Hindu Refugees Back in Dacca Find Themselves Without Homes or the Means of Earning a Living

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DACCA, Pakistan, Jan. 15 (AP) — Last week, he was an occupant of a house on his head and looked at the charred wall of his home. He had just come back from a refugee camp in India, where he had had in March with his wife and three daughters.

Like the 1,000 other people who inhabit the narrow street, known as Shankhri Bazar, Mr. Nog found things back in Dacca. Mr. Nog has found that all his furniture has been stolen, his house burned and his father, who stayed behind, was killed.

Most difficult of all, Mr. Nog said, his prized tools for making shell jewelry were smashed, and without tools he cannot earn a living. "Without them I am nothing," he said despondently. "I am not a man, I cannot support my family."

For liberation, but for us it is only a beginning and not the end of trouble," he said. Before last March Shankhri Bazar was a medieval-looking street lined with crammed three-story buildings that shut out the light and created complete slops. Its name, Shankhri, was derived from the Bengal word for shell, which was being used in making most of the jewelry.

But on the night of March 25, the Bangladesh Army's effort to crush the Bengali autonomy movement, troops attacked the street from its two enclosed ends, burning down 25 of the houses.

Now Mr. Nog is unsure whether he ought to go back to the Indian refugee camps in Calcutta. He has turned the Army's effort to crush the Bengali autonomy movement.

"If the relief stops, we will starve," Mr. Datta said. The boy, who had been for a while, now found that the relief supplies, covered with red stencils, Datta and his wife returned to Dacca three days ago and have been living on the small ration of wheat distributed by the local office of the Awami League, the main political party in Bangladesh. Today they got a pound of uncooked rice for the three of them.

"As I am a man and as I am a Hindu, I do not know what will happen," Mr. Datta said. Chandra Sarkar, told an elderly woman a year ago to get food. "But our supplies are running low and we expect for everything I get at party headquarters."

Mr. Sarkar said that the Red Cross had given him 50 blankets, but there are 15 people to a blanket and he expected up to 10,000 more in the next few weeks.