

Latest political situation in country discussed

Parleys again today

From GHIAS KAMAL CHOWDHURY

DACCA, MARCH 16: PRESIDENT YAHYA KHAN AND THE AWAMI LEAGUE CHIEF, SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, HELD THEIR FIRST ROUND OF TALKS HERE TODAY ON THE LATEST POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

THEY TALKED IN CAMERA FOR TWO AND A HALF HOURS AT THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE. THE PRESIDENT AND SHEIKH MUJIB WILL MEET AGAIN TOMORROW AT 10 A.M.

The Sheikh drove to the President's House at 11 a.m. and came out exactly at 1.30 p.m.

Talking to the waiting newsmen outside the President's House, the Awami League Chief said he had discussed with the President the political situation and other matters. He declined to give details and only said that the talks would continue.

The Sheikh came out of his car

to talk to foreign and local newsmen who had been waiting there. He posed briefly for photographs, wearing a smile on his face.

He parried a question when a foreign journalist asked whether he had made any progress at the talks. Sheikh Mujib replied that the only thing he would say now was that talks were continuing and that they would continue.

A correspondent wanted to know what was the atmosphere like — whether it was friendly. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said: "Kindly do not ask me any more questions." He said it was not a matter of one or two minutes. "It needs sufficient time."

Earlier, as the Sheikh drove out of the President's House, a small crowd from near the northern gate of Ramna Park greeted him with "Joy Bangla" slogans. A black flag was flying on the Sheikh's car.

With Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, two or three Awami League workers, his close associates, went in-

MUJIB'S CALL TO SHUN VIOLENCE AND CONFUSION

DACCA, March 16: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has called upon the people to carry on their non-violent non-co-operation movement in a peaceful and orderly manner to a successful end. "You cannot achieve anything in chaos and confusion and in violence," he added.

He was addressing a huge procession of newspaper press workers, who went to his Dhanmandi residence to extend their support to his programmes shortly after they had held a mass rally at Baitul Mukarram.

The Awami League chief cautioned the people against disruptionist forces and asked them to remain vigilant against these elements "till final victory".

Sheikh Mujib said: "We do not want to oppress anybody but if anybody oppresses us we shall not let him go very easily". He expressed determination that seven crore Bengalees would not hesitate to make the supreme sacrifice for making lives of our future generation happy like free citizens of a free country. He reiterated his call to the people to turn every house in East Pakistan into a fortress. "Victory is ours," he said.

Sheikh Mujib said that "ours is a relentless struggle, a struggle for emancipation".

He expressed his satisfaction that the people of East Pakistan had realised themselves anew and stood like a rock by their demands.

Earlier, newspaper press workers at the rally at Baitul Mukarram lent their full support to four-point demands of the Sheikh.

Later, the workers formed into a procession and marched through the streets leading to the Dhanmandi residence of Sheikh Mujib shouting slogans—PPI

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side the President's House. They waited outside, as the Sheikh talked to the President without any aide.

Outside the President's House, a number of Awami League leaders including MNAs and MPAs waited along with a large number of local and foreign journalists.

The President's House was closed to vehicular traffic from Kakrail and Inter-Continental hotel sides.

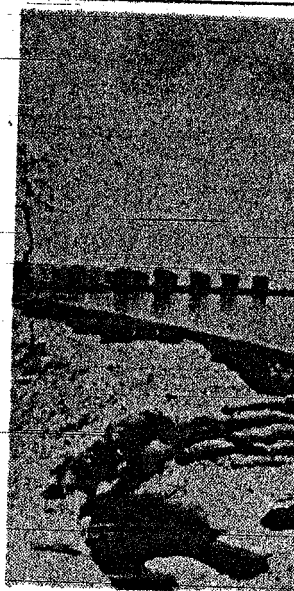
It may be mentioned that the President and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman held two rounds of talks at Dacca in January last.

Agency reports add: Sheikh Mujib before his departure for the President's House had a meeting with top leaders of his Party.

Immediately after his return to his residence from the President's House, Sheikh Mujib held a closed-door meeting with top leaders of his Party.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman apprised his Partymen of his talks with the President. The discussion lasted for about an hour.

Later in the night they met again to have further discussions. Syed Nazrul Islam, Mr Mansur Ali, Khondker Mushtaq Ahmed, Mr A H M Kamaruzzaman, Mr Tajuddin Ahmed and Dr Kamal Hossain were among those who attended the meeting. It was learnt.



It's all quiet on the west bank of the river. No sign of military presence in this area.

FOLLOW MUJIB'S DIRECTIVES UNRESERVEDLY

Bhashani's call to East Pakistanis

MYMENSINGH, March 16: Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, National Awami Party Chief, offered his full support to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his struggle.

Addressing a huge gathering at the local circuit house Maidan on Friday afternoon, Maulana Bhashani said that now there should not be any division among the political parties in East Pakistan and urged upon all sections of people to unite for achieving the goals for which they were fighting.

Supporting Sheikh Mujib's directions at the Dacca Race course ground the Maulana advised all to follow his directives unreservedly for restoration of democracy.

The NAP chief asked the people to have complete faith in Sheikh Mujib. He said that the application of force could not stop our movement for the rights

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AL only majority party in NA

Bhutto's suggestion not practicable: Amin

From Our Special Representative

DACCA, March 16: Mr Nurul Amin, the PDP Chief, said here today that the Awami League was the only majority party in the National Assembly.

The veteran political leader who has also been elected to the National Assembly in the December elections, said that there could not be two majority parties in one House.

He was commenting on the PPP Chief Mr Bhutto's suggestion that power should be transferred to the two majority parties. Mr Nurul Amin said that the suggestion was not practicable.