



**RECEIVES TUMULTUOUS WELCOME IN DACCA: Sheik Mujibur Rahman, left, returning to his native land for first time since he was arrested nine months ago. With him is Syed Nazul Islam, who had been acting President of nation proclaimed by Bengalis.**

United Press International

## SHEIK MUJIB HOME; 500,000 GIVE HIM ROUSING WELCOME

In Dacca After 9 Months in  
Prison, He Tells Bengalis  
Not to Seek Revenge

**CALLS GOAL FULFILLED**

He Cites Bid by Pakistan to  
Keep Ties but Says Unity  
of Country Is Ended

By **FOX BUTTERFIELD**  
Special to The New York Times

DACCA, Pakistan, Jan. 10— Sheik Mujibur Rahman received a tumultuous, triumphant welcome today from a crowd of half a million Bengalis as he returned to his native land for the first time since he was arrested nine months ago by the Pakistani authorities.

The exultant crowd showered Sheik Mujib with flowers and chanted "Joi Bangla!" ("Victory for Bengal!") as their leader stepped from the British Royal Air Force Comet jet that had brought him from New Delhi. Sheik Mujib, who was released Saturday, flew to New Delhi from London.

Sheik Mujib, looking tired but elated by this reception, later said at an enormous rally at the Dacca Race Course: "My life's goal has been fulfilled. My Bengal is independent." His voice broke with emotion.

Despite an appeal by West Pakistan to retain some ties, he said "the unity of the country is ended."

### He Greets Diplomats

Wiping flower petals from his head, Sheik Mujib inspected an honor guard of the army, navy and air force of Bangladesh, the nation proclaimed by his followers in East Pakistan last month after India helped them wrest the region from Pakistan.

Sheik Mujib greeted the members of the Dacca diplomatic corps, though only India and Bhutan have recognized Bangladesh and have official representatives here.

The American consul general, Herbert D. Spivack, bowed slightly as he shook hands with the Bengali leader, saying, "Welcome back to Dacca." Sheik Mujib smiled broadly and replied, "Thank you very much."

Mr. Spivack said that he had been invited in his personal capacity and that his attendance did not have any political significance. Bengali-American relations are poor.

Sheik Mujib's wife, Fajilotdun, did not attend today's ceremonies, reportedly because she was on the point of nervous

Continued on Page 10, Column 3

# Sheik Mujib Welcomed Back To Dacca by 500,000 Bengalis

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

exhaustion and was barely able to speak.

Until his release, Sheik Mujib had been under detention in West Pakistan, where he had been charged with treason.

Standing in the bright sunlight today, Sheik Mujib appealed to his vast audience not to seek revenge for the three million Bengalis he said had been murdered by the Pakistani Army during their nine-month drive to suppress the Bengali secession movement he led.

"Forgive them!" he shouted to the crowd. "Today I do not want revenge from anybody! There should not be any more killing!"

"The Bengal that will eat, smile, sing and be happy is my Bengal. Everyone in Bengal is now a Bengali and we must live together," he said.

His appeal was thought to be directed to the problem of the two million Biharis, the non-Bengali immigrants from India who had sided with the Pakistani Army.

Bengali officials estimated that half a million people were at the race course and that 100,000 lined the mile-and-a-half route there from the airport. But the crowd was smaller than on several previous occasions when Sheik Mujib spoke.

## Many Still in Villages

Many Bengalis believed that the size of the crowd reflected the enormous number of deaths in the war. And many Dacca residents have still not returned from their native villages where they fled during the war. As the flower-bedecked truck on which Sheik Mujib rode from the airport passed slowly through the crowd, there were long rhythmic chants of "Sheik Mujib zinabad!" ("Long live Sheik Mujib!").

Thousands of voices also chanted:

"A new nation has come upon the earth—Bangladesh! Bangladesh! A new ism has come to the world—Mujibism! Mujibism!"

Many excited spectators tried to touch their leader and some who managed to break through police lines hugged him in long embraces.

Sheik Mujib has long been the overwhelming favorite of the 75 million Bengalis. The Awami League, the party of which he is president, won 167 of the 169 seats allotted to East Pakistan in the National

Assembly elections in December, 1970.

When Sheik Mujib demanded autonomy for the eastern region, President Agha Moham-mad Yahya Khan of Pakistan first postponed the assembly session and then, on March 25, moved with his army to crush the Bengali movement. Guerrilla warfare broke out and as many as 10 million Bengalis are said to have fled to India.

## 'Friend of Bengal'

The 51-year-old Sheik Mujib, who is tall for a Bengali and has a thick mustache and a heavy shock of graying hair, was affectionately hailed today as Bangabandhu, or friend of Bengal. He was wearing a black suit with a high buttoned collar.

At the race course, Sheik Mujib told his vast audience that the last words of the new Pakistani President, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, to him before he was released and put on a plane to London were, "Try to keep Pakistan together if there is any way."

"I said nothing," Sheik Mujib recalled. "But now I say to you Bengal is independent, and let the people of Pakistan and the people of Bangladesh live happily. The unity of the country is ended."

Sheik Mujib's popularity is so great that his word has virtually become law with many Bengalis. His followers in the Bengali cabinet, none of whom have even a fraction of his prestige or popularity, have postponed most critical decisions pending his return.

Among the questions awaiting Sheik Mujib are how to disarm the 100,000 or more men who have been fighting as guerrillas and how to protect the two million Biharis. He will also be expected to help Bangladesh gain international recognition and find large amounts of foreign aid to rebuild the nation's shattered economy.

It has been officially estimated that the new nation needs at least \$3-billion for reconstruction, or three-quarters of the region's total annual production of \$4-billion.

The new president, in addition, will have to decide whether to allow any room in his government for members of the small opposition parties, the National Awami party and the Communists. Moscow, which has provided crucial political and military aid to India and Bangladesh, is expected to bring heavy pressure on the Bengalis to permit representation for the two leftist groups.