

SH GOVT. SET UP

Zia heads provisional regime: appeal for help, recognition

CALCUTTA, March 28.

FREE Bangla Radio today announced a provisional Bangla Desh Government headed by Major Zia Khan and said its forces were on the march to Dacca from Chittagong.

The Government would be guided by "Banga Bandu" Mujibur Rahman, who is directing the liberation struggle from his revolutionary headquarters in Chittagong, the radio said.

Major Zia Khan, who has been the liberation army chief since the start of the resistance movement on Thursday, 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.

The radio went on to say that the International Human Rights Organisation 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 promised full security to Sindhis, Baluchis and Paktoons living in Bangla Desh.

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

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

In a broadcast over Free Bangla Radio, the liberation army high command sent out a series of directives to the civilian population on how to help the freedom struggle.

All motor drivers, civilian and de-

fence, were directed to assemble at Chittagong Rest House, the new headquarters of the Awami League.

A Liberation force spokesman called for complete black-out at nights throughout Bangla Desh.

The owners of petrol pumps should deny fuel to foreign troops. Only freedom-fighters with special permits issued by Swadhin Bangla Desh should be supplied with petrol.

All vehicles on the roads, including cars, should be checked by volunteers.

All airports in Bangla Desh should be made unserviceable to prevent arrival of airborne troops.

No able bodied person should leave cities and towns and go to villages.

All ex-army personnel knowing driving should immediately report at Awami League offices.

Meanwhile, the Voice of Free Bangla Fighters exhorted all young people possessing arms to report to the Bangla Desh army chief, Maj. Zia, Capt. Nasir and Capt. Phuian at Lal Digi Maidan in Chittagong and asked them to fight under their command.

The Swadhin Bangla Biplabi Betar Kendra in a special announcement

urged the people to check any kind of "infiltration into free Bengal."

The radio also said "some foreign government" had 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.

It did not name the foreign country. The West Pakistan army authorities, now in Bangla Desh, are facing acute scarcity of medicines, foodstock and other essential commodities as a result of complete non-cooperation by the people of Bangla Desh.

Meanwhile, all Government and semi-Government offices continued to remain closed under instructions from Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The radio appealed to India and other neighbouring countries to come forward to the aid of the freedom-fighters "in the gravest moment of their struggle against alien rulers."

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was "quite hale and hearty and is directing the operations of the Mukti Foz," the radio said.—U.N.I. and P.T.I.

Deputy C-in-C also flees

"The Times of India" News Service

COLOMBO, March 28: A planeload of West Pakistanis fleeing from the civil war in East Pakistan stopped over at Katunayake airport late last night en route to Karachi.

Among the passengers was Pakistan's deputy army chief, General Hamid Khan. The Pakistani High Commissioner here, who received the general



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