

Rangpur welcomes Army action to save country

By A Special Correspondent

RANGPUR, May 24:—Before the Army moved into actions, the armed Indian infiltrators and their Awami League collaborators had resorted to terror tactics in villages adjoining Indian borders, according to reports reaching here.

The miscreants, armed with weapons supplied by India had raided the houses of patriotic people living in border areas of Rangpur district and looted cash, paddy and other house-hold properties at gun-point. They had also kidnapped several patriotic citizens and kept them as hostages un-

til they were paid a sizeable amount of ransom by their relations for their release. But as soon as the Army advanced into the area, the miscreants fled away. In most cases, the miscreants left their weapons without firing a single bullet before the advance of our Army who after clearing of the miscreants brought peace and tranquillity in the area.

People who now heaved a sigh of relief at the approach of our army in the area reported that before the arrival of Pakistan Army, the infiltra-
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tors and the Awami Leaguers unleashed a reign of terror in the border areas indulging in large-scale looting, arson and murder in order to intimidate the peaceful and patriotic citizens who refused to fall prey to their nefarious acts.

Kurigram

The Kurigram subdivision and some police stations of the sadar sub-division in the district became the worst target of the antistate activities of the miscreants. It is learnt that miscreants had burnt the house of a former MPA Kazi Asaduzzaman (Mantu Kazi) at Kaligonj P.S. after looting cash, rice and other house-hold properties from it. They had also kidnapped his aged father and released him after a few days. In the early part of the last month before our Army moved into action in the area, the miscreants raided the houses of several patriotic wealthy agriculturist and extorted money by force. They also brutally killed a large number of patriotic citizens who refused to help them in resisting Pakistan Army on their advance to this area.

In Kurigram, before the army arrived, the infiltrators were reported to have kidnapped of the anti-state activities a former Parliamentary Secretary from his village home in April last and since then, nothing is being heard about his fate.

of roads and bridges by the armed infiltrators has been fully restored and buses and other vehicles are running as usual. The train service between Rangpur and Parbatipur Dinaipur district and Parbatipur to Santahar via Kaunia Gaibandha, Bogra and Bonarpara has been resumed. The train service between Santahar and Khulna via Natore, Ishurdi and Poradaha has also been resumed with increasing number of passengers travelling daily.

During my stay at Rangpur I found general public gradually realising the blunder they committed by supporting Awami League and its Six points in the last elections. They now feel that the Awami League's demand for Six points was nothing but a tache to disintegrate the country and make East Pakistan a satellite of Imperialist India which never reconciled to the division of Akhand Bharat. Creating of a large-scale disturbance in the province by Awami League and infiltration of Indian collaborators into this sacred soil of the millions of Muslims preceding the Army actions have once again exposed to the people the motive of the Awami League and its leaders.

A middle aged man while expressing his regret over his support to Awami League in the last elections said to me that he had voted for Awami League for the autonomy of East Pakistan but not for disintegration of Pakistan.

Looting

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Villagers who fled from these police stations to save lives from those armed hooligans told me that the Indian military vehicles painted with white colour moved freely from Indian border to Kurigram carrying arms and ammunition for the miscreants and on their return, the vehicles carried away paddy, rice and jute looted from the government and private godowns at Kurigram before the advance of the Pakistan Army into this subdivisional headquarters about a month ago.

They said that when the miscreants fled away from Kurigram at the approach of our Awans, the former took away all the cash and valuables from the Government treasury and the commercial banks. They also destroyed valuable documents and killed a large number of patriotic citizens of the town.

They further told me that the miscreants who came in groups asked the local people to destroy bridges and roads and if any one refused to comply with their orders they were subjected to inhuman physical torture and even death by a bullet shot. But the patriotic people refused to collaborate with them. They should rather die both the succumb to such pressures. They stated that a station master of Rajarhat railway station in Kurigram was brutally murdered by the miscreants when he flatly denied to co-operate with the destructive acts which not only hampered the normal communications but also brought undesirable economic plight for the common man living in the subdivision.

Normalcy

Meanwhile, complete normalcy has returned all over the district of Rangpur with our Army in full control of the situation. Almost all shops and business establishments have opened. The residents who left the town temporarily following the oppression let loose by the Awami League and their collaborators in March last, have come back and started their normal work. The communication system which was cut off following destruction

People's mandate

The people undoubtedly did not give any mandate to the Awami League and its leaders to cut the country into pieces with the help of India, he added. Welcoming the Army actions to save the country from disintegration, he said that the people of East Pakistan who sacrificed a lot for the establishment of Pakistan and to free themselves from the shackles of the slavery of big Hindu zemindars and businessmen, will not allow the anti-state elements to destroy this sacred home land which was achieved through many sacrifices. "We are determined to stand behind our patriotic Army to save the sovereignty and unity of our dear homeland from the unholy design of our enemy", he declared.

Meanwhile, with the restoration of normalcy in the district, the civilian administration is being geared up to perform their normal work. The police and other law enforcing forces have been entrusted to patrol the town during curfew hours. This has brought back confidence among the people living in the town. The people are forming peace committees at thana and union level. The general public have also come forward voluntarily to extend all co-operation with the Army in restoration of law and order in the district. Nothing untoward has happened in the town since the Army started action against the miscreants and the Indian infiltrators.

Baggage on EPRTC coaches fixed

The provision for carrying personal effects free of charge in the coach services of the East Pakistan Road Transport Corporation (EPRTC) has been temporarily refixed at 30 lbs., instead of 40 lbs., per passenger per journey, says a Press release, reports AFP.

The decision has been taken due to pressure of carrying additional loads of postal mail bags, newspapers, etc. by its coach services.