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Golam Azam arrested, sent to jail



Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Golam Azam being taken to Dhaka Central Jail from his Maghbazar residence at midnight, Tuesday. — Star photo.

By Masud Hasan Khan

Clearing a blockade created by the Jamaat men, police picked up Golam Azam from his Bara Maghbazar residence at 11-34 pm last night and sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Earlier, a press note issued by the government said that the reply given by Golam Azam was not acceptable to the government.

The government on Monday night asked Golam Azam to show cause by 10 am yesterday (Tuesday) morning why he should not be deported from Bangladesh and legal procedures not be taken against him for violating Constitution provision by becoming the Ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh.

At 9 in the morning yesterday a police sergeant went in front of his residence and read out loudly the government order interning him in his residence. However, he was allowed to meet the guests and the press.

Muolana Abdus Sobhan MP and Prof Mujibur Rahman went to the Home Ministry at 10-30 yesterday with the answer to

the show cause notice and handed it over to the Home Secretary.

The decision to arrest him was conveyed to him in the afternoon by a senior police official along with members of the Special Branch and the Officer in Charge of the Ramna police station.

As the news spread, hundreds of Jamaat workers rushed to his house.

They crammed the 500-yard alley leading to Golam Azam's house from the main road at Maghbazar.

Some of them began waiting at the top of their voice. Almost all the central leaders of the party were present and were heard reassuring the workers: 'Have patience, don't lose your courage ... mental strength.'

Speaking the gathering immediately before boarding the police car waiting in front of the residence, Golam Azam said that Sheikh Mujib wanted to rule the country by unleashing terror and he was killed by the system he created. So will be the fate of the BNP government. — See Page 12 Col 8



Sirajul Alam Khan detained, passport seized

Sirajul Alam Khan, leader of JSD (Rab), was detained by police at the Zia International Airport Tuesday evening, officials said, reports UNB.

Khan was scheduled to leave for USA by a British Airways flight to attend a seminar at Lincoln Inn University.

Airport immigration seized the boarding card and passport of Sirajul Alam Khan at around 6 pm. He was later brought to city special branch office.

The sources however did not give any reason for Khan's detention.

Legal complications delay Azam's deportation

By Mahfuz Ullah and Nurul Kabir

Legal complications have delayed the implementation of the decision to deport Golam Azam.

The decision, authoritative sources say, to arrest Golam Azam and deport him was taken at the meeting of the policy makers of the Government on Monday night with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The legal complications relate to a judgement of the High Court given in 1981 and quoted in DLR 32. The case in brief is that a person with a Pakistani passport came to Bangladesh, destroyed his passport and continued to stay here. The Government then ordered his deportation. The High Court in its judgement

observed that a stateless person cannot be deported.

Authoritative sources told The Daily Star that the Government, being aware of the court decision, was finding it difficult to deport Golam Azam, a foreigner to Bangladesh having no national identity.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) sources say the party is united as a 'solid rock' on the question of dealing with Golam Azam more as a political problem than an administrative one. They said BNP was a party committed to national independence and sovereignty. 'We could not take the liability of a decision (meaning Golam Azam's election as Ameer of Jamaat) which invites people's

wrath's' they added.

Refuting the allegation of BNP's commitment to restore the citizenship of Golam Azam, a top leader of the party, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that the Jamaat-e-Islami extended support to BNP as 'it had no other alternative.' BNP, the leader said, gave no commitment to restore the citizenship 'nor even an indication was given.'

BNP parliamentary party sources say the issue would have been solved earlier on the floors of the Jatiya Sangsad had the opposition been sincere. They argue during the last session of the Jatiya Sangsad the two-hour time limit was spent talking out the

Arrest under Foreigners Act: Press Note

Government yesterday ordered the arrest of Jamaat leader Prof Golam Azam under the 'Foreigners Act', reports UNB.

A press note issued by the Home Ministry last night said the reply of Golam Azam to the show cause notice was found not acceptable to the government.

The government earlier issued a show cause notice upon Golam Azam to explain why he should not be expelled from Bangladesh or legal action should not be taken for violating Article 38 of the Constitution. Reply of the show cause notice was duly given by the Jamaat leader.

The press note further said the government is awaiting the reply of other show cause notices served on the Convenor and the members of the Na-

World Cup cricket England-Pakistan final today

MELBOURNE, Australia, Mar 24: Unpredictable Pakistan will be aiming to maintain their winning momentum when they face a disciplined England team Wednesday in the final of cricket's World Cup, reports AP.

Pakistan have won four straight matches after recovering from a horror start to the five-week, nine-nation tournament.

England clinched their semifinal berth then lost two straight matches before scrambling to a rain-assisted semifinal win over South Africa.

England are making their third final appearance, but never have won the tourna-

ment, while Pakistan are playing in a final for the first time.

The contrasting styles of the teams ensure an interesting contest before a crowd expected to exceed 100,000 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Pakistan won through to the final with a four-wicket win over New Zealand in Auckland thanks to a brilliant 60 from only 37 deliveries from the unheralded Inzamam-ul-Haq.

His innings was typical of the flamboyance and aggression of the Pakistanis.

'I'm more confident than at any stage of the competition,' Pakistan captain Imran Khan said Tuesday.

'Ours is unpredictable tal-

State Dept terms PM's visit 'an important occasion'

WASHINGTON, Mar 24: The US State Department, today said the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to the US 'was an important occasion to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening democracy and promoting economic development in Bangladesh,' reports PTI.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Teresita Schaffer told reporters that during this visit, US signed an agreement to provide up to 268 million dollars in food aid to Bangladesh under PL-480 over a four-year period, in the context of a programme of continued expansion of food production in that country.

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Azam terms showcause notice illegal, but replies

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat leader Golam Azam on Tuesday said that the government had 'bowed down' to opposition pressure in serving him the show cause notice and termed it as 'illegal'.

Talking to newsmen at his Maghbazar residence, he said 'No show-cause notice was served to me during the last 14 years, so what was the urgency today?'

Terming the show cause notice as 'illegal' he said that

he had already replied to the notice. He, however, declined to elaborate on the contents saying that a Jamaat press conference scheduled for later in the day would answer those questions.

The government served the notice early Tuesday morning asking him to show cause by 10 am yesterday as to why he should not be deported and legal action should not be taken against him for violating a con-

situtional provision by becoming Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh.

Lamenting the fact that the government decided to serve the notice at 3 am, he said 'They served the notice at such an odd hour as if they did not have the scope to come during the day and as if I was trying to run away.'

Noting that BNP had asked and was given a 'written

Hasina pushes for public trial 'Azam involved in Mujib killing'

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her stand on Golam Azam's public trial saying 'no power can resist it as the freedom-loving people are now voicing the common demand.'

'Golam Azam must be tried in this soil for his war crimes in 1971,' Hasina told a special council meeting of Janata Mukti Party.

Held at the auditorium of Dhaka District Sports

Association in the afternoon, the council announced the merger of Janata Mukti Party led by Mirza Sultan Raja with Awami League.

Warning the opponents of the planned trial, the leader of the opposition in parliament, said that any attempt to foil Golam Azam's trial at the people's court would be resisted by the masses.

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'Trial' body firm to hold programme

By Staff Correspondent

The organisers of the public trial of Golam Azam are determined to go ahead with the move as scheduled.

A meeting of the Committee for Realisation of the Ideals of Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 yesterday reiterated its call to people from all walks of life to attend tomorrow's trial at the Suhrawardy Uddyan at 10 in the morning.

The organisers alleged that they were being harassed by police and called upon the

See Page 12 Col 5

Analysis Azam has put govt to test

By Staff Correspondent

While various groups were making their hectic moves on the Golam Azam issue, with the government trying to defuse the crisis, the overall mood prevailing here yesterday was undoubtedly one of uncertainty, almost bordering on lull before a storm.

Wherever people gathered, in restaurants, shopping centres and offices, one single subject of discussion was about the Jamaat-e-Islami politician who, a foreign national, had

Govt decision unreasonable: Jahanara Imam

By Staff Correspondent

The government has proved to be unreasonable in serving show cause notices on those involved in the attempt of trying Golam Azam in the people's court, Jahanara Imam observed last night.

While talking to The Daily Star last night, Jahanara Imam said that the people had democratic right to give verdict on the crime Golam Azam had committed against them by collaborating with the Pakistani occupation forces during the country's War of

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THE CONTENTING CAPTAINS: England's Graham Gooch (L) and Pakistan's Imran Khan. Who will have the last laugh?

Dhaka-Yangon trade on verge of collapse

By Sohail Manzur

The trade agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar has become difficult to implement due to the deterioration in the relationship between the two countries following the Rohingya issue, officials sources say.

Another source also said that recent incidents related to the Rohingya issue were contributing to the collapse of the limited trade between the two countries.

According to the sources the Bangladesh-Myanmar general trade agreement was

signed August 3, 1973 which was being renewed every year automatically.

The trade balance was, however, in favour of Myanmar, a source said adding that Bangladesh imported various commodities worth Taka 331.21 million from Myanmar during last six years (from fiscal year 1986-87 to November of 1991) while exported commodities worth only Taka 28.53 million during the same period.

The items imported from

See Page 12 Col 6

Cabinet okays private varsity proposal

The cabinet yesterday approved the proposal for setting up of private universities in the country, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The objective of setting up private universities is to encourage the development of higher education and provide more opportunities to the higher education-seekers especially in keeping with the international standard of education.

The cabinet also finalised the procurement policy of IRRI-Boro for the year 1991-92 and the price and target of procurement were fixed therefor.

The procurement price for IRRI-Boro including transportation bonus has been fixed at Taka 245 per maund or Taka 656 per quintal for paddy and Taka 377 per maund or Taka 1010 per quintal for rice.

The target for procurement of IRRI-Boro for this season has been fixed at five lakh metric tons.

EC asks Myanmar to stop actions against Rohingyas

The European Community and its member states expressed their deep concern at the policy of the Myanmar authorities which have caused a large number of Muslim refugees to flee into Bangladesh, according to a press release issued here Tuesday, reports BSS.

The press release which was issued earlier simultaneously from Lisbon and Brussels said 'The refugees suffering has created a sense of horror among the international community and placed a burden on those providing essential humanitarian assistance.'

Pakistan urges EC to persuade India for talks on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Mar 24: Pakistan urged European countries today to persuade New Delhi to enter into a meaningful dialogue with Islamabad over the Kashmir dispute, reports AFP.

The call was made by a top Foreign Ministry official, Akram Zaki, at a meeting he held with ambassadors of the European Community countries to brief them on the Kashmir issue, an official report said.

The briefing came five days

before a planned March 30 storming of the Line of Control dividing the Pakistani and Indian-held parts of Kashmir by the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

Border tension had risen to a high pitch when the JKLF attempted a crossing of the border the Pakistani side on February 12. The march was stopped by security forces but many people were killed and scores injured in clashes.

Zaki said 'Pakistan had

taken a 'painful decision' in February to use force to prevent the crossing of the control line and was again making its 'best efforts' to persuade the JKLF to abandon its second attempt.

'Pakistan wants a peaceful settlement and is ready for negotiations under the Simla Agreement on the basis of the UN resolutions,' Zaki told the diplomats.

He said the 1972 bilateral Simla Accord provided no mechanism for a settlement

while the UN resolutions, adopted after the first Indo-Pakistan war over Kashmir in 1948, envisaged a plebiscite to determine the wishes of Kashmiris.

Zaki, who is Secretary General at the Foreign Ministry thanked the European parliament for its March 12 resolution upholding the Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

He regretted what he called India's 'policy of brutal suppression' in Indian-held

Kashmir, leading to 'gross violations of human rights, gang rapes, and loss of more than 6,000 lives' since early 1990.

Zaki denied as 'ridiculous' the Indian allegations of Pakistani involvement in the secessionist campaigns in its Punjab and Kashmir states.

He pointed out that India had rejected repeated Pakistani offers for the stationing of impartial observers along the border and refused to allow any humanitarian agency and even European parliamentari-

ans to visit the Kashmir valley.

Another report from New Delhi adds: Nine Pakistani soldiers have died in a skirmish with Indian troops across the border in the disputed state of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today.

Unidentified Indian defence sources were quoted as saying in Kashmir's winter capital of Jammu that the skirmish was sparked when Pakistani troops started firing without provocation at Indian positions on Thursday.

Sheri, Iftar timings

Ramzan	March	Sheri	Iftar
19	25	6.20 pm	
20	26	4.37 am	6.20 pm