the government's successes and the corruption, misrule, terrorism and militancy during the tenure of the BNP-Jamaat government.  
The premier asked them to form teams comprised of leaders of the party's associated bodies and go to villages to counter the propaganda launched by the BNP, Jamaat and Hefajat.  
"You [leaders] have to tell people that terrorism and militancy will return to the country if the anti-liberation elements assume power again," she told the meeting.  
Expressing frustration at the party's publicity apparatus, she said even there were spelling mistakes in the party's posters, which was unacceptable.  
Speaking at the meeting, AL lawmaker Engr Musharraf Hossain urged the party chief to strengthen the organisation at all levels ahead of the next general election.  
AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam informed the meeting about the party's programmes marking the August 15 and 21.  
Hasina said another meeting will be called shortly with seven days' notice to discuss party affairs, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

# Two directly involved

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intellectuals at the fag end of the Liberation War in 1971.  
In his hour-long testimony, Asif said his father continued giving speeches in favour of Bangla language and Bengalee nationalism, despite repeated warnings from the then Pakistan government.  
Following the massacre on March 25, 1971, Asif's family left the teachers' quarters at Dhaka University and took shelter in their family home at Central Road. They stayed there during the nine-month war, he said.  
Concerned about Munier Chowdhury's safety, his family members, on several occasions, asked Munier to take shelter elsewhere. But he was not willing to part from his family, said Asif.  
At around 1:00pm on December 14, someone knocked at the main gate of their central road house. Asif's mother, peering out of a window on the first floor, saw a microbus in front of the house.  
The windows of the vehicle were painted with mud and its roof was covered with tree branches, said Asif.  
His mother saw three/four youths getting down from the vehicle. When his uncle Shamsheer Chowdhury Rusko went near the gate, one of the youths asked him whether he was Munier Chowdhury, said Asif.  
As they asked for Munier Chowdhury, Rusko went back to the house and informed Munier Chowdhury about it.  
Asif's mother requested his

father not to meet the youths. But he didn't pay heed to the request and got down from the first floor wearing a lungi and panjabi.  
Asif's uncle accompanied his father to the gate. His mother also followed them to the ground floor.  
As Rusko unlocked the gate, Munier Chowdhury asked the youths what they wanted, said Asif.  
When the youths insisted that Munier had to go with them, he became agitated and asked them whether they had any warrant. Then a member of the group pointed a gun at his back.  
Then the youths forced him into the microbus and sped away.  
Asif's brother Mishuk Munier saw the whole incident from the veranda on the first floor. His mother also witnessed the entire event.  
Asif, then a four-year-old boy, was inside the house.  
Following the nation's victory on December 16, 1971, Asif's uncles Rusko and Prof Kabir Chowdhury went to Rayerbazar to look for his father's body but could not find it, he said.  
"Later, my family members, including my brother and uncle, learnt from newspaper reports that many other intellectuals had been picked up from their houses and killed at that time," said Asif.  
They also learnt that a number of journalists, including Serajuddin Hossain, Syed Najmul Haque, and ANM Golam Mostafa had been

abducted between December 10 and 13, while many other intellectuals, among whom were Shahidullah Kaiser, DU professors Abul Khayer, Prof Maniuruzzaman, Mofazzal Haidar Choudhury, Rashidul Hasan, and Anwar Pasha were kidnapped on December 14, said Asif.  
In 1972, Asif's mother and the widows of other intellectuals demanded that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman make sure that the killers were brought to justice, he said.  
"From news reports in Daily Purbadesh at that time, my mother, brother and uncle became sure that Al-Badr-in-charge Mueen Uddin and its chief executor Ashrafuzzaman Khan were directly involved in the abduction and killing of my father and other intellectuals," said Asif.  
Looking at newspaper photographs, his uncle Rusko ascertained that Mueen and Ashraf was among the three/four youths, who had a d u c t e d M u n i e r Chowdhury.  
From news reports and research papers, they learnt that a list of intellectuals had been made with intent to abduct and kill them to cripple the Bangalee nation, said Asif.  
"This list was published in several newspapers with the headline 'Jallader Diary' [butcher's diary], and the names of many intellectuals, including that of my father, was in the list," he added.  
Later, Asif coincidentally

met a person named Delwar Hossain, who was also picked up in December 14 and kept in confinement at "Al-Badr concentration camp" at Mohammadpur Physical Training Institute. But, fortunately, he survived.  
Delwar told Asif that he had heard the names of Munier Chowdhury and Mofazzal Haidar Choudhury, and had seen them being tortured at the camp, said the witness.  
Asif said his brother Mishuk Munier also gave his statement to the investigation officer of the case in 2011 before his tragic death in a road accident on August 13 the same year.  
Cases against Qaisar and Yusuf  
Meanwhile, the tribunal again directed the prosecution to produce by August 21 another progress report on the investigation into the alleged involvement of war crimes suspect Syed Mohammad Qaisar in crimes against humanity.  
The court gave the directive after the prosecution submitted a progress report and sought more time to complete the investigation.  
Qaisar, an ex-state minister during the tenure of the HM Ershad-led government, was detained on May 21 after the tribunal issued a warrant for his arrest.  
The court also adjourned the case proceedings against Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf until July 22 following a petition from the defence.

# Hearing on August 29

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adjournment of the hearing.  
The court completed recording statements of four prosecution witnesses including complainant of the case in May this year.  
During yesterday's hearing, Adflame Director Helena Pasha and Manager Mizanur Rahman, both accused of the same charge and now on bail, were present.  
One of the directors of the company Azfar Pasha, and two officials Nrigendra Nath Bala and Mohammad Noman have been absconding since the case was filed.  
The court framed charges against the five accused on May 28, 1994, and the trial of the case began on July 23, 1994 with deposition of

complainant Abul Khair Chowdhury, the then Drug Superintendent of the Directorate of Drug Administration (DDA).  
But the case proceedings remained stayed for 13 years since 1994 on the basis of a circular published by DDA suggesting that Bangladesh had inadequate test facilities.  
The trial of the case, however, began upon an investigation of The Daily Star in 2009.  
In December 1992, Khair filed four cases, including the one against Adflame, in connection with production of adulterated paracetamol syrup that caused deaths to an estimated 2,700 children between 1972 and 1992.

# BNP sees plot against sheaf

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become a part of it," he alleged.  
The BNP leader recalled that the ship symbol had been withdrawn from the ballot paper following an objection from the Awami League, as it looked similar to the party's electoral symbol boat.  
Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday told reporters that the EC was doing the field enquiry to decide on the registration of new political parties. Once it is done, the EC would publish the names of qualified political parties in newspapers.  
After that, taking opinions of all, the EC would make its decision about the parties, he added.  
Asked about BNF's desired electoral symbol, he said the issue would come last in the deciding process.  
On July 11, a BNP delegation led by its standing committee member MK Anwar met the CEC at his office and requested him not to issue

registration to BNF.  
Expelled BNP vice-chairman Nazmul Huda had launched BNF early this year. Former BNP cabinet minister Prof Jahanara Begum, former Chittagong mayor Aref Moinuddin and several mid-ranking leaders have joined the party.  
However, on March 10, BNF relieved Huda of the party's convener post for his "anti-party activities" and made Jahanara its acting convener.  
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# SQ Chy's counsel

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the prosecution cross-examined him the following day.  
The defence failed to produce their third witness on July 9. Fakhru that day sought a three-week adjournment saying Salman F Rahman would spend the holy month of Ramadan in Saudi Arabia, while another defence witness Qayum Reza Chowdhury was busy in another case.  
He made similar submission the following day.  
On July 14, the defence said Qayum could not come to the tribunal because of illness.  
Qayum testified on July 16 amid countryside shutdown called by Jamaat-e-Islami. However, the defence the following day failed to produce him for cross-examination.  
On behalf of Fakhru, tribunal-appointed defence counsel Salma Hai Tunis told the tribunal that the witness did not feel secure to come

to the tribunal after war criminal Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed had been convicted.  
Salma, however, assured the tribunal that Qayum would come to the tribunal for cross-examination on Thursday, even if hartals were to continue.  
Fakhru yesterday told the tribunal again that the witness had security concerns about coming to the tribunal due to hartal and sought an adjournment until July 23.  
Prosecutor Zead Al Malum opposed the petition saying the defence had been repeatedly filing adjournment petitions to delay the case proceedings.  
Another conducting defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena asked the tribunal to give them one last chance to produce the witness.  
Salauddin is facing 23 war crimes charges committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

# Rickshaw-pullers

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been beating them for ransom.  
"Taking the phone number from the caller, I rang up one of the rickshaw pullers who told me that the policemen had brought them to Agargaon bazaar," said Biplob.  
The police personnel, however, refused to talk to Biplob despite knowing that the DC was on the phone.  
As the rickshaw-puller told him that the policemen were in plain clothes, Biplob decided to cross-check the information.  
"As Agargaon bazaar falls under Sher-e-Bangla Police Station, I called the officer-in-charge of the police station asking for the locations of his plainclothes teams," he said.  
As one of the teams was staying at Agargaon Bazaar, I went there, and found the vehicle of the civil team with the rickshaw-pullers inside, the DC said.  
The police personnel claimed that the rickshaw pullers were drug peddlers who were picked up in the afternoon.  
But the claim was weak, as they did not produce the detainees to the police station immedi-

ately after the arrest. Instead, they roamed around with the detainees for hours, beat them up, and realised money through bKash, a subsidiary of Brac Bank that provides mobile banking service.  
Quoting a rickshaw-puller, Biplob said: "The policemen forced the relatives of the detainees to send them Tk 23,000 through bKash."  
The Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station is under jurisdiction of Tejgaon division, the DC said, adding that the police personnel of the station had broken the law by conducting the operation in Dhanmondi area without the DC's permission, which was outside of their jurisdiction.  
Ujjal Tikader, one of the detainees, from whom the policemen took Tk 2,803 filed a case with the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station yesterday.  
Inspector Maruf Hasan is the investigation officer of the case.  
On June 18, SI Mofizul Islam and ASI Sanjay Kumar Sheel of the same police station were withdrawn to Tejgaon Deputy Commissioner's Office, based on a complaint of extortion from a couple.

# Fed up, people defy shutdown

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comparatively fewer on the city's thoroughfares.  
Some areas even saw usual traffic congestions. As on other hartal days, rickshaws dominated the thoroughfares but there were also a significant number of minibuses, private cars and CNG-run three-wheelers.  
Long-route buses were off the roads but movements of trains, lunches and planes remained quite normal.  
Most of the shopping malls, markets and roadside shops were open ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest festival of the Muslims.  
Among a few incidents of violence in the capital, hartal supporters at around 9:00am

exploded four to five hand-made crude bombs at Dhalpur in Jatrabari.  
In Satkhira, Jamaat-Shibir men hacked a ruling party leader at Gazihat upazila, leaving him severely wounded, reported our Satkhira correspondent.  
Witnesses said pro-hartal activists had swooped on Sirajul Islam, 40, secretary of youth and sports affairs of Nawapara union Awami League, with sharp weapons while he was going to Gazihat bazaar.  
He is now undergoing treatment at a Shakhipur hospital.  
Meanwhile, Jamaat-Shibir

men beat up a ward secretary of Amdoi union of Joypurhat Sadar upazila, Masum Ali Mondal, as he declined to walk instead of riding motorcycle, said police.  
Similar incidents of vandalism, arson and blasting of crude bombs took place in Khulna, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Rangpur, and Jhenidah. Police rounded up several hartal supporters from Satkhira, Mymensingh and Khagrachhari.  
Narail police held Hobokhali union Jamaat Ameer Abdul Kader Pintu, 40, from Hobokhali bazaar area allegedly for engaging in anarchy.

agreed to invest the necessary 5 million Norwegian kroner (£544,000) to build the mirrors.  
In 2006, a similar project was successfully set up at Viganella in northern Italy which had suffered from exactly the same problem.  
A delegation from Rjukan visited Viganella to see how their mirror had transformed people's lives.  
After five years of debate, Rjukan town council finally

# AL, BNP fail to save

FROM PAGE 1  
and president of Conservative Friends of Bangladesh, co-chaired it.  
In the opening speech, Lord Avebury expressed deep concern at the rise of extremism and minority persecution in Bangladesh in the recent times. He suggested the ruling and opposition parties work towards preventing the repeat of 2001 attack on minority communities.  
Pointing to the gruesome attack on religious minorities following International Crimes Tribunal verdict against Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee on February 28, British and European parliamentarians said to protest was one's democratic right but resorting to violence in the name of protest cannot be justified.  
Defending the government actions to prevent attacks on minorities, AL delegation told the seminar that it was BNP that had unleashed the "reign of terror," in association with Jamaat-e-Islam and Hefajat-e-Islam.  
"Hefajat wants to cleanse Bangladesh of faith minorities and to keep women home-bound," said HT Imam.  
On the caretaker government issue, the AL delegation said the Supreme Court had decalred the system unconstitutional. Therefore, the elec-

tion in Bangladesh would be held as it is held in other democratic countries.  
Tarana Halim, a member of the AL delegation, sharply criticised BNP for supporting Hefajat. She said Hefajat was a threat to women's empowerment in Bangladesh.  
The opposition camp rejected AL allegations and assured members of British and European parliaments that the BNP did not represent Jamaat or Hefajat.  
On caretaker government issue, the BNP delegation said they wanted to take part in the next election under a non-party neutral regime. "That is why we are staging anti-government agitation to realise the demand," Fakhru said.  
Lord Carille QC, Lord Jenning, Baroness Pola Uddin, Rushanara Ali MP, Charles Tannock MP and Jeremy Corbyn MP, among others, spoke in the seminar.  
They said both the parties had to agree to an election process if they wished that the European Parliament would be willing to send a delegation to monitor the election.  
Asked about the verdicts against former Jamaat chief Ghulam Ahsan and its top leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Fakhru said BNP was not against the trials, but it wanted that international standard was followed.

# Mirror trick

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winter rays.  
But that is soon set to change as for the past few weeks, helicopters have been hoisting three huge mirrors into position some 450 metres above the town at the top of the valleysides.  
Known as heliostats, they have been designed to track the movement of the sun and reflect the light down directly onto Rjukan's main square.

The idea is not new. It was first suggested in Rjukan 100 years ago by a worker at the nearby hydroelectric plant.  
The plant's founder, celebrated Norwegian engineer and industrialist Sam Eyde was concerned his workers weren't getting enough sunshine during the winter months.  
He considered the mirror idea but felt they lacked the technology to make it work so opted

instead for the construction of a cablecar.  
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