

Peace prevails in Faridpur

By A Special Correspondent

Peace and normalcy has been prevailing in the district of Faridpur. Since it was cleared of the miscreants by the Pakistan Army the peace-loving patriotic people of the area, who had suffered in many ways due to the activities of the miscreants, have heaved a sigh of relief now.

During my recent visit to different places of the district, I gathered that the miscreants, in collaboration with armed infiltrators and some irresponsible persons belonging to the outlawed Awami League, created a reign of terror through loot and arson. They also extorted money from the traders and threatened many of their lives and property. They brought about almost a state of anarchy and the peace-loving citizens had to suffer from a sense of insecurity.

On April 20, a group of armed miscreants raided Bhanga Police Station and took away arms from there. When some of the police personnel who were present at the time of raid, attempted to resist, the hooligans they were threatened of their lives. On April 18 a group of armed miscreants attacked a country boat in the river Kumar, a little away from Bhanga Police Station and at the point of swords looted valuable from the traders.

Several cases of armed dacoities were also reported from different areas of Faridpur district. People became so panicky that after sunset, nobody dared come out of their houses.

By sunset all shops and business places were also closed.

The rural people became so troubled by the hooliganism carried out by a handful of armed miscreants that they were contemplating to put up resistance against the miscreants. When I was walking through a muddy village road on April 13 four villagers came forward from a farm land and asked for my identity. My simple answer that I was a service holder did not satisfy them. They wanted to know my political bias. I replied that I did not belong to any political party. Then they asked me specifically whether I belonged to the secessionist group. Fortunately, an educated gentle man who was passing through there at the time halted and asked about my identity. My answer satisfied him. After the gentleman had convinced the four villagers that I was neither a man of Awami League nor a secessionist, they allowed me to go. I realised how the village people had become angry upon Awami League.

A large number of people in district villages including Nagar Manikdi, Bardia, Batakamari, Pirer Char, Munshurabaj and Sadarpur, whom I interviewed, told me that they believed in one Pakistan. "Inshallah we shall uphold the integrity of the country at all costs," they told me. A school teacher of village Bardia told me that, in his opinion the

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Lieut-General A.A.K. Niazi, Commander, Eastern Command, during his visit to the

Gen. Niazi visits Sylhet

Lieut. General A.A.K. Niazi, Commander, Eastern Command on Sunday visited troops in Sylhet area, reports APP.

On arrival at Sylhet airport, he was received by the local Army commander who later briefed him on the progress of mopping up operations in his area. He told Gen. Naizi that troops had combed the entire area right upto the border which has been fully secured.

The local commander said that raids were also being mounted on hide-outs of anti-state elements and Indian infiltrators in the outlying areas. Adequate information about such hide-outs, he added, was voluntarily provided by patriotic people who have refused to give quarter to such elements.

General Niazi also drove to Hemu, about 15 miles from Sylhet town towards the northern border. He inspected arrangements made in the area to seal routes of Indian infiltration. He gave orders on the spot to further secure the border belt.

During 15-mile drive in the country-side, he saw peasants harvesting the boro crop and herds of cattle-heads grazing in the fields. The rural areas were as tranquil as the Sylhet town itself.

On way back from Hemu, Gen. Niazi drove through the Sylhet bazar which was humming with normal life. Gen. Niazi flew back to Dacca in the afternoon.

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Gen. Casement

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secessionists were instigated by India to create confusion among the people of East Pakistan. "When I asked him about the basis on which he had drawn his conclusion the school teacher told me that in the middle of April he was in Kushtia visiting one of his relation's house when the Indian Radio claimed repeatedly that Kushtia was in the control of the anti-state elements.

"But I did not see any trace of their action at Kushtia he told me. "Of course, I heard about the armed infiltrators from India," the school teacher added.

"On the top of all," the school teacher continued, "I heard from Kushtia that the infiltrators were fighting against the Pakistan Army at different places of Faridpur. Naturally I was very much worried about my family member here and rushed to my village home. When I reached Faridpur on April 29, I saw complete peace there. I could know that the Pakistan Army had come here about a week ago.