

# Lahore Newsletter

## Row over Razakars: PPP's 'mysterious' seats

From Our Correspondent

LAHORE (By Mail) : —

Since the return of M'an Mahmud, Ali Kasuri, Vice-Chairman, People's Party from East Pakistan, he has been a victim of criticism by PPP leaders for commending the role of Razakars in countering the activities of saboteurs. First to attack Mr. Kasuri was the radical PPP leader from Karachi, Mr. Miraj Khan who said that Mr. Kasuri's remarks about the Razakars were against the official viewpoint of the PPP as expressed by the Chairman, Mr. Bhutto and other responsible leaders. Thus started a controversy about the person and even the role played by Mr. Kasuri as head of the first PPP delegation to East Pakistan in securing half a dozen seats in the National Assembly in by-elections. Some revolutionary type leaders were so annoyed as to say that the PPP would not like to get seats in the National Assembly from East Pakistan by joining

hands with the rightist parties which they thought represented none.

Mr. Kasuri on the other hand was defended by some of the members of his delegation who had seen for themselves the working of the Razakars in East Pakistan. This controversy is not yet over as the Secretary General, PPP, Mr. J. A. Rahim has announced that he would soon make a statement about the PPP's official policy towards the role of Razakars. The PPP organ, daily 'Musa-wat' of Lahore has also editorially appealed to the critics of Mr. Kasuri to use restraint and wait for Mr. Rahim's juicy statement.

The PPP leaders sitting in Karachi and Lahore in their prejudice against the Jamaat-i-Islami and other rightist parties have gone to the extent of even disbelieving their No. 2 leader, who gave the statement about the commendable role of East Pakistan Razakars

after having himself seen them working during his recent tour of East Pakistan. It was not Mr. Kasuri alone, but he had over a dozen members of his delegation who have seen the working of the Razakars in East Pakistan and they are unanimous in upholding the view of Mr. Kasuri. What the Karachi and Lahore PPP leaders do not realise is that there is a gulf of difference between observing the things with one's own eyes and receiving reports from other sources whether reliable or not, confirmed or unconfirmed. Mr. Kasuri and members of his team have seen what the PPP leaders of West Pakistan have not seen but relied on hearsay. Mr. Miraj Khan was included in Mr. Kasuri's team but he refused to accompany the team at the eleventh hour. Had he done so, his views would have been far different from those he holds now without visiting East Pakistan and would not give credence to Mr. Kasuri's statement.

## RADIO

### DACCA

SATURDAY  
SEHRI PROGRAMMES

3.45 Tilawat Pak by Qari Md. Idris iii) Trajama by S.M. Ali (S.A.) iii) Hamd by Md. Ali Siddiqui iv) Ramzan Akhuwat Aun Ekjehti v) Naat by Ferdoushi Rahman vi) Darood-e-Munajat: Participants: A.F.M. Husan & Moz-zamul Huq. ix) Closing announcements. 4.30 Close down.

TRANSMISSION—I

CHANNEL—I

6.30 Tilawat-e-Kalam-e-Pak by Qari Md. Obaidullah, 6.40 Hamd, 6.45 Quran-e-Hakim O Amader Zindegi: Talk in Bengali 8.55 a) Weather Forecast b) Naat. 7.00 News in Bengali 7.15 Recorded song 7.30 Modern song: Md. Ali Siddiqui 7.40 Qaumi Gaan 7.45 Programme summary in Bengali 7.50 Nazrul Islam's song: Shahnaz Begum 8.00 News in Urdu 8.10 News in English 8.20 Bengali Commentary 9.00 Gramer Patha: A composite pro-

Hamd & Naat 5.45 Quran Hakim-o-Amader Zindegi: Talk in Bengali 5.55 a) Weather forecast b) Programme summary 6.00 News in Urdu 6.10 News in Bengali 6.20 Forces programme, A composite programme for the forces 6.50 Dacca News 7.00 Amader Pakistan: A composite Programme for the rural listeners: Conducted by Md. Asafudullah. 7.20 Modern song: Md. Ali Siddiqui 7.30 Folk song: Dilara Ali 7.40 Modern song: Kh. Farukh Ahmed 7.50 Ghazal: Shahnaz Begum 8.00 News in Bengali 8.15 Dristi Kon 8.20 Modern song: Khalid Hosain 8.30 Aina 8.35 Qaumi Gaan 8.40 Qaumi Gaan 8.45 News in Urdu 9.00 News in English 9.15 News Review in English 9.20 News Review in Bengali 9.25 Qaumi Gaan 9.30 Brahman Khama Karo Spastabashan 9.35 Orchestra 9.40 Qaumi Gaan 9.45 Plain truth 9.50 News in Bengali 10.00 Manjuri/Jawab Din 10.30 Rag Lahari: Khyal 11.20 News in

Not only Mr. Kasuri, but other leaders of East Pakistan and West Pakistanis returning from East Pakistan have praised the work of the Razakars in countering the saboteurs' activities. Mr. Nurul Amin, PDP Chief, informed President Yahya Khan during his meeting in Lahore on Saturday that Razakars were doing excellent work in East Pakistan. He had even urged the President to increase their strength and provide them with more arms. The President agreed to his demand and assured him that the number of Razakars would be increased and more arms supplied to them. Mr. Nurul Amin refuted the propaganda against the Razakars that they were killing the innocent people of East Pakistan taking vengeance from the leftist elements or their personal enemies. Had there been some truth in the PPP leaders' allegations against the East Pakistan Razakars, President Yahya Khan would not have agreed to increase their strength, nor would Mr. Nurul Amin have pleaded their cause.

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The uncontested election of half-a-dozen candidates of the PPP in the National Assembly by-elections has surprised political circles in Lahore. Though apparently it is the success of Mr. Kasuri's mission, the rightists read something deep into the matter and some of them even describe it a 'conspiracy'. They were under the impression that the victory of the PPP of six seats was the result of some understanding with Mr. Nurul Amin who heads the six-party alliance for the purpose of the by-elections in East Pakistan. But the ignorance expressed by Mr. Nurul Amin in Karachi and Lahore describing the PPP victory as 'mysterious' confounded the matter. It absolved Mr Nurul Amin of the charge of any understanding with the PPP. He even discussed the matter with President Yahya Khan. The matter would not have caused any surprise had the by-elections to most of the vacant N.A. seats not been held uncontested because of pre-election understanding among the contesting political parties to which the PPP was not invited.

Left to the PPP alone, it is obvious that it could not win a single seat in East Pakistan because of the grave feelings and sentiments of a majority of the people against the party and its leaders. Then the question arises how it managed to bag six seats?