

# Azam replies

From Page 1 Col 4  
 statement of support" from Jamaat before forming the government, he said "We helped this government to be formed and they in turn have declared me a foreigner bowing to pressure from the opposition and that is how I got paid for my courtesy."

He also retorted that when he was approached for support in forming the government and for the presidential candidate, was he approached as a foreigner or a citizen?

Comfortably seated in his study, a calm and composed Golam Azam claimed that he never deserted the country of his birth but was stranded abroad due to unavoidable circumstances.

"I have returned to the country on my own initiative and I am not willing to leave at someone else's order," he declared.

Replying to a question, the Jamaat leader brushed aside any possibility of his being deported: "If there was a scope to deport me, it would have been done long time ago," he said, adding "and moreover, where is the government going to deport me to?"

Azam described the people's court as 'ludicrous' when the judiciary and law courts are functioning in the country and warned that the existence of the government would be at stake "if democracy functions in this manner."

Replying to another question, the Jamaat Ameer said that he had no hatred or ill-feeling towards anyone including those who were attempting to put him on 'public trial'. He added that he was not concerned about his life as the ideal he is following dictates that one comes to this path with the "intention of becoming a martyr."

It is not normal for a person to go against the interest of his motherland, he said while replying to a question on his role during 1971. "I believe in such an ideal which requires one to do his duties in the motherland," he added.

Golam Azam in a statement issued Tuesday night also pointed out that Jamaat could easily have placed many conditions before agreeing to support BNP to form the government.

"But to save the nation from a civil war we supported them unconditionally and this is what I get in return," he said referring to his arrest order.

"What can be expected of this government which has arrested me without any offence by surrendering to the demands of a handful of terrorists," he asked, adding "what can the people expect from

the government when it cannot even protect the rights of a single individual?"

Later at a press conference at the party's central office Tuesday evening senior Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat Abbas Ali Khan told newsmen that both late President Ziaur Rahman and Begum Khalida Zia had promised restoration of Prof Golam Azam's citizenship but breached their promise.

Party General Secretary Mafur Rahman Nizami replied in the affirmative when he was asked whether Begum Zia had met Golam Azam to seek support for forming the BNP government after the last parliamentary election.

The Jamaat Secretary said that Golam Azam replied to the show cause notice served on him by the Home Ministry at 9-55 am Tuesday.

In that reply Golam Azam said that the allegations brought against him were false, baseless and intentional.

"I went to Karachi on November 22, 1971 and tried to come back on December 3 but because of the war my aircraft could not land in Dhaka. The plane went to Jeddah and afterwards I went to London. I tried repeatedly to come back to Bangladesh but failed and at last I returned to my country in 1978," Golam Azam explained in his two-page seven-point answer sheet to the Home Ministry.

He said that he had used a Pakistani passport as a 'travel document' and submitted it to the Bangladesh government and applied for nationality. He pleaded that as a Bangladeshi by birth he has every right to become the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, so it is not contradictory to Article 38 of the Constitution.

"I have been residing in my house for the last 14 years undisturbed and according to the law of acquiescence the government accepted my citizenship," he was quoted as saying in his reply by Abbas Ali Khan.

## Jahanara Imam

From Page 1 Col 5  
 Independence.

Replying to a question, Jahanara Imam said the government had arrested Golam Azam for violating the country's constitution. "We shall try him for his active involvement in collaborating with the Pakistani occupation forces who killed thousands of our people during our War of Independence," she added.

Jahanara Imam will reply today to the show cause notice served on her by the government for her initiative in trying Golam Azam in the people's court.

"My solicitor is preparing the draft refuting the government's allegation against me," she told this correspondent.

She was hopeful that the incumbent government, elected through democratic process, would take adequate steps to implement the verdict of the people's court to be returned on March 26.

## Banish killers, collaborators: Kader Siddiqui

From Our Correspondent  
 SIRAJGANJ, Mar 24: Abdul Kader Siddiqui gave a clarion call Tuesday to all pro-independence forces to eliminate the killers and collaborators of 1971 unitedly.

The long process of banishing the killers and collaborators will commence with the public trial of March 26, Kader Siddiqui said at a public meeting at the Bazar Station Square organised by the district unit of the National Coordination Committee for Realisation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 71.

He said the anti-people forces are bound to be defeated by the greater consensus of the people. He supported the public trial, saying it was not unconstitutional. There are instances of such public trials, he added.

Criticising the government stand on the Golam Azam issue, Siddiqui said the government on the one hand "is hesitant to take any firm decision on the issue" while on the other "it is mounting pressure on the pro-independence forces."

Siddiqui said that none of the past governments took any steps against Golam Azam since his return during the rule of late President Ziaur Rahman. "Moreover, the present Prime Minister bowed down to these 'merchants of religion' just to seek the support of Jamaat," Siddiqui accused.

He further said the public trial was arranged as the government remained "mysteriously silent" even after the election of Golam Azam as the Ameer of "a religion exploiting party."

The meeting, presided over by Gazi Aminul Haque, a freedom fighter, was also addressed by former MP Abdul Latif Mirza and JSD inu leader Abdul Hai Talukder.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attending an Iftar party with officers and airmen of Bangladesh Airforce at BAF Officers Mess, Kurmitola, Tuesday

## Press Note

From Page 1 Col 5

tional Coordination Committee for Implementation of the Spirit of Liberation War and Elimination of the Killers and Collaborators of 1971.

In the show cause notices, the government brought charges against the committee of attempting to create serious law and order situation by violating the Constitution, undermining the image of the existing court set up under the Constitution and challenging its effectiveness, and taking up judiciary in own hands.

The government hoped that the sponsors of the so-called people's court will refrain from indulging in activities contrary to the Constitution as the main reason of constituting the so-called people's court has been removed through legal action of the government.

The press note categorically said that appropriate legal actions will be taken against those attempting to hold the so-called people's court violating the Constitution and the existing laws.

The government also expressed the hope that people will realise the gravity and importance of the situation and show respect to law and the Constitution, and extend all cooperation for the law to take its own course.

## Analysis

From Page 1 Col 5

triggered off an unprecedented national crisis by taking over as the Ameer of the party. The consensus was that Azam had provoked a confrontation with pro-liberation forces and, in a shrewd move, put the government of Begum Khaleda Zia to the test.

Some analysts said that the situation suited the Jamaat extremely well. Reporters who met Azam yesterday evening found the self-appointed Ameer in a jovial mood. On the other hand, Jahanara Imam, the Convener of the Committee which is to stage a "public trial" of Golam Azam on Thursday maintained her seriousness in talking to newsmen. As one observer puts it, she seemed conscious of the responsibility that had been placed on her.

What worried people in professional classes was the sharp polarisation of forces that marked the hazy evolving scenario, between the pro-liberation forces and the Jamaat, a polarisation that may further deepen no matter how the Azam issue is resolved, perhaps only temporarily.

All eyes were on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who, observers said, had the final responsibility of settling the issue, as the head of the government, who has nothing to gain and much to lose if the country is plunged into a conflict.

## Trial body

From Page 1 Col 4

government to stop such harassment.

Chaired by the Committee Convener, Jahanara Imam, the meeting termed 'unexpected' and 'condemnable' the issuance of a show cause notice on 19 leaders of the Committee by the democratically-elected government.

"By doing so, the government has treated the peace-loving people and the killers and collaborators of 1971 in the same manner," a resolution of the meeting said.

The meeting further alleged that Golam Azam's party Jamaat-e-Islami had been attacking the madrasa students and alevs with an ill motive and demanded government action in this regard.

Rashed Khan Menon PM, General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party, in a statement Tuesday said that the government had undermined the public opinion by serving show cause notices to Jahanara Imam and other leaders of the National Coordination Committee for Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971.

He expressed his grievance for such step of the government and warned that if the government failed to prosecute all the war criminals including Golam Azam, it (govt) itself would be prosecuted by the people in the same manner the people

## State Dept

From Page 1 Col 8

The President also announced that the US would provide three million dollars in funding from the emergency refugee and migration assistance funds to help Bangladesh with the influx of refugees from Myanmar.

A senior administration official estimated their number at 120,000 to 200,000 and still growing. "We are concerned with the refugee situation and we are watching," the official said, noting that the UN Secretary General was sending a representative to report on the situation.

Historically, said the official, "governments in Myanmar have not been very responsive to foreign pressure, which is one of the difficult features of this obviously, Bangladesh and other countries of Southeast Asia have a very strong interest in seeing that the situation moves back to a better state of affairs than now obtains."

## Legal complications

From Page 1 Col 4

issue rather than pressing for a decision from the Speaker.

Authoritative sources further say the decision to arrest Golam Azam was approved at the highest level and there was no reason to term it 'safe custody'.

BNP sources say Jamaat-e-Islami failed to evaluate the gravity of the situation before electing Golam Azam as its Ameer. "They misread the results of last election as a pointer to their strength" they added.

BNP, the sources further say, has decided not to show 'any leniency to someone who was the mastermind in killing innocent people during the War of Liberation.'

BNP, according to the sources, believes that people always take the correct decision and BNP as a party of the people will 'honour their sentiment.'

## Trade

From Page 1 Col 7

Myanmar included pulp and waste paper, crude fertilizer minerals, wood and articles of wood, vegetable products, animal oils and fats, non-metallic mineral manufactures, fruits and vegetables and work of art collector's pieces.

The items exported to Myanmar included raw jute, jute manufactures, crude rubber, medicine and medicinal salts.

The import from Myanmar was highest in 1987-88 fiscal year. During the year Bangladesh imported the said commodities worth Taka 116 million which declined to Taka 10.54 million in 1990-91 FY and to Taka 4.16 million in the current FY up to November.

Bangladesh earned only Taka 0.14 million in 1988-89 fiscal year by exporting crude rubber to Myanmar, Taka 19.74 million in 1989-90 FY by exporting raw jute, medicine, and medicinal salts, Taka 6.99 million in 1990-91 FY by exporting medicine and medicinal salts and Taka 1.96 in the current fiscal year up to November by exporting jute manufactures, medicine and medicinal salts.

Bangladesh had to pay the most for importing non-metallic mineral manufactures from Myanmar and earned the most by exporting raw jute during the last six years.

Bangladesh had to pay Taka 271.05 million for importing the item and earned only Taka 19.13 by exporting the raw jute. Both the items were not being imported and exported during the last two years.

According to the terms and conditions of the trade agreement there was scope for bilateral talks to diversify the trade link. But no amendment was made in the agreement since its signing in 1973.

According to a source close to the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the Burmese are merely interested to diversify the trade link with Bangladesh, though there were much prospects for both the countries.

# The Midnight File

## Honecker seeks asylum in N Korea

BONN, Mar 24: Chile's special envoy said Tuesday that former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker is now seeking asylum in North Korea. Honecker fled to Moscow from Germany a year ago, allegedly because he required treatment for cancer at a Moscow hospital. Russian doctors have subsequently said that the 79-year-old Honecker's health is satisfactory, reports AP.

## 24 countries sign 'open skies' treaty

HELSINKI, Mar 24: Foreign Ministers from 24 countries today signed the 'open skies' treaty, opening up the airspace of Europe and North America to military inspection flights. For the first time in the history of disarmament, countries will be allowed to make overflights of each others territory in order to monitor weapons installations and other military activities, reports AFP.

## PLO central council to meet in Tunis April 6

AMMAN, Mar 24: The central council of the PLO will meet in Tunis on April 6 instead of March 29 to discuss Middle East peace talks with Israel and the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, officials said today. The meeting of the 92 members of the central council, a smaller version of the full Palestinian parliament-in-exile, was delayed because of the Eid-ul-Fitr, reports Reuter.

# World Cup

From Page 1 Col 7  
 Raja all have cleared 300 runs in the tournament. England's highest scorer has been Alec Stewart with 252, but six Englishmen have scored more than 480, compared to only four Pakistanis.

The sides have polarised public images and the England team is likely to receive a hostile reception from a plus-100,000 crowd.

There was widespread blame cast on England captain Graham Gooch for the debacle in Sydney, where a 12-minute stoppage through rain saw South Africa's victory target change from a daunting 22 off 13 balls to an impossible 21 off one.

Conversely, Pakistan's campaign has become romantic: Led by the commanding Imran, a man who graces covers of women's magazines in this country, Pakistan has overcome a slow start to march into the final with a 46-run win over Australia and the thrilling semifinal defeat of New Zealand.

Reports that Imran is raising money for a cancer hospital in honour of his dead mother have earned the Pakistanis more public sympathy.

The disappointing end to Sunday's semifinal has overshadowed much of the lead-up to the final but the World Cup committee Tuesday confirmed there would be no changes to the playing conditions for the final.

Detailed stories on Sport pages

## Principals for 5 new medical colleges

From Page 1 Col 7  
 ment, he added. Comparing his situation with that of the Prophets of Islam, he said, "The Prophets of Islam were also subjected to such repression."

Referring to his imprisonment, he quipped "I am going for a sojourn."

Later, he was led to a white police jeep guarded by four truckloads of police and taken to the central jail.

Incidentally, the power supply of the whole area went off at 10-35 pm and the residents of the locality got panicky.

Some of them said they were apprehending an attack from the Jamaat activists to rescue their chief.

When contacted Dhaka Central Jail authorities told The Daily Star that he was put into his cell at ten minutes past midnight.



Martyrs' family members and War-crippled Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Council brought out a procession in the city yesterday.

## Hasina : Public trial

From Page 1 Col 3

Hasina also accused Azam of being involved in the conspiracy that led to killing of Bangabandhu and others in 1975.

"Don't unleash the police or musclemen to spoil the trial," Hasina called upon the ruling BNP. You will not be able to remain in power in collaboration with your Pakistani masters," the AL leader commented.

Hasina made a call to all having faith in the country's independence and sovereignty to attend Golam Azam's public trial at Suhrawardy Uddyan. "People in lakhs from across the country would make the trial successful," she hoped.

The opposition leader blasted the ruling BNP saying its founder late President Zia had brought Golam Azam in the country, freed the war criminals and appointed them ministers. The same party is now reinstated in power with the support of Golam Azam's party, Jamaat-e-Islami," she added.

Mirza Sultan Raja, who once was an AL leader, said that there was no other option but to gather under the shade of Awami League to achieve the objectives the liberation war was fought for, resist the anti-liberation forces and save the nation from distortion of its true history.

## 60 killed in Senegal blast

DAKAR (Senegal), Mar 24: An explosion in a nut processing factory killed at least 60 people, the Senegalese Press Agency said. Dozens of others were injured, reports AP.

## Khelafat slates public trial, Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

The Ameer of Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, Maolana Shah Ahmadullah Ashraf at a press conference Tuesday termed the 'gano adalat' the outcome of a wrong political decision by a 'controversial political party from the Islamic point of view.'

Indicating to the Jamaat-e-Islami he alleged that the party was not acting as per the ideology of Islam, rather it was using the name of Islam to serve its political interest, he added.

Replying to a question the Ameer said that Golam Azam should be prosecuted for his role in the Liberation War. But the government should also consider his citizenship as he deserved the right to be a citizen of the country by birth, he felt.

He said that Jamaat's role had created such an impression among the people that a Muslim could not move freely wearing 'tup' and having beard.

He also expressed his reservation about the planned public trial saying that it was a part of an international plot to divide the nation through a civil war.

Maolana Jafarullah Khan, Secretary General of the party and other central leaders Alhaj A Malek Chowdhury, Alhaj Abdul Hye Azad, Sajedur Rahman and Pir Mizanur Rahman also attended the press conference held at the National Press Club.

## Support to public trial continues

By Staff Correspondent

Support to the planned public trial of Golam Azam by different quarters continued Tuesday.

Statements were issued and programmes held supporting the trial at Suhrawardy Uddyan March 26 calling all pro-liberation people to witness the historic trial.

Muktijoddha Sangsad Central Command Council Chairman Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and Secretary General Md A Aziz (Bir Pratik) Tuesday in a joint statement expressed solidarity with the public trial of Golam Azam.

The sangsad in this context urged all freedom fighters of the country and the freedom fighters of eight Commands of the Sangsad to join the public trial.

The Bangladesh Muktijoddha Chattrra Command Tuesday staged a rally in front of the National Museum premises in support of the public trial.

Dhaka University Muktijoddha Chattrra Command Convener Afzalur Rahman Babu chaired the meeting, while the meeting was conducted by city Chattrra Command Convener Humayun Kabir Bulbul.

Principal Ahad Chowdhury spoke as the chief guest. The meeting was also addressed by Council Secretary General Abdul Aziz, Jahir Uddin Jalal, Shahabuddin, and others.

The Supreme Court Lawyers Association in a meeting Tuesday formed a 151-member branch committee for resistance to the killers of 71 with advocate K M Saifuddin Ahmed as its convener and M K Rahman as its member secretary.

The meeting expressed solidarity with the public trial and decided to send a 51-member law expert representatives team to aid in the public trial on March 26.

The meeting also strongly protested misinterpretation of public trial by the Minister for Law Mirza Golam Hafez. Saying that staging a public trial did not contradict the laws of the country rather those who were against the public trial were enemies of the country.

**Nekita Boutique of India**  
 Presents Exhibition cum Sale of Reasonably Priced Exclusive salwar suits befitting the auspicious occasion of Eid at  
**Qazi's Guest House**  
 House No. 19, Road No. 96, Gulshan, Tel : 605512  
 On Thursday, 26th March & Friday, 27th March, 10 am onwards

---

Editor: S. M. Ali  
 Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam  
 Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.