

Pakistan

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organized and is being led and carried out by a whole cross-section of East Bengalis, by some of the most talented, educated, capable, well-informed, serious and responsible citizens, and they are by no means amateurs, and they are deadly serious. Bangladesh is well organized and administered. There is a Government running all its affairs and it consists of the following: Syed Nazrul Islam, Acting President (Vice-President of Awami League); Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister (General Secretary of Awami League); Khandakar Moshtaque Ahmed, Minister of Foreign, Law and Parliamentary Affairs (one of the Vice-Presidents of Awami League); Mr. M Mansoor Ali, Minister for Finance (also a Vice-President of Awami League); Mr. A.H. M. Kamuarzaman, Minister for Home, Supply, Relief and Rehabilitation (former General Secretary of Awami League). All of these men are distinguished and highly respected, and also all of them were elected to the National Assembly. They are men of good education, experience, and have been politically active for many years, some of them were jailed during the Ayub Regime as was Sheik Mujibur Rahaman. These men, then, are in no mood for playing games, for they along with hundreds like them have set a course and are going to fight to the end if necessary.

The PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE of 10th April 1971 and the formation of the Government came as a direct result of the Pakistan Government actions since March 25. After being caught by such a surprise, the Bangladesh people scattered in some disarray, understandably, but now they are very well organized and coordinated. The enthusiasm and determination has continued, and is anything, has been increased in spite of the many sufferings and gigantic difficulties, including the reticence of world Governments for recognition of the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is also a reality in the form of well over 8 million refugees. 12,000 of whom are teachers, plus hundreds of other professional people from every walk of life. And also, Bangladesh exists in the form of 40 Diplomats who have defected from



The beautiful children of Bangladesh at Salt Lake camp near Calcutta.

Pakistan Embassies abroad, including 2 Ambassadors. Countries in which defections have taken place are Britain, Sweden, I.S.A., Iraq, Hong Kong, India, Philippines and France. The Pakistan Government has impounded all Diplomatic Passports in all Embassies as a further precaution to prevent other defections, this in addition to recalling as many Bengalis in Foreign Service as possible as well as keeping a very careful watch on all Embassy staff. Many Bengali Diplomats are being recalled after serving only very short terms as in the case of Mr. Khurram Khan Panni, the Pakistan Ambassador to Philippines who was to return in late October, but was recalled now. He resigned and has just joined the Bangladesh Movement. Bangladesh also exists in the form of practically all the students who make up 70 percent of Mukti Bahini (Liberation Forces.) Mukti Bahini

The people of Bangladesh had no idea that they would have to go to war to achieve what had been promised, but since the Pakistan Government's brutal suppression of their aspirations, they have now formed a very effective Liberation Army. The Mukti Bahini, though well organized and now well trained still lack proper equipment and arms to do battle with a modern well-equipped Army, Navy and Air Force. In spite of this, however, the Mukti Foj (mostly guerilla action) has inflicted considerable hardship on the Pakistan Army, and according to claims have killed hundreds of soldiers, have blown up major road and rail links, bridges, ghats, power pylons, and have even managed to blow up and sink a number of ships and boats. They were attacked right in the heart of Army strongholds such as Dacca, the main cantonment area, where not only have power supplies been seriously damaged twice now, but also they have managed to blow up part of the interior of Dacca Intercontinental Hotel. These 2 instances have been confirmed. Even if one allows for exaggerated claims, for example in the number of soldiers killed and captured, the success of the Mukti Bahini in frustrating the Pakistan Authorities is very considerable.

The Mukti Bahini has many training camps with a surplus of volunteers lacking proper training equipment, resulting in waiting lists. Most of the Bangladesh students have joined and are enthusiastic fighters, including some who are very young. One such chap, only 15, saw his whole family wiped out by the Army, and he is determined to rid his motherland of the Pakistan Army rule. This is the driving force of all Mukti Bahini, indeed of all Bengalees actively involved in so many ways to achieve so painfully their freedom. The people in the countryside are cooperating with the Mukti Bahini as much as possible in spite of the dangers this involves in reprisals from the Army which is still burning villages, arresting people, and summarily executing others. The Army (Pak) has collaborators in the form of Muslim League and Jamaat-I Islami supporters, both very conservative groups with insignificant following and no seats in the National Assembly. It is from these groups that the Army Administration is choosing leaders in its "Civilization" program, but still there is no area, town, or city under civilian rule. The Administration is also boosting

up its Razakers, a pro-militia force initially brought in from West Pakistan but now being raised from supporters in the country such as West Pakistanis, Biharis, and some Bengalees. Presently 25,000 have been recruited and trained. Conditions inside Bangladesh

Judging from many reliable sources conditions inside the country are anything but 'normal' and in fact look very bleak, depressing and very alarming. The official Pakistan Government reports are still as before, that is, very distorted and untrue. Facts are suppressed still from West Pakistan as well. The "Civilization" program and the "Amnesty" are part of a continuing plan to keep from the world the true facts which are already out. In talking to TV people, and journalists recently escaped from Dacca, it is depressing to hear their stories. For example, a TV man told us of how he had to fake 'News' on film to create im-



A cholera hospital at Lakkipur in the north-west part of Bengal.

pressions of "normalcy." He participated in a staged covering of refugees supposedly returning from India in the thousands. Many people in Bangladesh supporters of the Army, were rounded up, to film "the return." He also recounted how he had to fake shots to show that University students in Dacca had planned "an armed uprising." He said, "all the while I was forced to do all this I was eating my flesh!" Journalists give similar accounts, and the best example is Anthony Miscarehaus, a West Pakistani Journalist sent to Dacca to create in this reporting the idea of "normalcy," was so sickened by the whole business that he fled with his family to London. Today's paper "The Statesman" contains excerpts from a top secret West Pakistan directive giving instructions on how to hide the facts from visitors - "They (visitors) should be taken to crowded centres but the crowds should be ensured by delaying dispersal rather than faking," - "All efforts should be made to avoid their seeing the more damaged parts of the country like Khulna" - "should be encouraged to meet friendly foreigners like those in Chittagong and Sylhet who have personally experienced the deprecation of the rebels" - "and there should also be no over-display of military personnel." And of course

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