

# Provisional Government Of Bangla Desh Formed

## Liberation Army Starts March To Dacca

### S.O.S. From Yahya's Men For Reinforcements

**NEW DELHI, March 28.—As Free Bangla Radio announced the formation of a Provisional Government for Bangla Desh and the "liberation forces" of Mr Mujibur Rahman began marching to Dacca, the Pakistani Navy joined the Army and the Air Force in the effort to crush the resistance movement, report UNI and PTL.**

The shaky position of the Pakistani Army in Dacca, despite the massive destruction wrought by the use of artillery, tanks and bomber aircraft, came to light when Indian monitors picked up an SOS to the West wing headquarters for help as it was "impossible to save Dacca." A Dacca broadcast later confirmed that reinforcements had been sought.

The cryptic SOS message from Lt.-Colonel. Azam Khan said: "procession from Chittagong. Send help. impossible. save Dacca."

The "procession" referred to was apparently the march by the "Liberation Forces" of Bangla Desh.

Col. Khan's message was sent at 3.30 a.m. Bangla Desh time. Later in the day Free Bangla broadcast said that the "Liberation Army" was on its way from Chittagong to Dacca.

Free Bangla Radio went on to claim that "except for a few urban pockets, where the enemy is entrenched, the rest of Bangla Desh is under the control of the Liberation Force".

The Pakistani Navy began shelling Chittagong after troops disembarked there from ships which had reached the harbour, these troops had encountered stiff resistance from the Bengalis.

Reports indicated that apart from the men from Chittagong, another group from the Comilla side was also marching to Dacca. The line of the marchers was steadily swelling with more and more young men joining them as they passed through village after village.

Pakistani Air Force units resorted to bombing for the second successive day, killing an unspecified number of unnamed civilians. "Liberation Force" units wiped out a company of the West Punjab Regiment at Khulna. Another unit of the West Punjab Regiment stationed at Chaudanga in Kushtia district surrendered to the "Liberation Forces" of Mr. Rahman. A portion of the 34 mile-long Halding Bridge, generally known as Sagar Bridge, was blown off when the Pakistani Air Force

planes dropped bombs on a huge Army of "Liberation Forces" of Bangla Desh proceeding to Kushtia from across the River Padma this afternoon.

Heavy casualties were inflicted as a result of the bombing, according to a prominent Awami League leader.

The large Army of "Liberation Forces" were coming to Kushtia in aid of their colleagues who were locked in a bitter fight with the West Pakistani troops. The troops had arrived earlier to release two Pakistani Army units confined by the "Liberation Forces" at Kushtia and Chaudanga for the past two days.

The Martial Law Administrator in Khulna was seriously injured while he was directing Army operations, against the "Liberation Forces" today, travellers reaching Krishnagar from across the border said.

Major Maize of the 24-Field Frontier Force unit and several of his men were also seriously injured at Daulatpur in Khulna district when they were attacked by Mr. Rahman's forces.

Pakistani Air Force helicopters

were reportedly shelling the populated towns of Comilla and Chittagong, according to reliable reports reaching Azartala.

Other reports said West Pakistani troops were maintaining their attacks on the "Liberation Army" using Soviet Tiger tanks, U.S. Sabre jets and Chinese small arms. Air Force helicopters were shelling the populous towns of Comilla and Chittagong.

Free Bangla Radio announced the capture of Army installations at Comilla, Jessore and Khulna at Rangpur and Saidpur towns in

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### NO REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION YET

**NEW DELHI, March 28.—The Government of India has not so far received any request from the Provisional Government of Bangla Desh for recognition, according to informed sources here tonight, reports PTL. Setting up of a Provisional Government was announced by the Free Bangla Radio earlier today.**

## CONG (R) STAND TO BE DISCLOSED

**NEW DELHI, March 28.—The Congress (R) Working Committee meets here tomorrow to determine the party's attitude, as distinct from the Government's, towards the freedom struggle now being waged by the people of Bangla Desh.**

While the Government, it is conceded, cannot as an entity do anything that might appear to constitute an interference in the internal affairs of another country, the party, it is felt, must identify itself with the popular sentiment in favour of Bangla Desh and its leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, already manifest in demonstrations all over the country.

While the agenda simply mentions "discussion on the international situation" as the main item, it is presumed that Bangla Desh will claim top priority. As the ruling party, the Congress (R) may not be in a position to offer open support to Mr. Rahman's supporters but it is felt that their cause could be served by the party focussing attention on the genocide and scorched-earth policy being pursued by the West Pakistani Army.

A point that is likely to be made is that the West Pakistani action has already resulted in more deaths of Muslims than the Arab-Israeli war.

Some popular vote of the majority could not secede from the minority. Apart from Bangla Desh, the CWC (R) is expected to address itself to organizational matters, including the question how it should involve itself in the implementation of the programmes to which the Government is already committed. In fact, this will be the major organizational issue which the leaders will discuss in addition to the question of building trained cadres all over the land.

The committee may also have a preliminary look at the draft of the main resolution to be considered by the All India Congress Committee when it meets in the capital on April 3 and 4. A five-member committee comprising Mr. Chandrasekar (Convener) Mr. K. D. Malaviya, Mr. Henry Austin, Mr. K. Mallappa and Mr. Chandrasekar has been asked to prepare the resolution. The final draft as it emerges after tomorrow's meeting will be considered again when the CWC meets a day before the AICC session.



Chinese workers before the army in Dacca, which had been closed because of protest against the martial law.

## Delhi Rejects By Islam

**NEW DELHI, March 28.—India has rejected Pakistani protests that she was interfering in the internal affairs of Pakistan in the context of the growing crisis in the eastern wing of that country.**

The rejection of Pakistani protests, one delivered at Islamabad yesterday, and the other made verbally by the Pakistan High Commissioner, Mr. Sajjad Haider, when he called at the External Affairs Ministry at his own request today, was conveyed to the Pakistan Embassy by a senior official of the Ministry.

The reference in the Pakistani protests to the discussion on Bangla Desh in the Indian Parliament yesterday was taken exception to by the External Affairs Ministry. Indian Parliament, the High Commissioner was told, was a sovereign body and was not under the control of the Government. In spite of it, references by the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister to the grave situation in East Pakistan were extremely restrained.

Mr. Haider, who accused the Indian Press and radio of carrying on "false, mischievous and hostile" propaganda against Pakistan, was told that India was not interfering in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

The High Commissioner, according to the official, warned that the result of his kind of reporting would not be good. Asked by the official whether that was intended to be a threat, the High Commissioner claimed he was only conveying what he had told him and he did not know what that meant.

Apparently embarrassed by the

# Liberation Army's March

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Rangpur district had also fallen to Mr Rahman's men, it said.

Pakistani Army contingents retreating from Comilla Cantonment were stopped by men of the "Liberation Force" at a point south of Fakirhat bridge on the Gomti this afternoon.

A Pakistani Army magazine was captured by the "Liberation Forces" after a battle which lasted several hours. Army units guarding the magazine tried hard to communicate with headquarters for help, but did not succeed.

Brahmanbaria, a subdivisional town of Comilla district was completely under the control of the Bangla Desh "Liberation Force" and life was absolutely normal there, reports reaching Shillong said today.

A report reaching Krishnagar said that "Liberation Forces" had captured the industrial town of Narayanjanj after forcing West Pakistani troops to retreat.

A Free Bangla broadcast, monitored at about noon said fierce fighting was in progress in the Nababpur and Johnson Road areas of Dacca.

The Radio said "Liberation Forces" at Mirjapur foiled an attempt by Pakistani troops to advance to Tangail from Dacca. The whole of Tangail district was under the control of "freedom-fighters", it added.

West Pakistani troops were either retreating or surrendering in the face of massive resistance by rural people who had also taken to arms. The main strategy to be adopted by the civilian population to bring the enemy to "their knees" was to ensure that they did not get water and food, the radio said.

Free Bangla Radio which announced the formation of the Provisional Government, headed by the Liberation Army Chief, Major Jia Khan, said the march to Dacca had begun at 8.45 a.m. from Chittagong where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has reportedly set up his headquarters.

Martial Law authorities on their part airlifted several thousand troops to Chittagong to quell the disturbances. The Military controlled Dacca Radio said. Claiming "all quiet" elsewhere the radio said there were some disturbances in Khuina also. Reports said the Army was facing scarcity of medicine, food and other essentials.

Pathan soldiers of the Pakistan Army who attempted to hoist the Pakistani flag at Akhaura junction, close to the Tripura border, hastily withdrew when Awami League volunteers led by students, surrounded them.

"Liberation Force" sources said the people of Akhaura were preparing to face a likely attack by Pakistani Army units.

In Brahmanbaria, another border town under the control of the "Liberation Forces", four Army officials, including two Colonels, were killed in a clash. Mr Rahman's volunteer units, led by students, were in full control of Sylhet, reports said.

Reports trickling through the borders of Sylhet district today indicated that Pakistani Army units stationed in Sylhet district were withdrawing from their stations as "Liberation Forces" of Bangla Desh moved forward.

The Army encampment at Atgan (in Pakistan) opposite Jalalpur-Pirnagar of India, appeared abandoned today and only empty camps stood there. A few days ago units of the Pakistan Army were put in this camp and could be seen from this side.

The Pakistan Army resorted to shooting in Dacca again today, BBC reported today.

Curfew was reimposed in Dacca at 5 p.m. today after a few hours

one could become the member of the party or call himself a member of the Awami League.

The funds standing in the name of Awami League with banks have been frozen. All banks having Awami League accounts have been asked to supply details of such accounts to the headquarter of the Chief Martial Law Administrator within 30 days. They have also been asked to give full details of the deposits made in the name of the Awami League on March 26 and also details of the withdrawals on March 26.

An announcement over Free Bangla Radio said the pro-Peking National Awami League of Maulana Bhashani had placed its 50,000 peasant supporters at the disposal of the "Liberation Army."

The Pakistani Army authorities are distributing arms among non-Bengali residents in Bangla Desh, reports from "Liberation Force" sources across the border said today.

The Pakistan Martial Law authorities were reported to have prescribed severe measures against any one listening to Indian broadcasts. Defying the fiat, thousands of people were thronging around the radio sets throughout Bangla Desh.

## RAHMAN'S ASSURANCE

A Free Bangla Radio broadcast said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had security to Sindh, Baluchis and Pakhtoons in East Pakistan.

Earlier, Major Zia assumed powers as Commander-in-Chief of the Bengal Liberation Army in a broadcast over the Free Bangla Radio he said: "I hereby assume the powers of the provisional head of the Liberation Army of Swadhin Bangla Desh. As the provisional head I order the freedom-fighters of Bangla Desh to continue the struggle till ultimate victory. Jai Bangla."

He said that the enemy was bringing additional troops by sea and air. He appealed to all peace-loving people of the world to come to the help of "the democratic-minded fighting people of Bangla Desh."

Major Zia requested all freedom-fighters in and around Chittagong to assemble at the Lal Digue Maidan for an important announcement. He directed them to carry with them whatever weapons they possessed.

Radio Pakistan this morning quoted an official statement in Dacca to say that reports of fighting in East Pakistan "as carried by certain foreign news agencies" were completely without foundation. It claimed that the Army was in full control of the situation in East Pakistan and "life is fast returning to normal."

The radio also denied reports that Chittagong, Comilla and Jessore were under effective control of the Awami League supporters. It said that employees of Government offices and autonomous and semi-autonomous corporations were reporting for duty. The employees of Radio Pakistan and the Pakistan Television Corporation had already resumed work and normal programmes were being broadcast, it added.

The chairman of the People's Party, Mr Z. A. Bhutto, has supported President Yahya Khan's order to the Army to crush the independence movement. He was quoted by Radio Pakistan as telling a Press conference in Karachi yesterday that whatever steps had been taken by the President in regarding to East Pakistan "are in the best interests of the country."

## Awami Offices In W. Pakistan Destroyed

NEW DELHI, March 28.—Awami League offices in West Pakistan were destroyed

shooting in Dacca again today, BBC reported today

Curfew was reimposed in Dacca at 5 p.m. today after a few hours' relaxation. Dacca was put under curfew last night along with Tongi and the industrial town of Narayanganj.

The Martial Law authorities also directed the banks in Dacca to open tomorrow. Government offices continued to be closed today.

The Pakistani army authorities today virtually acknowledged that the police force in Banga Desh was no longer under their control when Radio Pakistan, Dacca, repeatedly broadcast an order requiring gall policemen to report for duty at their respective stations tomorrow saying failure to do so would make them liable to be tried by military courts. Policemen had defied an earlier directive to resume duty by Saturday morning.

Municipal offices and hospitals were also asked to start functioning, the latter on round-the-clock basis.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator of Pakistan today issued an order banning the All-Pakistan Awami League as a political party throughout the country, Radio Pakistan reported. The order said no