

SUNDAY

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ARMY CLOSING

Organise liquidate

Lieut-General Tikka Khan, the East Pakistan Governor and provincial Martial Law Administrator, has said that organised armed resistance has been liquidated all over the province, reports APP.

Only scattered cases of mischief making are taking place in the interior which mostly are in the form of looting, terrorism or harassment of the innocent population he said.

The Governor was talking informally to two special correspondents of the APP who had called on him at the Governor's House Friday at the end of their one-month tour of East Pakistan on assignment.

General Tikka Khan in his 45-minute talk spoke of the overall situation prevailing in the province, particularly with regard to Indian infiltration, complete restoration of administration and revival of fuller economic activity.

Answering question the Governor said the Army was closing in on mischief-makers and it would not be too long before they were eliminated also.

About Indian infiltration General Tikka Khan said Indian infiltrators were resorting to acts of sabotage at certain points but to little or no advantage.

On the question of restoration of administration he said more and more Government servants were reporting for duty.

Governor Tikka Khan disclosed that in order to utilize the available administrative manpower to the maximum he had launched a scheme under which full assistance is being provided at the district level. He further said that the measure had gone a long way in gearing up the administration.

Gen. Tikka Khan emphatically denied foreign Press reports of impending famine in East Pakistan. He said so

far as foodgrains were concerned these were not scarce. Government had adequate stocks. However in certain areas due to disruption of communications the transportation of food stocks was creating some difficulty, he said.

For example, the Indian infiltrators had damaged certain rail bridges between Dacca and Chittagong which were being repaired speedily, he said.

On the economic side the Governor said majority of the factories and mills as also shops had started working. Measures were being evolved to make the remaining industrial and commercial houses to resume work very soon.

Asked if the Martial Law Administration intended taking deterrent action against those who were not running their industrial or commercial concerns, he replied that all of them were being induced to operate their concerns.

To a question whether there was any possibility of such industrial units and shops as were still not open, being sealed off or allotted to others to keep them going for the sake of the province's economy, he said he would not rule out such a possibility. They could not be allowed to hit the economy of East Pakistan any more like this, he added.

General Tikka Khan expressed satisfaction at the normalcy prevailing in the agricultural sector. "This is a very heartening aspect of East Pakistan's economy" he remarked.

Replying to a question the Governor said the labour had started returning to the tea gardens in Sylhet and there was not much loss to the tea industry.

He told a questioner that vigorous efforts were being made to retrieve the huge amount of money looted from certain Government treasuries and banks during the troubled days. However in certain cases, according to him, the money had gone out of the country.

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