

**Fugitive**  
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the Pakistani army, in Faridpur district during the 1971 war.

He was involved in at least 13 counts of war crimes that left at least 50 people dead, eight others seriously injured and two women raped.

Khokon was also involved in forced conversion of Hindus, torching of numerous houses and two temples and deportation of seven people, according to the charges levelled against him.

The prosecution had submitted the charges to the tribunal through its registrar's office on June 23. The agency designated to probe war crimes completed investigating his alleged war crimes on May 29.

According to the investigation agency, Khokon, who was a close associate of convicted war criminal Abul Kalam Azad in Faridpur, had taken part in the election campaign for a Jamaat-e-Islami candidate in 1970.

He was involved with the party and later joined the BNP.

As the vice-president of Nagarkanda unit BNP, Khokon contested the municipality election in 2011 and became its mayor.

He went into hiding after taking the oath, and the agency "assumed" that he is now in Sweden with his son and daughter.

Meanwhile yesterday, the tribunal adjourned until today the hearing on charge framing in the war crimes case against Jamaat acting secretary general ATM Azharul Islam in response to a defence prayer that said the chief defence counsel could not appear due to personal reasons.

The tribunal also adjourned the proceedings of the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdus Subhan until October 23, when the defence is to place its arguments. The prosecution completed its arguments on charge framing.

### EC set to

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200 supporters in each upazila or thana.

"As per the field level investigation reports, the BNF has offices in 27 districts and 108 upazilas," a senior assistant secretary at the EC told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We have sent all the documents and investigation reports in a file to the EC secretary. Upon receiving the nod from him, the file will be placed before the commissioners for final approval," he added.

Earlier, the EC had granted additional time to BNF twice to meet the registration requirements in July and September, flouting the related law.

Several newspaper reports said the EC was very much proactive in registering the BNF, though the party had no offices in many upazilas. When the government officials went on field visits there, the party set up temporary offices and signboards.

Expelled BNP vice-chairman Nazmul Huda had launched the BNF early this year. Former BNP cabinet minister Prof Jahanara Begum, among others, joined the party.

In March, the BNF relieved Huda of its convener post for "anti-party activities" and made Jahanara its acting convener. The main opposition BNP on several occasions had urged the EC not to give registration to the BNF as the party used the photograph of BNP founder and late president Ziaur Rahman and demanded "sheaf of wheat" as its electoral symbol, which is almost similar to BNP's "sheaf of paddy".

According to EC officials, Bangladesh Sangskritik Mukti Jote has offices in 34 districts and 112 upazilas.

**REGISTRATION OF NDP**  
The EC will start re-examining the documents of National Democratic Party (NDP), a component of BNP-led 18 party alliance, whether it could be given registration or not.

# Explosion at a city house

## Cops seize bomb-making materials; none held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A loud explosion at a flat in a six-storied building in the city's Fakirapur created panic among the locals last night.

On information, police rushed to the spot and seized bomb making materials from the flat.

Locals told The Daily Star they had heard a huge bang around 8:00pm and witnessed that fumes were coming from the flat.

Mehedi Hasan, additional deputy commissioner of DMP, said the law enforcers had seized 1.5 kilograms of gunpowder, three sacks of stone, five to six kgs of metal pieces and hundreds of small containers.

Police suspect that the explosion happened when a crude bomb went off

inside the flat. They also seized some CDs and leaflets of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

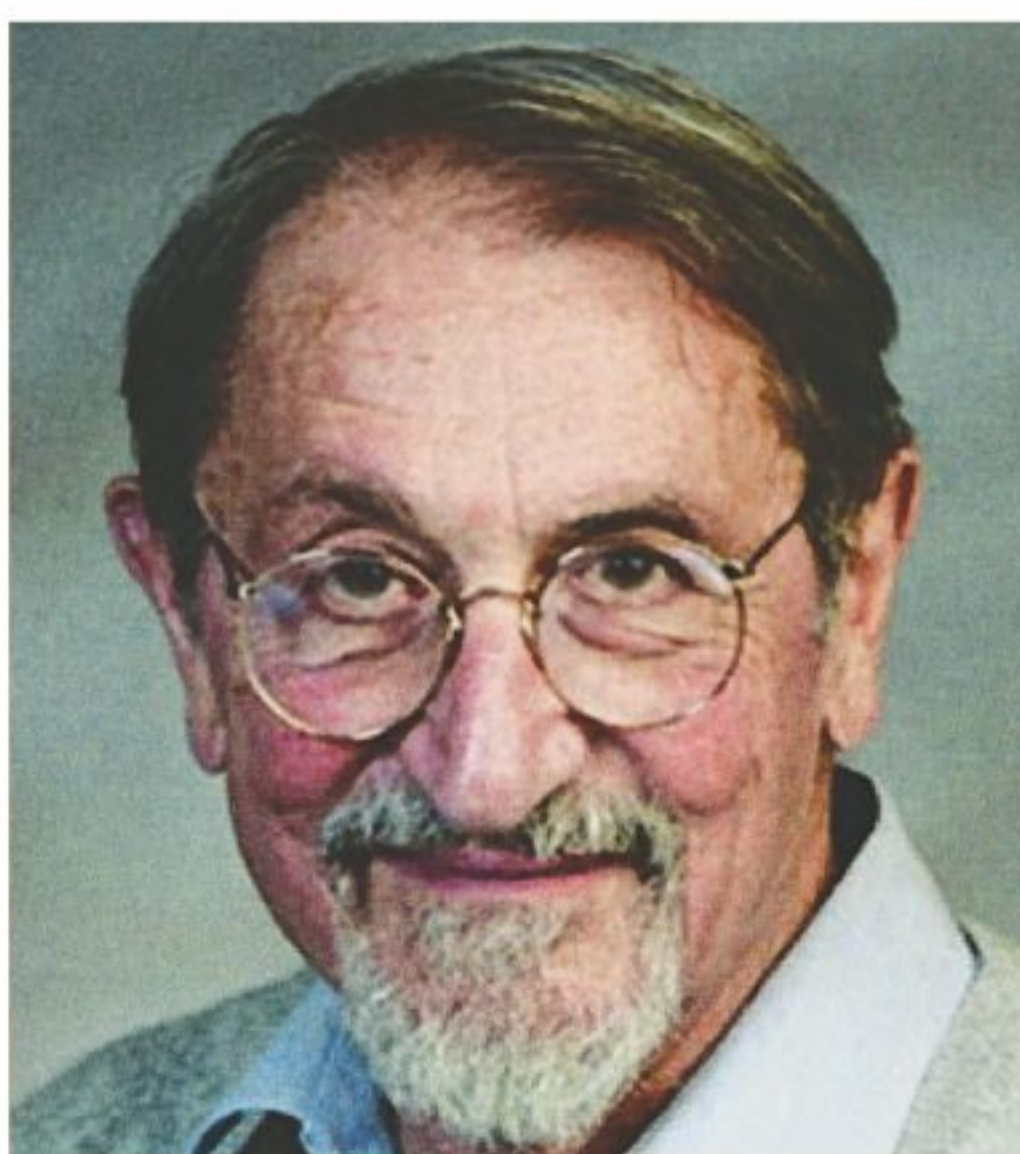
Two men had rented the flat and they had been staying there since October 1, police said.

### GAS EXPLOSION

An explosion, suspected to be caused by trapped gas, on the ground floor of a five-storey building rocked the capital's Dania on Tuesday night, leaving two people critically burnt.

The injured Monir Hossain, 26, and his wife Noor Jahan Begum Nazma, 23, are undergoing treatment at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The explosion happened around 11:30pm when Monir was trying to light a mosquito coil, Noor Jahan told journalists.



Martin Karplus



Michael Levitt



Arieh Warshel

# Trio win Nobel in chemistry

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Chemists all over the world simulate complex experiments on their computers thanks to work by the three that dates back to the 1970s, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement.

The tool is "universal", helping pharmaceutical engineers to design new

drugs or engineers to make cleaner energy sources or smarter manufactured products.

The three combined classical physics with quantum physics in computer models designed to predict chemical reactions.

Such reactions can take place, for instance, between industrial chemicals or

when an enzyme cuts a molecule in a cell.

The processes can take place in a fraction of a millisecond, defeating conventional algorithms that try to map them step by step.

"The computer models that have been developed by the Nobel laureates in chemistry 2013 are powerful

tools," the academy observed.

Karplus, 83, works at the University of Strasbourg in eastern France and Harvard University; Levitt, 66, at Stanford University; and Warshel, 72, at the University of Southern California.

The trio will share the prize sum of eight million

Swedish kronor (\$1.25 million, 925,000 euros), reduced because of the economic crisis last year from the 10 million kronor awarded since 2001.

Last year, the honour went to Robert Lefkowitz and Brian Kobilka of the US for identifying a class of cell receptor.

# Alim to die in jail

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he committed directing the unarmed civilians, by taking culpable stand against the birth of Bangladesh," said the verdict.

The prosecution was able to prove nine of the 17 charges brought against Alim, who was a member of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's cabinet.

He was sentenced to imprisonment until death on four charges. He was also awarded 20 years' jail on four more charges and 10 years' on another charge.

However, the last two sentences will merge into the sentence of "imprisonment for remaining part of life," said the court.

In its verdict, the three-member tribunal said Alim, the then Convention Muslim League leader, was "found guilty of calculated brutal activities that resulted in death of hundreds of civilians".

Being a highly educated person and a law practitioner, he could have contributed to upholding human dignity; instead, he collaborated with the Pakistan occupation army and committed horrendous atrocities.

"He deliberately and consciously opted to be with the perpetrators facilitating the commission of crimes by them and in this way he perceptibly acted against human civilization. No doubt it aggravates his blameworthiness and evil intent," said the tribunal chairman.

Giving reasons for the lenient sentence, the tribunal said Alim is in poor health and cannot move without a wheelchair.

"Such conditions clearly warrant some mitigation of the sentence, which this

tribunal considers otherwise appropriate," it said.

Alim is the second BNP leader and the eighth person to have been convicted of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

On October 1, the ICT-1 awarded BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury death penalty for committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War.

Of the other war crimes convicts, five are from Jamaat-e-Islami and one is a former Jamaat man.

Alim was taken to the packed courtroom at 10:35am.

In a white fatua and a checked lungi, Alim sat on a wheelchair as the judges started reading out the summary of the 191-page judgment at 10:53am amid tight security.

Tribunal members -- Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam -- read out the first and second part of the summary verdict.

Sitting in the dock with a crutch in his hand, Alim was silent throughout the court proceedings.

He dozed off a few times. And on occasions, he seemed to give attention to the judges.

His sons -- Sazzad bin Alim and Khaled bin Alim -- were present at the tribunal.

Dissatisfied with the verdict, the defence and Alim's family members said they would challenge the verdict at the apex court.

On the other hand, the prosecution said they would decide on filing an appeal after going through the full text of the verdict.

The jail term, seen as

lenient for Alim, has left many frustrated.

According to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973, any war crimes convict can challenge the ICT verdict at the Supreme Court in 30 days from its pronouncement.

When the court proceedings began at 10:49am yesterday, the tribunal chairman asked all not to make any sweeping comment on the verdict without going through its full content.

"Sweeping comments without seeing the full verdict is detrimental to the rule of law," he said.

Alim, arrested on March 27, 2011, had been on conditional bail from March 31 to September 22 this year on grounds of poor health.

As the case proceedings ended on September 22, the ICT-2 cancelled his bail and sent him to jail.

Following yesterday's verdict, Alim was taken to Dhaka Central Jail, and later shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for treatment, Senior Jail Super Farman Ali told The Daily Star last night.

### JAIL TILL DEATH ON FOUR CHARGES

Genocide in five villages of Joypurhat: Following consultation with Pakistan army major Afzal, Alim along with Peace Committee members and Pakistani army attacked the Hindu villages of Karai Kadipur, Chawkpara, Sonarpara, Palpara and Munshipara in Joypurhat on April 26, 1971.

They looted Hindu houses, damaged property and resorted to arson.

Alim and his accomplices forced the Hindus out of their homes, lined them up

and shot 370 dead.

They slit the throat of Kanchira Mohanta, 90, and buried Aswini Kumar Debnath alive.

Later, they dumped the bodies into a mass grave.

The tribunal said it was proved that Alim was present at the crime scene, and actively gave the attackers assistance, encouragement and moral support to commit the mass killing of Hindus.

Genocide in Khetlal: According to another charge of genocide, Alim along with major Afzal and other accomplices organised a meeting at Uttarhat Shahor in May 1971, and delivered a provoking speech that led to the looting of assets of the Hindus.

Members of the Peace Committee and Razakars teamed up with the Pakistan army attacked the Hindu neighbourhoods of Uttarhat Shahor, Harunjahat and surrounding areas. They captured and killed 10 Hindus on Alim's instructions.

The verdict said Alim's speech gave a clear indication that he called for the destruction of the Hindu community. The 10 Hindu civilians were killed on his orders.

Killing of 26 freedom fighters: At the end of June 1971, 26 freedom fighters were captured and brought to the western part of Joypurhat Railway Station by a truck.

Alim and major Afzal along with Razakars and members of Pakistan army and Peace Committee stood behind the detainees and had a photograph taken.

The detainees were then killed at the Joypurhat College.

The tribunal said Alim, who was present at the crime scene, not only participated in the criminal acts, but also gave substantial contribution and moral support in the killing of the 26 unarmed civilians.

Killing of three freedom fighters: On October 7, 1971, members of Peace Committee, Razakars and Pakistani army captured Fazlul Karim and two others, and took them to the office of circle officer (development) at Joypurhat town.

Alim and major Afzal took the detainees on a truck and paraded them through the town to terrorise the Bangalees.

At that time, Alim said, "The freedom fighters are fighting against Pakistan. Fazlul Karim's father is my friend but he did not prevent his son from remaining in wrong track despite repeated asking. Therefore, his son is to pay in exchange of his life."

Later, the detainees were shot dead at Khanjanpur Kuthibari Ghat.

The verdict said Alim's speech reflected his cruel intention that instigated the perpetrators to kill the detainees. Knowing the consequence of his act, Alim consciously encouraged and provided moral support to the perpetrators.

### 20 YEARS' JAIL ON FOUR CHARGES

The charges are killing of nine people in Akkelpur in May, 1971; killing of four people, including three siblings of Nowda village, on May 26; killing of 15 youths at West Amatra of Joypurhat on June 14; and killing of Awami League leader Abul Kashem at Devipur Kajipara on July 26.

The tribunal also sen-

tenced the BNP leader to 10 years' imprisonment for looting and setting alight the house of AL leader Meher Uddin in Panchbibi of Joypurhat on April 20, 1971, and forcing the family to leave the area.

The prosecution failed to prove the other eight charges. It could not even produce any witness to establish two of the charges.

# EU for abolishing death penalty

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) has renewed its call for abolishing the death penalty in all member states of the United Nations (UN) including Bangladesh, and contributing to the development of human dignity in the world.

"The death penalty concerns everyone's right to life. The state, with its particular responsibility as the ultimate guarantor of all persons' human rights, should not deprive anyone of his or her life," said a letter signed by nine heads of mission of the EU countries in Dhaka.

"The European Union reaffirms its absolute opposition to the use of the death penalty," it said, marking the observance of the European Day against the Death Penalty, and the World Day against the Death Penalty today [Thursday].

The envoys said the EU is convinced that its abolition is an integral part of respect for human rights and protection of the human dignity.

They referred to a 2010 UN resolution, which called upon all states to establish a moratorium on executions aiming at abolishing the death penalty.

# SC upholds HC bail for Adilur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that has granted bail to Adilur Rahman Khan, secretary of rights body Odhikar, in a case filed for publishing a "false report" on its website.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, chamber judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, rejected a petition filed by the government seeking stay on the HC order.

Advocate M Asaduzzaman, a lawyer for Adilur, told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar to his client's release from jail following the SC order.

He hoped Adilur would be freed from Gazipur's Kashimpur Jail-1 within a day or two, saying that the HC order granting him bail was conveyed to the Dhaka Central Jail authorities yesterday.

The jail authorities will now send the HC order to the Kashimpur jail authorities for releasing Adilur, the lawyer added.

The HC on Tuesday gave bail to Odhikar secretary for six months in the case filed under the Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006, for publishing the "false report" on the crackdown against Hefajat-e Islam men in the capital's Motijheel area on May 5.

The report claimed 61 people had been killed during the crackdown.

Adilur was arrested on August 10 in connection with the case.

Attorney General Mabbubey Alam appeared for the government.

# BCL men foil

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Assistant Prof Sikder Md Zulkernine -- announced that they would quit their posts over the attack on the teachers.

The VC admitted the presence of the JU unit BCL President Mahmudur Rahman Jony during the incident, but ruled out that the BCL men attacked the teachers.

Jony, too, dismissed that his men were involved in attacking the teachers.

Following the attack, the agitating teachers in a press conference demanded the immediate resignation of Prof Anwar and Proctor Prof Mujibur Rahman.

Sources said, a section of BCL men after the incident gathered in the Pro-VC's official residence and held a meeting with the VC.

Additional police personnel were deployed on the campus following the incident.

ing in the evening, Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (Juta) in a press conference declared a three-point demand.

Juta General Secretary Prof Sharifuddin demanded that the president, who is also chancellor of the university, dismiss the VC before October 20 and take immediate action against his alleged involvement in assaulting the two teachers.

He warned of an all-out strike on the campus since October 22 if their demand is not met.

The Juta also demanded an exemplary punishment to the BCL activists for attacking the teachers.

In another development, Sadharan Shikkhak Forum, another platform of teachers, postponed their anti-VC agitation till October 22, after a meeting with the education secretary yesterday, said Prof Kamrun Ahsan, member secretary of the forum.

# Five meals

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-- for instance, skipping breakfast is associated with putting on weight, according to the study published in the International Journal of Obesity.

More than 4,000 children were studied from the time their mothers were pregnant through to the age of 16 by health experts from East Finland University.

They kept records of weight gain and lifestyle habits, from what kind of food and drink they ate to how often, as well as looking at genetic factors like the weight of their parents.

Those who kept to a regular eating pattern of five meals a day--the three main ones with two snacks in between--grew up with a lower body mass index (BMI).

This was true even of those children who had obese parents, it found. However, erratic eating patterns, such as skipping breakfast, led to a higher BMI.

The researchers believe that eating patterns are an important "early life risk factor associated with obesity" and getting into a daily eating routine and offset other factors, even genetic ones.

# Superior status

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not absolutely sure of being able to prove the charge beyond reasonable doubt.

However, they provided evidence of his superior responsibility during the entire trial, the source added.

The tribunal, which sentenced the 83-year-old former minister to die in prison for committing genocide and crimes against humanity during the war, termed the Peace Committee an "associate organisation" of the Pakistan army.

The tribunal said the committee was formed to provide support and assistance to the Pakistan army with intent to combat and liquidate the unarmed Bangalee pro-liberation civilians in the name of preserving Pakistan.

"... And he was visibly associated with the army which is a fair indication of his high level of culpability," the tribunal said in its judgment.

The tribunal said Alim was substantially "concerned" with the commission of the offences. "On cumulative evaluation of testimony made by the prosecution witnesses

it is inferred that Alim had close, active and culpable affiliation with the local peace committee and Razakars, by virtue of his political position.

"He had been able to establish his position of authority over them and had played a decisive role even on the matter of the fate of the persons detained by the army," the tribunal said.

Alim set up the Peace Committee office in Joypurhat at the "gadighar" [trading office] of Shaonlal Bajla, which was near his home in the town.

However, the defence claimed that Abbas Ali Khan was the chairman of the Joypurhat Peace Committee.

Binning the defence claim, the tribunal said, "Even accepting it to be true we may safely arrive at a conclusion on the basis of circumstances and oral evidence that Alim was a potential leader of the local Peace Committee."

On the defence alibi claim that Alim was elsewhere during the war, the tribunal said it found the defence

evidence did not appear to be compatible with the facts proved by the prosecution.

The tribunal in an earlier verdict in Jamaat leader M u h a m m a d Kamaruzzaman's case elaborated the role of Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army, infamous for killing intellectuals and professionals.

Yesterday, the tribunal made observations on the role of the Peace Committee during the Liberation War.

"We have found that the central peace committee was formed during the second week of April 1971 under the active initiation of leaders belonging to JEL, Muslim League, Convention Muslim League and other rightist Muslim parties after they met General Tikka Khan and thus the process was started to extend its committee at district, thana, union and village levels throughout the country, aiming to assist the occupation army to resist the pro-liberation people who were termed as 'miscreants', 'agents of India' in the

name of preserving Pakistan," the verdict reads.

Quoting Sydney H Schanberg in a report titled "Peace Committee formed" in the New York Times on July 14, 1971, tribunal member Justice Shahinur Islam said, "Throughout East Pakistan the army is training new paramilitary home guards or simply arming 'loyal' civilians, some of whom are formed into peace committees. Besides Biharis and other non-Bengali, Urdu-speaking Moslems, the recruits include the small minority of Bengali Moslems who have long supported the army --- adherents of the right wing of religious parties such as the Moslem League, Jamaat-e-Islami."

During the nine-month-long Liberation War, three million people were killed and nearly a quarter million women were raped. Ten million Bangalees reportedly took refuge in India to avoid massacre by the Pakistan army, and 30 million people were internally displaced.