

# LEADERS DEPLORE BHUTTO'S STAND

Telegram to Mujib described as a 'smokescreen'

Asghar counsels Yahya to go to Dacca & hand over power to N.A.

JILANI DOUBTS BHUTTO'S BONA FIDES

Khwaja Rafiq slates PPP Chairman

**RAWALPINDI, March 12:** Khan Iqbal Muhammad, Senior Vice-President, Pakistan Awami League, said here today that under rules of democracy Shaikh Mujib alone is the majority party leader and should be consulted in matters relating to transfer of power to people.

In a statement he said that while on the one hand Air Marshal Asghar Khan (Retd) has warned steps to save Pakistan should be taken within a few days, Mr. Bhutto is still persisting to be bracketed with Mujib. He said in his recent telegram to Shaikh Mujibur Rahman, Mr. Bhutto has said "Both of us carry responsibility."

He regretted that despite being the majority party leader, Shaikh Mujibur Rahman is being treated differently and even branded as "traitor." He concluded saying that even in the game of cards, there are rules, then why should rules of democracy be defied. He said we must follow these rules, otherwise we are hypocrites and shall be destroyed."

Seven Karachi AL leaders said yesterday that Mr. Bhutto's reported telegram to Shaikh Mujibur Rahman for an early meeting between the two was just a smokescreen to fool the people of West Pakistan.

The statement issued in Karachi was signed by Shaikh Manzoor Haq, President, Mr. Khalil Ahmad Thirkizi, General Secre-

**LAHORE, March 12:** Air Marshal (Retired) Asghar Khan to proceed to Dacca immediately and agree to handing over power to the National Assembly elected by the people.

Addressing a Press conference here today Air Marshal Asghar Khan sounded a note of warning against "powerful forces" both external and internal, that were creating obstructions in the restoration of democracy. He pointed that the internal forces comprised vested interests. External forces also believed that it was easy to deal with one single individual at the helm of affairs rather than a democratic Government.

He said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had handled the situation following the postponement of the National Assembly session in East Pakistan in a "very fine manner." The extremist elements in the Awami League and the public wanted Mujibur Rahman to make "a dramatic announcement" on March 7. They had their own independent flag ready to be unfurled by the Sheikh at Faltan Maidan meeting on that day, and there was a charged atmosphere, but the Awami League chief made a brief speech and controlled the situation.

He said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was fighting for the freedom of the people of the entire country against exploitation by a few. He was the only person who was keeping the country integrated today. "If Sheikh Mujibur Rahman decides today to get East Pakistan separated, nothing can stop him," he added.

Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan referring to the President's broadcast on March 6 said he thought the desired purpose could be achieved if the speech was couched in a different language, but the speech as it was, jeopardised the possibilities of rapprochement.

He said recent changes in the top administration in East Pakistan also had not good effect on the people and the situation in that wing. Now the situation in East Pakistan was that the Cen-

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The convenor, Punjab Pakistan Front, Malik Ghulam Jilani, said in Karachi yesterday that he was "interested as well as intrigued" by the recent statement of Mr. Z. A. Bhutto offering to meet Shaikh Mujibur Rahman.

In a statement he said: "If Mr. Bhutto was serious about this, there was nothing to stop him from flying to Dacca and presenting himself at the door of Shaikh Mujibur Rahman and begging for a meeting. That Mr. Z. A. Bhutto has chosen to send a telegram when he knows that telegraphic service between East and West Pakistan has been discontinued, and also made it a point to release the draft of that telegram to the Press is proof enough of his lack of bona fides."

"If Mr. Z. A. Bhutto is really serious about finding a solution for the constitutional crisis of which he is the author then all that he needs to do is to efface himself. There is no crisis between the people of East and West Pakistan. The crisis is within Mr. Z. A. Bhutto himself. I, as one of the inhabitants of West Pakistan, request Mr. Z. A. Bhutto to explain to me his credentials as a representative of West Pakistan and also to tell me what he wants to tell Shaikh Mujibur Rahman in the interview which he seeks with the latter. I also ask Mr. Z. A. Bhutto to take me into confidence about what transpired between him and the rest of the unrecognisable company in which he was fiddling in Karachi when Dacca was burning as was Nero in Rome.

"I wish to warn Shaikh Mujibur Rahman as well as the people of East Pakistan and also the people of West Pakistan and also the people all over the world that there is nothing that Mr. Z. A. Bhutto is entitled to tell anybody on behalf of anybody at all."

"Members of his own party are in rebellion against him. Many of them have approached me personally to seek advice.

"I am quite sure that the meeting between Mr. Z. A. Bhutto and Shaikh Mujibur Rahman will take place only once and that will be on the Day of Judgment."—PPL.

**LAHORE, March 12:** Khwaja Mohammad Rafiq, General Secretary, Punjab PDP, called upon the leadership to rise to the occasion to save the country from disintegration.

He lashed out at Mr. Z. A. Bhutto and observed that his "fascist tendencies" were the cause of creating an atmosphere of disunity in the country.

A resolution adopted at a PDP meeting called upon the people in general to bring, about an atmosphere of peace which was vital for the democratic process.

In another resolution, the PDP regretted that the permission to hold a public meeting in Lahore on March 14, was not granted.—PPL.

## Increase in insurance rates on cargoes for East Pakistan

From NASIM AHMAD  
**LONDON, March 12:** The insurance underwriters have more than doubled war strike, riot and civil commotion insurance rates on cargoes bound for East Pakistan ports.

With effect from yesterday insurance rate for war, strike, riot and civil commotion to ports in East Pakistan went up from five new pence per £100 to 12½ new pence per £100.

Pakistan's jute trade with Britain and the other importing countries has already been severely hit by the crisis in the eastern province. The jute importers and other businessmen have had no contact with their offices in East Pakistan for the past several days.

## Israel, UAR resume formal talks with Jarring

**UNITED NATIONS, March 12:** Israel and UAR resumed formal talks today with United Nations peace envoy Gunnar Jarring after a lapse of almost two weeks but both sides stood their ground. After a 45-minute session with

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