

JKLF chief with 12 top leaders held

ISLAMABAD, Mar 25: Kashmiri leader Amanullah Khan and about a dozen other senior leaders and activists of his militant Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) were arrested in a pre-dawn swoop Wednesday, party sources said, reports AFP.

The arrests came six days ahead of a planned crossing into Indian-held Kashmir by the JKLF on March 30.

It came amid reports of a government failure to persuade Khan to drop the March. A similar attempt on February 12 leaving many casualties.

The sources said police raided the JKLF office in nearby Rawalpindi at around 3.30 am (2230 GMT Tuesday). Khan and about a dozen people were taken in police jeeps to an unknown place, they said.

The office has been locked and police units were posted outside, they said.

The police also raided homes of other activists including JKLF Vice President Farooq Haider. His wife told AFP that Haider was not in the house but police continued searching for more than an hour.

Sources said several JKLF leaders anticipating such an action have gone into hiding. The JKLF at a special meeting in Rawalpindi Monday lasting about four hours finalised arrangements for the march.

Sources in the government of Pakistani-administered Kashmir confirmed the arrest of Amanullah Khan Wednesday.

Details were not immediately available. The sources said an official reaction was expected later in the day.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the 'Independence Day Award '91' function as chief guest at Osmani Memorial Hall Wednesday. — PID photo.

The Midnight File

Israel to support Indian participation in ME talks

NEW DELHI, Mar 25: Israel has agreed in principle to support India's participation in the next round of Middle East peace talks, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday. Moshe Yegar, Deputy Director in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said the issue figured in his talks this week with Indian Foreign Secretary J N Dixit, reports Reuter.

Indonesia rejects Dutch development assistance

JAKARTA, Mar 25: Indonesia today rejected Dutch development assistance and called for the dissolution of the inter-governmental group on Indonesia, a consortium of its major western aid donors which is chaired by the Netherlands. "Ties between the two nations have recently deteriorated sharply as the consequence of the reckless use of development assistance as an instrument of intimidation or as a tool for threatening Indonesia," said Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Rudi Pradipto, reports AFP.

Norway for arms embargo on Myanmar

OSLO, Mar 25: Norway said today it had urged the United Nations Security Council to impose an arms embargo on Myanmar, saying its policies posed a threat to regional peace and security, reports Reuter.

Jahanara: Trial

From Page 1 Col 5

the trial peacefully. He said that the planned trial would begin at 10 am at the Uddyan near the Engineers' Institution.

Specific charges would be framed against Golan Azam and witnesses and evidence presented, he said.

Razzak said that several foreign observers and attorneys would also attend the trial.

He said, "We want to hold the trial peacefully but the government will have to take the total responsibility if it tries to obstruct the court."

"The public court is not against the law or against the Constitution... rather it is a symbolic expression of public opinion, practiced all over the world."

He said that the verdict in the planned trial would help the government to frame legal actions against Jamaat chief Golan Azam.

He accused the armed activists of Jamaat and Shibir for attacks saying, "We are going ahead despite provocations... several attempts have already been made to create trouble and this noon (Wednesday) bombs were set off in front of the CPB office."

Speaking on the government press note, he said that by issuing the press note the government had actually accepted the logic of the people's court against the Jamaat chief.

Meanwhile, leaders at a huge rally organised by the Central Coordination Committee for resistance to the killers of 71 at Bangabandhu Avenue reaffirmed the people that they would hold the public trial at any cost and urged them to attend the trial peacefully.

The evening rally, attended by members of different groups and organisations in the city was addressed by Awami League leader Abdur Razzak MP, Abdur Mannan Chowdhury, Munir Hossain, Mofazzal Hossain Maya, Nani Gopal Saha, Mahmudur Rahman Babu and other prominent leaders.

The leaders said that the arrest of Golan Azam did not promise that there would be

'Sacrifices of FFs to remain ever shining'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Wednesday appealed to the people to foster greater national unity and consolidate and solidify it for the greater national interest of strengthening the independence and democracy, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of Independence and National Day today, President Biswas paid glowing tributes to the freedom loving people who waged the armed struggle for independence. "The valour and priceless supreme sacrifices of the nine-month long Liberation War constitute the most glorious chapter of our national history," said the President.

The President also said the dearly loved independence which we cherish more than our lives, was earned at the cost of blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs. He also prayed to Allah for the peace of the departed souls.

President Biswas said the irresistible spirit of independence that inspired the countrymen to participate in the War of Liberation was the sentinel of independence and sovereignty. He congratulated the valiant freedom fighters, saying that their valour and self-sacrifice would remain ever shining in the nation's memory.

The President urged the people to take solemn vow to fortify the independence by forging greater national unity. He also appealed to the people to build a happy and prosperous country ensuring economic emancipation and people's welfare.

Govt warns

From Page 1 Col 7

The Trial Committee members, in their reply, maintained that the people's court was not an alternative to the established judicial system of the country. Rather, the Committee argued, it was a means of expressing people's opinion on certain issues. On top of that it was people's democratic right to express their verdict through a people's court, they said.

Jahanara Imam did not agree with the Government's contention that she had violated any constitutional provision by initiating the trial.

The Cabinet meeting, however, decided that her interpretation was not acceptable and it was just a challenge to the established judicial system of the country.

Official sources said that although Government served show cause notice on twenty persons associated with the Trial Committee, majority of them did not reply to the letter.

Replying to a question, a cabinet minister told The Daily Star that relevant section of law would be invoked to deal with those who failed to reply to the show cause letter.

The Press Note said, there is a democratic government now in the country. This democratic government is firm to uphold the Constitution and establish rule of law in the country.

Any trial in the so-called Gono Adalat, ignoring the established court is against the Constitution and law of the land, the Press Note pointed out.

Despite government's call, the initiators of so-called Gono Adalat have taken decision to proceed with the holding of the Gono Adalat, the Press Note pointed out and said the government had served show cause notices on the concerned persons earlier as to why legal actions would not be taken against them for unlawful and illegal activities.

Some initiators replied to the notices which appeared to the government not acceptable after detailed scrutiny, the Press Note said.

Independence Day

From Page 1 Col 4

Shiddeswari beginning at 3 pm.

On the occasion of the Independence Day, the central council of the Zia Youth Forum will organise a discussion meeting followed by an iftar party at the National Book Centre beginning at 4:30 pm.

Deputy Leader in Parliament Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Aamra Mukhtijodhar Santan, an organisation to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, will lay floral wreaths at the National Monument to mark the day.

Sachetan Jubo Samaj, a social organisation, will also hold a discussion meeting to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War on the day at the Bulbul Lalitakala Academy beginning at 2:30 pm. (Editorial on Page 4)

Shibir attacks

From Page 1 Col 5

President Abu Zafar Md Obaidullah.

Following the rally, ICS supporters brought out a procession and tried to march towards the Press Club where on the way is the office of the Resistance Committee for Killers and Collaborators situated.

Police blocked the procession at Purana Paltan Square and swerved back the procession which attacked the CPB office and beat up some shopkeepers calling them CPB supporters, selling books of the communists.

Police lobbed four rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the agitated Shibirites. No one was arrested in this connection.

CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid in a statement said the incident and demanded exemplary punishment of the culprits.

They said that the government would have to take responsibility for the attack by the anti-liberation force on the eve of the Independence Day.

It also condemned the refusal of Motijheel police to take a general diary on the incident.

Patriotic Democratic Alliance (PDA), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Khalq) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front also condemned the attack.

Later, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh held a protest rally on the same venue which was addressed by party Secretary General Mattiar Rahman Nizami.

Jamaat Secretary said that the government bowed to the pressure of 'so called collaborators resistance committee' and arrested party Ameer Prof Golan Azam.

He said that the committee has included a number of killers of late President Ziaur Rahman but the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is favouring the 'illegal' committee.

"This government will loose ground if it goes ahead in this way," Nizami cautioned the Prime Minister adding that "you should remember the tragic incident of 1981."

The Jamaat leader said that Begum Zia visited Golan Azam twice before and after forming the government last year and pledged restoration of Golan Azam's citizenship.

"Was Golan Azam a forger or a Bangladeshi when you (PM) met with him during that period?" he questioned Begum Zia.

Nizami who claimed that he loves Golan Azam more than his life, his parents and children, said that "crores of Islam lovers and supporters of Golan Azam would one day bring their leader out of the jail."

A procession followed the rally presided over by party's city unit President ATM Azharul Islam.

Hasina, Jahanara talk trial

The sponsors of "people's court" led by Jahanara Imam met leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her official Minto Road residence Wednesday night and discussed today's trial of Golan Azam, reports UNB.

The meeting took stock of the latest developments and expressed firm resolve to stage people's court this morning at Suhrawardy Uddyan, "foiling all conspiracies."

It condemned police obstruction to raising rostrum for the people's court at Suhrawardy Uddyan. "It's complete infringement upon the fundamental rights."

Among others, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Prof MA Mannan, Abdur Razzak, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Abdul Aziz Bir Pratik, Hassan Imam, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Habibur Rahman Khan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury from the Anti-Collaborator Coordination Committee and Abdus Samad Azad, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil and Mohammad Nasim of Awami League were present at the meeting.

Shun violence, urges Abbas

The Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Abbas Ali Khan, Wednesday called upon all to shun the path of violence and conflicts in the interest of forging a greater national unity for democracy and political stability in the country, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of Independence Day the Jamaat leader said March 26 carried a great significance in the national life and efforts should be made to eliminate poverty and hunger from the society.

He asked all units of his party to celebrate the day with due honour.

Khan prayed to Allah for the preservation of independence and sovereignty of the country.

Clairvoyant's claim

The sports concluded World Cup competition had given rise to a spate of predictions, not only by self-proclaimed cricket pundits but also it seems, soothsayers and astrologers in this country.

One such gentleman, S M Ayub, whose press release described him as a "psychic astrologer," claimed that he had, with an almost uncanny degree of accuracy, correctly predicted that Pakistan would be winning the fifth World Cup. And this he claims he had the confidence to announce in the 15th February issue of the "Kriralok", a sports weekly of the Ittefaq house.

In that issue, Ayub claims he had said that Pakistan's winning margin would be a single-digit sum total of four. According to him, Pakistan's 22-run victory over England yesterday at Melbourne had borne out his prediction to a T since the adding of two plus two gives a single-digit figure of four. Be that as it may, wish the Englishmen had foreknowledge of this and the person who made the prediction. Perhaps then the outcome might... just might... have been manipulated. Again, perhaps it was best that not many were aware of this, especially the Pakistani players, for who knows they might just have been influenced by a false sense of complacency. In that situation, it might not have turned out to be Imran's cup of joy.

27 granted honorary commission

Sixteen Honorary Lieutenants and 11 junior commissioned officers have been granted honorary commission in the rank of honorary captain and honorary lieutenant respectively in the active list of Bangladesh Army with effect from today (March 26), an ISPR press release said in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

Those granted honorary commission in the rank of honorary captain are: Hon Lt Md Shamsul Haque, Signals, Hon Lt Md Ali Akkas Miah, East Bengal, Hon Lt Mohd Mahe Alam, East Bengal, Hon Lt Ahmed Hossain Sarker, East Bengal, Hon Lt Amin Ullah TJ, East Bengal, Hon Lt Mohammad Ali, East Bengal, Hon Lt Sirajul Hoque, East Bengal, Hon Lt Tofazzal Haque Patwary, East Bengal, Hon Lt Golan Rafique, East Bengal, Hon Lt Abdul Baten, East Bengal, Hon Lt Abdul Monam, East Bengal, Hon Lt Abdul Mannan Bhutyan, East Bengal, Hon Lt Abdul Khaleque, ASC, Hon Lt Abdul Mannan Tahukder, EME, Hon Lt Harun-Rashid, EME and Hon Lt Md Abdur Rahman, ACC.

The eleven recipients of honorary commission in the rank of Honorary Lieutenant are: Sub Maj Shahid Ullah Miah, Artillery, Sub Maj Taher Hussain, Artillery, Sub Maj Sardar Abdul Malek, Signals, Sub Maj Mohammad Ali Miah, East Bengal, Sub Maj Md Abdul Hakim, East Bengal, Sub Maj MA Rouf, East Bengal, Sub Maj Ghazi Harun-nur-Rashid, East Bengal, Sub Maj Md Ruhul Amin, East Bengal, Sub Maj Abdul Gafur, East Bengal, Sub Maj Faiz Ahmed, East Bengal and Sub Maj Abdul Hakim, ASC.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 4

She also requested each and every Bangalee to sincerely extend all-out cooperation for completing the trial of "war criminal and killer" Golan Azam today (Thursday).

In a statement on the eve of Independence Day, Hasina alleged that the present "autocratic" government had dashed to the ground the values of the great liberation war by assuming power with the support of anti-liberation Jamaat-e-Islami.

"The government is persistently patronising the elements who directly opposed the country's independence, she said. "It also installed an anti-liberation element in the highest post of the state."

Hasina said "these anti-state steps and activities threatened the hard-earned independence and sovereignty of the country."

Recalling the eventful days of the blood stained struggle against the Pakistani regime for 24 years, the Awami League chief said Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation after nine months of war under the leadership of "father of the nation" Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The reactionary killer-group had slain Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib and members of his family on August 15, 1975 when he and his government took pragmatic steps for economic emancipations of the people."

After the ouster of the autocratic regime through a mass upsurge, she said, the present government is ruling the nation by "trampling the values of the liberation war."

PM's message

From Page 1 Col 4

vering and conflict and build a solid foundation of national cohesion by unitedly giving democracy a permanent institutional shape."

She said "Let the attainment of autarky in all spheres of national life be the vow of this year's independence celebration."

The Prime Minister said the main spirit of our struggle for independence was to establish a happy, contented democratic society. She said imbued with this spirit, our people, irrespective of ideology and opinion, relentlessly a fought against autocracy to re-establish democracy in the country.

Begum Zia said it had accorded us a new dignity as an independent, sovereign and democracy-loving nation in the international arena.

She, however, said the hard-earned democracy could be consolidated and would take institutional shape only when we would be able to achieve economic emancipation of our masses.

She said her government had devoted all its energies towards this end.

Begum Zia recalled with deep gratitude and respect the sacrifices of millions of martyrs for the sun spangled banner of our independence. She also prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

The Prime Minister felicitated the countrymen both at home and abroad, on the momentous occasion of the 21st anniversary of the glorious independence.

Golan Azam's arrest hailed

Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon MP, has hailed the arrest of Golan Azam saying the Government act is the recognition to the people's demand.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Menon, however, said that mere arrest was not enough... he must be tried for war crimes and violation of the Constitution.

New rules for requisition of vehicles

The government has decided not to requisition public vehicles from now on. Official sources said Wednesday that a Home Ministry decision recently directed the police not to requisition road transports belonging to government, semi-government and autonomous bodies.

Blankson pleads withdrawal of confession

By Staff Correspondent

South African national, Robert Blankson, arrested and detained in connection with heroin trafficking, Wednesday pleaded to the Magistrate, Dhaka for the withdrawal of his confessional statement.

Three foreign nationals, Eliadah McCord — an American, Robert Blankson — a South African and Okendu Goddy — a Nigerian were arrested in connection with trafficking 3,270 grams of heroin in February and March this year.

Among the three, Eliadah and Blankson earlier in separate confessional statements to the Magistrates at the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistracy admitted their involvement in heroin trafficking.

Blankson, when reproduced in the court of the Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday, submitted a petition through his solicitors in which he said that he was tortured by police into making the confessional statement on March 4 forcibly. The Magistrate, without giving any order, kept the petition on file.

Eliadah's solicitor, Advocate Kazi Abdul Wahab, submitted another petition to the same court in which he pleaded to send her some necessary belongings in the jail.

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, Toynbee 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.