

## Appeal To Nations For Recognition FREEDOM FIGHTERS MARCH ON DACCA Strategy To Starve Out West Pakistanis

**CALCUTTA, MAR 28.—THE FREE BANGLA RADIO TODAY ANNOUNCED A PROVISIONAL BANGLA DESH GOVERNMENT HEADED BY MAJOR JIA KHAN AND SAID ITS FORCES WERE ON THE MARCH ON DACCA FROM CHITTAGONG, REPORTS PTI.**

**THE RADIO SAID THE MARCH ON DACCA BEGAN AT 0845 HOURS TODAY.**

The Government would be guided by Banga Bandhu Mujibur Rahman, at present directing the freedom struggle from his underground headquarters in Chittagong, the broadcast said.

Major Jia Khan has been the chief of the liberation army of Bangla Desh since the resistance movement against West Pakistani troops started on March 25.

Major Jia Khan in a broadcast appeal sought recognition to his Government from peace-loving Governments. He also sought material assistance for the freedom fighters.

The radio announced the capture of army cantonments at Comilla, Jessore and Khulna by the Bangla Desh forces.

It gave no further details of the fighting, but went on to say that the International Human Rights Organization had condemned the army operations in Bangla Desh.

The main strategy to be adopted by the civilian population to bring the West Pakistani troops "to their knees" the radio said, was to ensure that the troops did not get water and food.

The broadcast assured full security to Sindhis, Baluchis and Pakhtoons living in Bangla Desh.

According to reliable reports received here, Pakistan Air Force helicopters were shelling the populated towns of Comilla and Chittagong.

**OVERALL STRENGTH**

ing additional troops both by the sea and by the air.

He appealed to all peace-loving peoples of the world to come to help of "the democratic minded fighting people of Bangla Desh". Major Jia claimed that the "liberation army" had killed 300 men

of the Punjab Regiment at Comilla. Other men of the regiment fled at the end of the fighting.

"Some foreign Government" has threatened the military authorities of Pakistan that if they continued to suppress the people of Bangla Desh it will have no alternative but to help the "liberation forces" fighting against the West Wing, a broadcast said on Sunday morning.

It did not name the foreign country.

The chairman of the West Pakistan People's Party Mr Z. A. Bhutto, has supported President Yahya Khan's order to the Army to crush the movement in East Pakistan.

Railway lines have been snapped at several places and bridges blown up by liberation forces in Sylhet, Comilla and Mymensingh districts.

### SOS TO WEST FOR MORE TROOPS

**SHILLONG, Mar 28.—**Pakistan military authorities in Dacca, in an SOS to their west wing headquarters picked up by monitors here, today called for more troops and other help, reports UNL.

"It is impossible to save Dacca", said the message, in seeking to impress upon the military headquarters of the urgency of the demand.

The cryptic message, signed by Zam Khan, Lt-Colonel, said:

### "NO ATTEMPT" ON TIKKA'S LIFE

**COLUMBO, Mar 28.—**The Pakistan High Commission here in a statement today said that no attempt on the life of General Tikka Khan, the Martial Law Administrator of East Pakistan, had been made and the question of his having been assassinated therefore, did not arise, reports PTI.

It also said reports that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had escaped from prison and was directing the liberation operations are "completely baseless".

**OVERALL STRENGTH**

While the overall strength of the Pakistan Army now deployed in Bangla Desh against the free Bangla movement was about 80,000, that of the liberation forces of Major Jia Khan was reckoned at 50,000.

The "liberation army" high command issued a series of directives to the people on how to help the freedom struggle. A spokesman called for complete blackout at night throughout Bangla Desh.

The directive said all airports in the region should be made unserviceable to prevent the arrival of troops. No able-bodied person should leave cities and towns for villages.

The Free Bangla Radio said on Sunday morning that "except for a few pockets in urban Bangla Desh where the enemy is entrenched ... the rest of Bangla Desh is under the control of the liberation forces".

Radio Australia's correspondent, Don Hook, said the military regime was doing its utmost to prevent information on its actions from leaking to the outside world.

Reliable reports received at Petrapote, a town on the West Bengal-East Pakistan border, said a 12-member panel of leaders had been set up to conduct the freedom struggle in Bangla Desh.

The panel is headed by Mr Rahman.

The Free Bangla Radio broadcast said Mr Rahman was at the "revolutionary headquarters".

Radio Pakistan denied reports that Chittagong, Comilla and Jessore were under effective control of Awami League supporters.

In a broadcast over the Free Bangla Radio Major Jia Khan, commander-in-chief of the "liberation army" said: "I hereby assume the powers of the provisional head of the liberation army of Swadhin Bangla Desh.

"As provisional head I order the freedom fighters of Bangla Desh to continue the struggle till ultimate victory. Jai Bangla". He said the enemy was bring-

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