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Mujib's call to observe hartal peacefully

People warned against agent-provocateurs

DACCA, March 2: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, President of the Awami League, tonight urged upon the people to observe hartal in a peaceful and disciplined manner and to ensure that no untoward incident, such as looting, burning etc. takes place.

In a statement here to the Press the Awami League chief said in particular, the people should be alert against agent-provocateurs and should remember that everyone living in Bangla Desh, no matter where he originated from, or the language he spoke, was for them a Bengali and their person, property and honour were their sacred trust and these must be protected.

He also reminded the people that any breach of discipline would be against the interest of their movement and would serve the interests of agents provocateurs and anti-people forces.

The Awami League chief gave a brief account of the observance of today's general strike against the background of the political situation and reiterated that their movement would continue "till the people of Bangla Desh realised their emancipation."

The Sheikh said: "at this critical hour it is the sacred duty of each and every Bengali in every walk of life, including Government employees, not to co-operate with anti-people forces and instead do everything in their power to foil the conspiracy against Bangla Desh."

CALL FOR REMOVING ML

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for immediate withdrawal of Martial Law because "there is no justification for its continuation by a single day" and demanded "the removal of obstacles to the exercise by the people's representatives of the power, that is rightfully theirs."

The spontaneous demonstration of the will of the Bengalis to resist displayed throughout Bangla Desh since yesterday, should prove to the world that Bengalis could not be suppressed any more and would no longer tolerate being exploited as a colony or a market.

The Sheikh said unarmed boys had been fired upon today, and at least two had died, with several more seriously injured. He strongly condemned such firing and urged the elements who were seeking to confront the people with force to desist forthwith

from this reckless course."

Sheikh Mujib regretted that the session of the National Assembly was prevented by a sudden and unwarranted intervention, prompted by an intransigent minority group, although representatives of Bangla Desh were ready to sit with the representatives of West Pakistan on March 3 for constitution-making.

He said the denial of the rights of the representatives of the majority of the people at the behest of an undemocratic minority was an intolerable insult to the people.

While announcing their programme of action till March 7—the day he was scheduled to address a public meeting—Sheikh Mujibur Rahman appealed to the people "to continue with our common struggle in a peaceful and disciplined manner. He emphasised that any breach of discipline would go against the interest of the movement.

Awami League chief gave a call to observe province-wide hartal on each day from tomorrow till March 6 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and said tomorrow would also be observed as a day of national mourning, on which occasion he would lead a procession from Paltan Maidan at 4 p.m. after the Student League's meeting there.

The call for hartal, he added, covered all spheres, including Government offices, secretariat, High Court and other courts, semi-Government and autonomous corporations, PIA, Railways and other communication services, transport, private and public, all mills, factories, industrial and commercial establishments and markets.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, however, said exemptions were to be extended to ambulances, Press cars, hospitals, medicine shops, electricity and water supply.—APP.

Bhutto meets Yahya

Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, yesterday called on the President Gen-Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan at the President's House Karachi, and remained with him for some time.

Mr Bhutto was accompanied by prominent People's Party leaders, Mr J. A. Rahimi, Mr Mustafa Khar, Mr Abdul Hafeez Pirzada and Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto.—APP.