Bengalis Form a Cabinet
As the Bloodshed Goes On

The following dispatch is by the New Delhi correspondent of The New York Times, who has just completed a four-day trip through the border region of India and East Pakistan, as well as inside East Pakistan.

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AGARTALA, India, April 13—Although large numbers of East Pakistani secessionist leaders have been reported killed, and with widespread bloodshed continuing, several members of the movement’s high command are alive and have formed a cabinet.

They include Tajuddin Ahmed, second in command to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, wais: Awami League took the steps for independence that brought West Pakistan’s military crack-down.

In an East Pakistani border area visited by this correspondent, at least six secessionist leaders met to name Mr. Ahmed Prince Minister and Defense Minister of the state they call Bangla Desh, or Bengal Nation. They proclaimed Sheikh Mujib their President, although privately the secessionist leaders acknowledged that he was in prison in West Pakistan.

While the central Government, which is dominated by West Pakistan, continues to announce that the situation is calm in the East and conditions are returning to normal, a far different picture emerges on the scene.

Daily Battles Reported

Daily battles are reliably reported in many sectors. Hundreds of East Pakistanis have fled the cities to seek refuge or join the secessionist army, and thousands of refugees, carrying their meager belongings in cardboard suitcases and sacks, are crossing into India for temporary haven.

This correspondent saw Pakistani soldiers burning villages to deny the resistance forces cover or hiding places. As the smoke from the thatch and bamboo huts rose, a sharp report was heard in the outskirt of the city of Comilla, where the vultures descended on the bodies of peasants, already being picked apart by dogs and crows.

There is no way of knowing exactly how many of East Pakistan’s 75 million Bengalis the army has killed, but authoritative reports from many sources agree that the figure is at least in the tens of thousands; some reports put it much higher.

The central Government officially bars all foreign newsmen from East Pakistan. But from the evidence available in secession-held rural areas—some of which are occasionally con-

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The military attacks and assassinations by the army's spectacularly efficient border guards and the activities of the Mukti Bahini, a guerrilla group supported by India, has led to a new wave of refugees crossing into India. The situation is now out of control, and the Indian government has ordered the border guards to be withdrawn from the area.

The situation in East Pakistan is described as desperate by the United Nations. The UN has called for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of all military forces from the region.

The Bengali leaders have called for a general strike to protest against the violence and to demand the withdrawal of all military forces from the area. The strike is expected to last for several days.

The Bengali leaders have also called for international assistance to help them in their struggle for independence.

The situation in East Pakistan is likely to worsen as the military attacks continue.

The UN has appealed for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of all military forces from the region. The situation is expected to remain tense for some time.

The UN has also appealed for international assistance to help the Bengalis in their struggle for independence.

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