

# JS: Opposition

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The latest accord, interpreted in different ways by the ruling party and the opposition, provides for trial of Golam Azam as per Constitution and under the existing law of the country. It further says that the government in principle agreed to drop charges against the sponsors of Gana Adalat and that lawyers of both the sides would work out the modalities.

The accord, sources said, is expected to be read out by the Speaker Shaikh Razaq Ali when the session resumes this afternoon. The Opposition would come to the House and after recitation from the Holy Quran, the copy of the accord would be given to the Speaker to be made public.

The accord was signed by Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House and Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip, representing the Treasury Bench and Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Muhammad Nasim, Chief Whip, representing the Opposition.

The accord, despite the delay in its signing, created the hope that the Opposition would join the session scheduled for 9.30 in the morning yesterday.

The House, however, resumed at 10.25 and Treasury Bench sources said that it was delayed to facilitate the participation of the Opposition.

The session, after passing the Finance Bill, 1992, continued till 11.40 with the Speaker commenting that the business of the day was over.

Nevertheless, the Speaker adjourned the session for 15 minutes in an apparent bid to buy some more time.

The House resumed at

12.45 pm amid expectations that the Opposition was going to come back any time. At 12.55 pm Mattur Rahman Nizami, leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party stood up on a point of order and making reference to radio news wanted to know the government position on the 'reported accord'.

Nizami also said that the meeting was held in the chamber of the Speaker and the resolution adopted during the last session of Parliament had been referred to.

Answering to queries made by Nizami, the Speaker said that question does not arise about my presidency of the meeting. He added that the members of Treasury Bench and Opposition used his room where he was present.

Moreover, the room was not a personal one, it belonged to Parliament, he further added.

The Speaker said that if the Deputy Leader of the House wanted to say something he could. At this stage, Prof B Chowdhury rose to explain that it was no meeting and so no question of someone's presiding arose.

Prof Chowdhury further said that a consensus was reached on different issues raised by the Opposition and it was no basic shift in our stand taken earlier, nor was it a violation of the sovereignty of Parliament.

By the time Prof Chowdhury finished his deliberations, it became evident that the Opposition was going to walk into the House. Television cameras were moved to the door through which they enter the House and some members of the AL were seen peeping through the door of the lobby.

But the much expected return did not happen and the Speaker adjourned the session at 1.20 pm.

Political observers, however, expressed doubts whether the accord would, in a real sense, break the impasse. The JP was yet to take a decision on its boycott and the Jamaat is likely to react adversely when the accord made public in the House.

Leaders of the JP were absent from the final round of negotiations preceding the agreement and they were not informed about the outcome.

Maudud Ahmed, MP and vice-chairman of the JP told The Daily Star that the Opposition did not communicate anything to them. The Parliamentary Party of JP would meet today at 5 pm and decide about joining the session, he added.

Referring to the AL-led opposition move, Maudud said, 'Why should we go with the AL? It has its cause and we have our own.'

Muhammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition told The Daily Star that the JP would be invited to the meeting of the leaders of different parliamentary parties and groups today and expressed the hope that the JP would also join the House.

## Text of joint declaration

A joint declaration by the ruling party and the Opposition agreed to hold trial of Golam Azam as per Constitution and law of the land, reports UNB.

Both sides in the declaration, adopted late Monday night, also agreed to withdraw the case against 24 sponsors of 'Gano-Adalat'.

The declaration reads: Since Bangladesh is the outcome of the Liberation War fought by the masses and democracy was achieved after toppling the autocracy in a nine-year-long joint movement;

And since people of this country elected a sovereign parliament through an election;

And since the people have reposed confidence in it and since the members of this parliament are committed to reflecting the people's will and aspiration through their activities, making honest contribution towards alleviating poverty of the people besides resolving all economic, social and political problems;

And since argument and cross-argument, temporary boycott etc. under accepted parliamentary practice likewise active participation of all members can play a positive role in giving democracy an institutional shape and in its consolidation, which is the sincere expectation of the people, since the Opposition members have not joined the current budget session of parliament mainly on the question of Golam Azam;

Since the effectiveness of parliament depends on the co-operation and understanding between the government and the opposition, since this understanding and cooperation are imperative to give democracy an institutional shape and make it all-out success, therefore, in the perspective of discussion and resolution in parliament, Golam Azam will be tried as per Constitution and existing laws of the land.

The declaration said the government had already sent Golam Azam to jail as per law of the land and rejected his prayer for restoration of his citizenship.

With the same objective, the case filed on behalf of the government against 24 persons of 'Gano-Adalat' will be withdrawn. The lawyers on the two sides will take appropriate measures in this respect.

The declaration further stated sincere efforts would be maintained to preserve democratic rights of the MPs and all parties in and outside parliament in pursuance of democratic values.

## Finance Bill

From Page 1 Col 8  
Pintu, the lone amendment proposed a new provision relating to the obtaining of income tax certificate for registration of any document.

After the amendment was moved, the Finance Minister told the House that his ministry had accepted it [amendment]. He had no objection to it, he added.

The amendment was accepted by the House unanimously, the Speaker, Shaikh Razaq Ali, announced before adjourning the House for 15 minutes at 11.35 am.

According to the amendment of Abdus Salam Pintu (BNP), the new provision will substitute as Sub-Section(1) of 8A Section 53H after Section 8 of the Finance Bill amending the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984.

The amendment says: '(1) Any person responsible for registering any documents of a person under the provisions of Clause (B), (C) or (E), of Sub-Section(1) of Section 17 of the Registration Act, 1908 (XVI of 1908), shall collect from the person whose right, title or interest is sought to be transferred, assigned, limited or extinguished thereby, at the time of registration of such document, income tax at such rate and in such manner as may be prescribed on the value of the property to which the document relates and on which stamp-duty is chargeable under the Stamp Act, 1899 (II of 1899).'

## Dhaka official

From Page 1 Col 6  
(or Arakan) and was also conducted into the camps set up to greet the returnees. Yangon's only English language newspaper The Working People's Daily reported Friday.

A Foreign Ministry official described the event as a 'significant one' but said that the Myanmar authorities were yet to respond to the Bangladesh's plea to let Yangon-based UN officials tour the area.

The Bangladesh diplomat had been to the area on June 15 and 16 and Dhaka was awaiting a report from him, the official requesting anonymity said.

Myanmar authorities had been evading Dhaka's proposals to allow its officials to go to the areas.

At a high-level meeting June 8, Dhaka and Yangon agreed to work together to persuade the Rohingya whose unwillingness to return has stalled their repatriation.

The Yangon officials led by an Immigration Ministry top bureaucrat also promised to stop exodus in a week but there were still reports of new arrivals.

On Sunday, a top-level meeting at the Foreign Ministry decided to step up measures aimed at prodding more than 270,000 refugees into returning.

The authorities fear an epidemic of diseases with the approach of the monsoons in the makeshift camps where the refugees are sheltered.

About a month ago, the Government clamped down on the activities of the NGOs engaged in relief work on charges of their working beyond their mandated jobs.

Allegations had it that some of the NGOs were motivating the refugees against going back to their homeland.

## JP programme

From Page 1 Col 3  
He urged the party workers to prepare themselves to carry forward the movement if the senior leaders were sent behind bars.

Moudud Ahmed criticised government failure to solve problems in various sectors including the Rohingya crisis.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed blamed 'an identified quarter' for the bomb attacks on party workers at Baitul Mokarram and alleged that police raided the houses of a number of leaders to arrest them in a bid to foil Tuesday's programme.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reported that several thousand JP workers demonstrated in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner and submitted a memorandum demanding immediate release of their leader Ershad.

They held a brief rally in front of the Press Club which was addressed by local JP leaders Mominuddin Ahmed and SMA Rab.

## BJC to be closed down

The government has decided to close down Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) within next 18 months, Jute Minister Hannan Shah told parliament Tuesday, reports UNB.

The corporation incurred a net loss of Tk 144 crore in 1990-91 and Tk 114.33 crore in first nine months of fiscal 1991-92.

Replying to a question, the minister informed the House that BJC earned only Tk 22.67 crore and spent Tk 137 crore during the first nine months of the outgoing fiscal year (1991-92).

He told another questioner that the government purchased jute worth Tk 204.84 crore in FY 1991-92.

The country, however, earned Tk 1181.58 crore by exporting jute and jute goods in first 10 months in FY 1991-92, the Jute Minister said in reply to another question.

The export earning from jute and jute goods stood at Tk 1297.41 crore in fiscal 1990-91.

The Committee also demanded the resignation of the Information Minister for non-implementation of autonomy for radio and television as per the Joint Declaration of the three alliances and for not covering the Gano Adalat activities and people's movement on 26 March.

The demands also included the implementation of the verdict of the Gano Adalat on Golam Azam and the banning of politics of the 'Constitution violators and anti-Liberation terrorists, the Jamaat-Shibir-fascist coterie.'

The Coordination Committee also reiterated its earlier demands for withdrawal of the 'conspiratorial cases' against the 24 personalities including Jahanara Imam and withdrawal of 'false cases' against pro-Liberation forces around the country and the release of those arrested.

The fresh programmes announced at the rally include: the continued holding of rallies, meetings, processions, and a mass signature drive in favour of implementing the 'people's verdict' on Golam Azam.

As part of the programme, the rally was held at the gherao programmes will be held at the upazila level on 19 July and at the district level on 23 August. A meeting of representatives will be held in Dhaka on 10 September followed by a grand rally in the capital on 14 October.

While announcing the new programmes on behalf of the Committee, Jahanara Imam said that the agreement signed between the ruling BNP and the Opposition was not enough. 'Were the words 'war criminal' included in the agreement? She retorted, adding 'We will continue our movement until the verdict of the Gano Adalat on Golam Azam is implemented.'

However, she thanked the boycotting Opposition members of parliament for their achievement in signing the agreement.

## Two killed in Khulna blast

KHULNA, June 30: Two people were killed and five injured in a bomb attack tonight on an arbitration meeting at Duttapara, 2 kilometres from the city, reports UNB.

Witnesses and hospital sources said Humayun (30) and Asghar (28) died on the spot at about 8:30 pm.

The injured were rushed to the 250-bed hospital here with serious splinter injuries. Among them, Mohammad Ali and Bayezid were said to be fighting for life.

Four powerful handbombs were hurled at the meeting being held in Duttapara Club to resolve conflict between the Duttapara and Nabarun football clubs.

## Nirmul body's demands

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She also demanded the banning of the politics of the Jamaat-Shibir-fascist coterie, adding 'They are using religion to get to power.'

Addressing the rally, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim declared that the trial of Golam Azam would be held 'in this land and according to our wishes.'

Referring to the agreement, he urged the people to take it as a 'victory' and move forward with the movement.

Abdus Samad Azad, deputy leader of the Opposition also addressing the rally termed the agreement between the government and the Opposition a partial victory of the people.

He urged the people to remain vigilant in snatching the final victory through the trial of Golam Azam at a tribunal.

'We will go to the parliament tomorrow with the verdict of the people', Samad declared.

Samad said that the government was compelled to come to an agreement in the face of the long march to parliament. He said the government had to adjourn the afternoon session of parliament fearing the long march.

Samad said that today's crisis would not have arisen if the Prime Minister had supported the trial of Azam in the first place.

Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of Workers Party and also an organiser of the Nirmul Committee said that Golam Azam must be tried under the International Crimes Act, 1973.

He firmly told the rally that when the government had acknowledged that Azam would be tried, then it would be done under this Act.

Menon said that the agreement between the government and the Opposition was an outcome of the movement of the people.

Abdur Razzak, Awami League leader also addressing the rally said it still needed a push from the people to force the government to try Azam under the Crimes Act.

He said that the government got frightened of the mass movement and reached the agreement.

Razzak charged that the government was investigating the killers of '71 and '75 into waging a civil war. He said that a reign of terror had been unleashed by the Jubo Command and the Jamaat and that the freedom fighters had become victims.

Suranjit Sengupta, leader of Ganotantri Party, speaking at the rally, urged the people to remain vigilant in realising their demands. He said although the government had declared withdrawing the cases against the 24 organisers of the public trial and to try Golam Azam, these have not yet been realised.

## Transport

From Page 1 Col 6  
and Shawkat Ali Anu.

Reliable sources said that the striking leaders agreed in principle to call off the strike but at the last moment they shifted from their position on "some personal grounds."

Some of the leaders demanded withdrawal of some criminal cases against several leaders and their relatives which the BRTA Chairman failed to accept as he was not empowered to promise so.

The leaders left the chairman's office at around 9.30 pm, sources said. Tuesday's meeting was the second round of talks between the authorities and the striking leaders.

None of the leaders were available for comment.

Talking to The Daily Star, BRTA Chairman B Zaman said that "they are seemingly unwilling to call off the strike but I don't know the reasons behind their refusal."

"I told them about the minister's statement in the parliament which is more acceptable than any other agreement," Zaman said adding "they were insisting on some unacceptable demands."

There was no meeting scheduled for the next day, he added.

Another source said that the strikers can unilaterally withdraw the strike as it has almost collapsed and they are losing their stronghold in Ghabtal and Mahakhali terminals.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation called the strike to press home its 11-point demand but a day after the call the federation split over the strike decision.

The split group led by its executive president Manjurul Ahsan Khan asked its supporters to operate their vehicles.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka University press release said that one university bus came under attack of miscreants near Testori Bazar on Tuesday and the authorities decided not to operate buses until normalcy is restored.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: The anti-strike transport workers Tuesday announced that the transport services would resume from Wednesday in all the 16 routes linking the city.

UNB adds: Buses and other vehicles in Pabna started plying different routes from the district headquarters as private sector transport workers and owners yesterday defied the countrywide indefinite strike.

According to the District Bus Owners' Association, some 25 buses with passengers left here for different destinations.

President of the association and Secretary urged the bus owners to return their buses to roads considering people's sufferings.

Besides, Jatree Kalyani Samity later in the afternoon brought out a procession in the town protesting the transport strike that staggered across the country for the ninth day although increased numbers of vehicles came out on roads.

Later at a press conference, the Samity leaders urged the transport workers to call off their non-stop strike.

## Tree plantation

From Page 1 Col 8  
Begum Zia said the national wealth was decreasing due to indiscriminate destruction of forest and trees which was also threatening our existence.

The Prime Minister said the observance of tree plantation week had a special significance as it was being held on the backdrop of recently concluded Earth Summit in Brazil and the present condition of the world environment.

She said tree plays a supportive role in preservation and development of environment. The tree also works in reducing the global temperature increased due to green house effect and other reasons. The trees curb the intensity of natural disasters.

She said the government had given top priority to the afforestation programme besides other activities for maintaining ecological balance.

Begum Zia advised to plant trees in the open spaces of residential houses, on the sides of canals, ponds, roads, highways, railway tracks, embankments and new char in the coastal areas. She said the teachers, students and social workers could strengthen the tree-plantation drive by planting trees in the premises of educational, religious and cultural institutions. The non-governmental organisations will play a proper role in this respect, she hoped.

She called for turning the tree plantation and afforestation programme into a national movement.

Begum Zia wished all success of the countrywide tree plantation drive.



Philippine President Fidel Ramos (C) with his wife Amelita holding the Bible takes his oath of office from Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa while outgoing President Corazon Aquino (extreme right) watches in the background at an inaugural ceremony in Manila yesterday. Story on Page 5.

## The Midnight File

### Baker backs Rabin's call

WASHINGTON, June 30: Secretary of State James Baker today backed a call by Israeli Prime Minister-elect Yitzhak Rabin for continuous Arab-Israeli peace talks. "We were very pleased to see the statement by Rabin saying, let's engage and let's stay engaged and let's get something done," Baker told reporters before a meeting with visiting German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, reports Rueter.

### Indo-Pak ties disappointing: Rao

NEW DELHI, June 30: India's relations with its regional arch rival Pakistan are 'disappointing' because of Islamabad's support for Sikh and Muslim militants in India, Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao said today. Rao told a news conference here in a prepared statement that India's desire to have cordial ties with its neighbours was receiving a positive response, reports AFP.

### Tehran Declaration on industrialisation

TEHRAN, June 30: The two-day meeting of the Ministers of Industries and Technology-92 ended here yesterday with the adoption of the Tehran Declaration for strengthening regional cooperation for technology-led industrialisation in Asia and the Pacific, reports BSS.

The report of the meeting of the ministers was also adopted unanimously.

Thirty-three countries of the region including Bangladesh and eight international and inter-regional organisations participated in the meeting, inaugurated by the Iranian President yesterday.

The Iranian Minister for Industries was elected Chairman. Leader of Bangladesh delegation and Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan was elected one of the Vice Chairmen. Khan presided over the meeting in the afternoon session.

In his speech, Khan highlighted the difficulties faced by LDCs and the domestic measures adopted by the Government of Bangladesh to overcome these problems.

He urged the international community particularly the developed and developing countries of the region to cooperate with Bangladesh in its efforts of industrialisation and development.

### Tree plantation week begins today

A week-long tree plantation programme begins today (Wednesday) for making the people aware about the importance of maintaining ecological balance, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally inaugurate the week at the Shishu Academy in Rajshahi at 11 am and at Uttara, Dhaka at 5 pm.

Radio Bangladesh will directly broadcast the inaugural functions.

It has also arranged to broadcast a series of programmes on the significance of tree plantation which includes slogans, discussions and interviews.

In a message on the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas has called upon the people to plant trees in every nook and corner of the country for maintaining ecological balance, controlling environmental pollution and building a better environment.

### Upazilas

From Page 1 Col 8  
Division of the Supreme Court. The petitioners' counsel, Barrister Amirul Islam submitted that the Repeal Ordinance purports to violate the mandate of the Constitution by allowing the function of the local government to be performed by persons who are not elected in accordance with law.

Barrister Islam said the democratic process which had been pledged as a fundamental aim of the state as proclaimed in the preamble of the Constitution, preserved and protected under Article 7 and ensured under Article 11 and further provided, reinforced and developed under Article 59 and 60 of the Constitution is one of the fundamental structure of the Constitution and it is unalterable.

He further said the Repeal Ordinance creates cloud, confusion, anomaly and even purports to deny and destroy the right people and thus it offends directly against the constitutional guarantee for public representation.

The hearing resumes today (Wednesday).

Barrister Amirul Islam, Dr Kamal Hossain and Advocate Zakir Ahmed appeared for the petitioners.

Attorney General Aminul Haq, Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and Assistant Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the government.

### Malaysia

From Page 1 Col 5  
economy, and said employers of unregistered illegals would pay for their detention.

The government has refused to extend the deadline for registration despite appeals by employers that the seven-month grace was too short.

Hundreds of bosses and thousands of workers have stood daily in lengthy queues at the immigration department in past months in a race against time.

UNB adds: As of noon Tuesday, a total of 320,000 aliens, mostly Indonesians, had registered. Others came from Bangladesh, Thailand, Burma, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

The Malaysian economy, which grew at a 9 per cent rate in the first quarter of this year, is facing a labour shortage in the construction industry and on plantations.

With Japanese, South Korean, Taiwanese and American factories sprouting around the nation, Malaysian women have turned their backs on many jobs, especially on plantations and as housemaids. Indonesians and Filipinos have filled this gap.

Sikdar said that the BJP was in favour of the construction of a fly-over over the corridor. It should be constructed and controlled by India to maintain the country's sovereignty over the area and instil a sense of security among the people of Kuchibari and its adjoining areas.

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