this Peace Committee was to resist the liberation war and to destroy all freedom fighters. The first meeting of the Peace Committee expressed their gratitude to the Pakistan Army for their maiden successful military operation of genocide and bitterly condemned the freedom fighters and the freedom-loving .people of our country as anti-Islamic. As a matter of fact, to a man like Ghulam Azam, Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islam are synonymous. That is why, opposing Pakistan, to them, was opposing Islam; mere criticism of Jamaat-e-Islami tantamounts to opposing Islam itself. On April 12, 1971, Ghulam Azam led a Peace Committee procession against the liberation movement in Dhaka and at the end he prayed to Allah for granting success to Pakistan Army's crackdown on the civilian population of the then East Pakistan (*The Dainik Sangram*, April 13, 1971).

Alongside the Peace Committee, Ghulam Azam took a leading role in forming an armed force to help the Pakistan Army. At his instruction, one of his followers, A.K.M. Yusuf formed the Razakar Force in May 1971 with 96 Jamaat workers at an Ansar Camp at Khan Jahan Ali Road, Khulna. In the beginning, the Razakar Bahini was under the leadership of the Peace Committee. But on June 1, 1971, General Tikka Khan by proclamation of the East Pakistan Razakar Ordinance 1971 abolished the "Ansar Bahini" and turned it into "Razakar Bahini"-- but its leadership remained in the hands of Jamaat-e-Islami. On September 7, 1971, Pakistan Defence Ministry through an official order (No:4/8/52/543 P. S.= 1 /Ko/ 3659 D-Ko) elevated members of the Razakar Bahini to the status of auxiliary force of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

What the Razakars did after a short training was go to the rural areas, loot recklessly, kill innocent villagers and torture women. Used as guides in the largely unfamiliar, previously unknown areas and as advanced elements of the attacking army, they were very frequently praised by the Pakistani Generals. In a workers' meeting at Hotel Empire in Dhaka on September 25, 1971, Ghulam Azam said, "The purpose for which the Jamaat-e-Islami joined the Peace Committee and the Razakar Bahini was to keep Pakistan intact, in other words, to save Pakistan ... By embracing martyrdom, Jamaat workers have expounded the spirit that they would rather die than see Pakistan broken into pieces, disintegrated" (*The Dainik Pakistan*, September 26, 1971).

The Jamaat leader and founder of the Razakar Bahini A.K.M. Yusuf in a Razakar meeting held on October 11, 1971 in Khulna praised the Razakars for "resisting disgruntling activities of the miscreants and the infiltrators" (*The Dainik Pakistan*, October 13, 1971). General Niazi, Martial Law Administrator of the Eastern Wing after taking salutes at the passing out ceremony of the Razakar Training Camp at Savar, Dhaka observed, "Razakars' duty obligates them to identify and annihilate all Indian elements on the one hand and bring the misguided youth to the right path on the other" (*The Dainik Pakistan*, November 28, 1971).

Another heinous act perpetrated by the Jamaat and their associates during the liberation war of 1971 was the formation of killing squads named Al-Badr and Al-Shams Bahini. Exact replications of Hitler's Gestapo, they formulated a blueprint to kill the intellectuals by the butcher members of young Jamaat workers. Trained and inspired by their leaders, Matiur Rahman Nizami and Quamruzzaman and members of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the student front of the Jamaat-e-Islami, time and again met Pakistani General Rao Forman Ali and hatched one of the most despicable conspiracies in human history, that is, "a blue-print entailing the elimination of the intellectuals". Other chores included hunting out the freedom-lovers and executing them when found, proselytizing Hindus into Muslims by coercion, propagating Pakistani and Jamaati thinking through seminars and pamphlets and leaflets and confronting the freedom fighters, whenever possible. This murderer gang conducted an abominable rampage of killing on the great "pride" sons of the then East Pakistan just prior to their formal defeat and surrender to the liberation forces. This Al-Badr Bahini was responsible for the killing of many prominent writers, journalists, professors, physicians, engineers, scientists and hundreds of other intellectuals. On September 14, 1971, the *Sangram*, party paper of the Jamaat-e-Islami, wrote under the caption "Al-Badr, Al-Badr is a name! A surprise saviour! Al-Badr is a pledge! Wherever you have freedom fighters, you will also have Al-Badr. Wherever you have miscreants, you have Al-Badr there, too. To the Indian agents, spies and to the miscreants Al-Badr is nothing but Azrail (the angel of death)."

On November 7, 1971, there was a meeting of the Islami Chhatra Sangha at Baitul Mukarrom premises commemorating the historical "Badr Day" at which Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid put forward a four-point