

# Life returning to normal in Sylhet

SYLHET, Apr. 29:—Life in Sylhet town and the surrounding rural areas is fast returning to normal after the Army cleared the whole area from the miscreants and Indian infiltrators, writes Fazal Qureshi, PPI special correspondent.

City springs to life early in the day. Shops open and people get busy with their  
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# Sylhet

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day's routine. Such is the rush of people in Zinda Bazar and Bandar Bazar central shopping areas of the town, that there is hardly a place to walk without jostling shoulders with the crowd. Footpaths are full of vendors selling vegetables which are brought from the rural areas. The shops are full of goods of daily life and brisk shopping goes on till the end of the day.

Throughout the day, long queues of umbrella carrying people are seen trekking into the city from the suburban areas, over the magnificent Keane Bridge which connects right and left sections of Sylhet town across Surma River.

As I went round the city I saw telephone line and Electricity Department workers busy repairing lines disrupted by the miscreants. The electricity supply is now normal and practically the entire telephone system is also in working order. The water supply was not disrupted at all.

Everyday I saw large number of people returning to the town from the rural areas where they had taken refuge when the local miscreants became active. Government and private offices have opened and attendance is fast increasing.

The authorities are keeping law and order situation completely under control.

The people clearly understand the falsehood of the propaganda blared out by the All India Radio daily. Only till very recently they were claiming that the Sylhet town was under the control of the miscreants and that fierce fighting was going on.

The Army is busy clearing the remaining isolated pockets of anti state elements and Indian infiltrators. These elements have been harassing the local population taking advantage of the difficult nature of the terrain marked by dense jungles and forest covered hills. Complicating the problem is the fact that Indian border circles Sylhet district like a horse-shoe from three sides distance of the border in all directions not exceeding 30 to 40 miles from Sylhet town.