LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

East Bengal atrocities

Sir—We are not reporters with little time to spare looking up the history of the East Bengal. As most of us have lived in East Bengal for most of 20 years and we have talked at random with hundreds of refugees and have seen the results of the relief work among them. The picture we have seen has been in East Bengal is clearly visible without any shadow of doubt.

There are scores of survivors of firing lines—lines. Hundreds of witnesses to the massacre of political leaders, professors, doctors, teachers, and students. Villages have been surrounded, at any time of day or night, and the frightened villagers, men, women, and children, have been massacred, without distinction. Women have been raped, girls carried off to barracks, unarmed peasants bayoneted or bayoneted by the thousands.

The pattern, after seven weeks, is still the same. The least credible stories, those of babies thrown up to be caught on bayonets, of women stripped and bayoneted vertically, or of children shot up like meat, while not credible only because they are told by so many people, often because they are told by people without sufficient knowledge of East Bengal stories for political motives.

We saw the amputation of a man’s arm and a foot. These were too far from the border, and considered to be of no importance. Yet we saw their daughters raped, and their heads of children smashed in. Some watched their husbands, sons, and grandsons killed in cold blood, and their entire families in more selective male elimination. They who survive will keep no children for tomorrow. They who survive will kill all their children except those who survive. They who survive will live day-dropping and a vangel. bayonet wounding.

Armed forces are killed at Jhudda and how their way to the border and massacred. Why? Are they the allies of India? Or because choosing a certain democratic system under Sheikh Mujib means forfeiting the right to live in any country?

J. W. H.

Ministry of Employment

Sir—As a committed environmentalist I was extremely interested to read Sir Val Dun- can’s RTZ statement (Guardian, May 29) and his previous ones in the context of British life. I can only imagine how his company successfully avoids polluting its areas of operation. Can he explain to me how both statements can be meaningful?

I hasten to say that I for one would very much prefer to export mining pollution to some vast thinly populated area overseas rather than countenance it here in our densely crowded land. I am disturbed by his company’s solemn assumption of responsibility for deciding what is or is not environmentally acceptable in the way of mining in Britain. In fact, I find it distinctly preposterous.

Sir Val Duncan’s overriding importance of protecting the environment in his company’s operations is indeed admirable. However, I cannot help but wonder if his actions are not solely driven by personal gain rather than genuine concern for the environment.

I hope Sir Val can provide a more detailed explanation of his company’s policies and practices in this regard.

J. M. A.

Source of dismay

Mr. J. W. H.,

Ministry of Employment

Sir—Mr. J. W. H.’s letter (Library of Congress Newspaper) is disappointing. I had expected to see a more responsible response from the Ministry of Employment regarding the issue of mining pollution.

I am concerned that Mr. H.’s letter does not adequately address the environmental impact of mining operations in Britain. The Ministry of Employment should be taking a more proactive role in ensuring that mining companies take responsibility for minimizing their environmental footprint.

J. M. A.

Theatre stall

Mr. J. W. H.,

Ministry of Employment

Sir—In response to Mr. H.’s letter (Library of Congress Newspaper), I would like to express my concern regarding the environmental impact of mining operations in Britain.

I am aware that the Ministry of Employment has taken steps to regulate mining activities, but I believe more could be done to ensure that mining companies are held accountable for their environmental impact.

I would urge the Ministry of Employment to take a more proactive role in ensuring that mining companies take responsibility for minimizing their environmental footprint.

J. M. A.