

গণহত্যা ও নির্যাতনের বিবরণঃ
বিদেশী পত্র-পত্রিকা

THE TIMES

MARCH 30, 1971

'At Dacca University the Burning Bodies of Students Still Lay in Their Dormitory Beds .. A Mass Grave Had Been Hastily Covered ..'

From Michel Laurent

(An Associated Press photographer who evaded the Army in Dacca and toured the devastated areas.)

Dacca, March 29. In two days and nights of shelling by the Pakistani Army perhaps 7,000 Pakistanis died in Dacca alone.

The Army, which attacked without warning on Thursday night with American supplied M24 tanks, artillery and infantry, destroyed large parts of the city.

Its attack was aimed at the university, the populous Old City where Shaikh Mujibur, the Awami League leader, has his strongest following and the industrial areas on the outskirts of this city of 1,500,000 people.

Touring the still-burning areas of fighting on Saturday and Sunday it was obvious that the city had been taken without warning. At the university burning bodies of some students still lay in their dormitory beds. The dormitories had been hit by direct tank fire.

A mass grave had been hastily covered at the Jaggannath Hall and 200 students were reported killed in Iqbal hall. About 20 bodies were still lying in the grounds and the dormitories. Troops are reported to have fired bazookas into the medical college hospital, but the casualty toll was not known.

Despite claims by the central Government in West Pakistan that life is returning to normal in Dacca, thousands are fleeing the city with only the belongings they could carry. Some pushed carts loaded with food and clothes. Only a few persons have returned to Government jobs, despite the orders of the military regime.

Resistance to the Army has been negligible. Pakistanis are obeying military orders to turn in weapons.

The Pakistan national flag is again flying from most Government buildings. It had been replaced in the past 10 days by the green red and yellow "Bangladesh" (Bengal Nation) flag of independence.

In the Old City, large parts of which were destroyed, elderly men and women poked among the smouldering ruins of their homes.

Army lorries and armoured cars patrolled the almost deserted streets. Cars were pasted with Pakistan flags to avoid drawing fire from Army patrols.

Bodies still lay sprawled in the streets where they had been caught in the Army cross-fire. Shanty towns by the railway had been burnt down.

The people still appeared stunned by the shooting and deaths.

The Government went to extreme lengths to prevent a large contingent of foreign journalists from witnessing the Army's intervention and the subsequent violence.

Thirty-five foreign correspondents were detained in the Dacca Intercontinental Hotel and only this reporter and a British correspondent evaded the Army cordon and subsequent deportation of newsmen to Bombay. Later the Army at Dacca airport frisked me and seized film and notes on Dacca.

At Karachi, the police forced me to strip, my luggage was searched again, and film was seized.—A. P.

THE TIMES (LONDON)
APRIL 2, 1971

Political and Intellectual Leaders Being Wiped Out in War of Genocide By Louis Heren

The Pakistan Army is alleged to have waged a war of genocide in East Pakistan. The objective is said to be the elimination of the political and intellectual leadership, and it might well have been achieved.

Old religious enmities are also said to have been revived. Thousands of Hindus are alleged to have been slaughtered by Muslim troops.

This and other charges were made in London yesterday by a young man who left Dacca earlier this week after spending the past two years there. For many reasons his name cannot be revealed, but I know him to be a level-headed and responsible man.

He confirmed that Shaikh Mujibur Rahman, the East Bengal leader escaped the carnage, but 11 members of his bodyguard were killed.

The Shaikh was arrested by troops last Thursday, held in the Ad-amji school for two days, and then flown to West Pakistan. He is believed to be held in Multan.

According to this informant, a systematic pattern of physical and psychological destruction became apparent even during the first night of fighting on March 25. Soon after, it became clear that certain groups had been selected to be the victims of completely unrestrained brutality.

These included Awami League leaders, students (who are the most radical members of the League), professors and their families, and any Hindu who could be found.

The Army commanders had apparently concluded that the students were the nucleus of a future Bengali independence movement. The professors represented the East Pakistan intelligentsia, vital for the administration of a future independent Bengal.

The reason for killing the Awami League leaders was self-evident. As for the Hindus, my informant is convinced that the troops were led to believe that they were the malign force behind the secessionist movement.

No single observer could possibly have observed all that went on during the five days of fighting, but what follows was actually seen.

At the University of Dacca, the residential dormitory Jangannath Hall was reserved for Hindu students. Tank tracks led to the wall of the compound, which had been blasted down.

Outside the building there was a fresh mass grave. Inside blood streamed from every room which had also been looted. There were bodies of six savagely-killed men in the servants quarters near by.

In the apartments of the faculty staff, children were seen shot dead in their beds. The dead bodies of what appeared to be the entire family of a senior professor, were found in another apartment.

Outside were seen the bodies of students still clutching lathis, or bamboo staves, in their hands. There were bloody footprints on the central staircase, and splashes of blood trickled down the outside wall of the building.

In two of the old city's largest bazaars, one entirely Hindu and the other predominantly so, the stench of dead and burning bodies was so overpowering that the survivors walked about with cloths over their noses. At least seven or eight bodies were seen in the rubble of ruined buildings and on refuse dumps.

In one House, my informant saw the still warm corpse of a man who had been shot to death minutes before. It was surrounded by his wailing wives.

This is what was actually seen. What follows is an account of what happened during the five days of the fighting. Parts of it are reports received by the informant from friends before he left Dacca.

The Army moved in, in force, to occupy key points of the town shortly before midnight on March 25, President Yahya Khan had departed for Karachi only a few hours before, and the assumption was that the troops acted on his personal instructions.

According to official spokesmen, the Army had been warned of a plot to barricade all the approaches to the cantonment shortly after the President's departure. Barricades had certainly gone up throughout the city, and from midnight until noon the next day, Dacca echoed with the sounds of firing from heavy artillery, heavy machine-guns and other automatic weapons.

Throughout the night, there was the glare of large fires and tracer bullets.

By dawn, a large pall of smoke covered much of the city and drifted slowly northwards towards the wealthy suburb of Gulshan. Fires were also seen in the Bihari area, the scene of communal friction earlier in the month.

"Shoot to kill" curfew was imposed upon the city on March 26. Soldiers were seen firing with automatic weapons at the house of Colonel Osmani, a retired Bengal Army officer.

Shooting and fires continued through the night, but less violently and the curfew was relaxed for five hours on Saturday March 27.

During a walk through the newer part of the city, destroyed barricades and squatters, huts were seen every-where.

In the older part of the city, near the police lines, there was complete destruction everywhere. It was understood that the only strong resistance to the Army took place here, with the help of policemen and troops of the East Pakistan Rifles. They were said to have been massacred for their temerity.

Refugees were already beginning to leave the city. Most of them carried only a small bundle of clothes.

The curfew was again lifted on Sunday to allow families to buy food but the New Market was almost completely destroyed.

At the Ramna racecourse, the two small villages and shrines of Hindu herdsmen were burnt and utterly destroyed. Many bodies were seen in the rubble, and the few remaining villagers were dazed and terrified.

The conclusion drawn was that East Pakistan would be without political and intellectual leadership for at least a decade, and perhaps a generation.

THE NEW NATION,
SINGAPORE, APRIL 6, 1971

Editorial

THE HOLOCAUST IN EAST PAKISTAN MUST BE ENDED

Eye-witness reports from foreign residents evacuated from East Pakistan paint a more horrible picture of the carnage that has been unleashed by President Yahya's troops than had been suspected.

What has been happening is nearer to genocide. An army suppressing a revolt is not in a picnic and a certain amount of unnecessary killing, however deplorable and misguided, was to have been expected.

The way the army has acted, it is now clear, surpasses anything that could pass for legitimate use of force. It has resorted to wanton murder of civilians, including women and children, in a deliberate plan to achieve submission by stark terror.

And the army is not succeeding. The resistance of the East Pakistanis, though unorganised and largely unaided, gets more stubborn every day. The army's writ does not run beyond the major towns.

Given the normal difficulties of communications in East Pakistan, the army will have to be several times its present estimated size of 70,000 before an uprising which has the backing of practically the whole population can be put down. And when the monsoons arrive in six weeks from now, the army's mobility will be further impaired in a drastic manner.

Official Pakistani reports themselves cannot conceal any longer that the normalcy they have been announcing is very far from being restored. The factories are at a standstill and there is mass absenteeism from government offices.

If it was a misguided decision for President Yahya Khan to have ordered his armies out, to persist in it is an act of irresponsibility of such cruel magnitude that the world's conscience cannot continue to accept it as a matter that Pakistan only can decide.

The East Pakistan holocaust must stop. Appeals to see reason have been made to Rawalpindi by India, Russia and Britain. More countries must join in this effort to demonstrate that the voice of humanitarianism cannot be stilled by pedantic considerations of internal sovereignty.

THE TIMES, LONDON,
MAY 19, 1971
Road of Death
Peter Hazelhurst

SABRUM, May 18

Thousands of terrified and improverished Bengalis who have attempted to flee to India during the past fortnight have collapsed and died of exhaustion and starvation on the roadside.

Many others on the grim 75-mile march from the Chittagong district to the small Indian border state of Tripura are expected to meet with the same fate, refugees told me today.

As many as 500,000 Muslim and Hindu refugees have already poured into the state of Tripura, and most of them crossed here at Sabrum, where the river Feni demarcates the Indo-Pakistan border.

Permeless, exhausted and in a stupor many of the refugees described the tragic flight from their homes in the Chittagong district, about 60 miles to the south.

Shamsuddin Ahmad, a farmer, aged 40, who has lost his wife and five children, fled Chittagong with his youngest daughter, three-year old Rohina, when West Pakistani troops fired on his village. He said his wife was killed by a bullet as the family fled.

Speaking through a Bengali interpreter, he said: "I was separated from the rest of my family as we fled. I don't know what has happened to them. After searching for them I started to walk to the Indian border with Rohina.

"We had no food and no money. She collapsed after six days of walking. I carried her for a long time but she died in my arms. I buried her on the way. I have no one now."

The bewildered farmer said he saw hundreds of other refugees dying on the road. The stronger members of the families would huddle next to the exhausted and dying men, women and children. When they died, they buried them in nearby fields and marched on to India.

The tragic stories of many other refugees are similar. Mr. A. Z. B. Raha, a 48-year-old supervisor at Chittagong port, fled when Pakistani tanks moved in on his village, four miles from the centre of the city, last month.

"we started to walk north towards the Indian border. We saw people dying all along the way. Others were lying on the grounds ex-

hausted. The first to die were the babies, then further along the road the old and children collapsed, and then the women," he said.

We found Dr. Choudhury, a medical practitioner from shulteepur village near Chittagong, among the 200,000 homeless migrants who have flocked into the southern districts of Tripura. He was in a stupor.

Dr. Choudhury claimed that he marched towards India in a daze after the army encircled his village and killed 19 members of his family last month. "There is nothing left," he said.

Dr. Rathin Datta, supervisor of the general hospital in the border town of Agartala, north of Sabrum, has so far treated 300 East Pakistanis who had bullet and shrapnel wounds.

"These people were lucky," he said. "Most of them live near the border and managed to get through to us for treatment. But I fear that thousands have died and are dying from their wounds, starvation and exhaustion on the road from Chittagong.

His 267-bed hospital is now overcrowded with an additional 300 wounded refugees. All the refugees claim they were deliberately shot by Pakistani troops.

Two sisters, Rohina Begum, aged 16, and Jinat Begum, aged five, have bullet wounds in their legs and arms. Rohina said her entire family was wiped out when Pakistani troops fired on their small boat as they attempted to cross the River Feni into India last week.

Dr. Datta asked: "What do I do with these children when I have to discharge them? They have no one."

A railway engineer from the nearby junction of Akhaura had a bullet wound on his head. He cannot believe what has happened.

"Why should they shoot me? I am an important government servant. I told them this when they were looting my office and house. But a soldier said, 'Kill the bastard', and when they shot at me I fell to the ground and pretended to be dead.

"They burnt my house and all I have. What am I to do? I am 55-with a family of 10, and I have nothing now."

The road from Agartala is as tragic and sorrowful as the overcrowded refugee camps. With fixed stares and utter hopelessness written on their faces the frail Bengalis march northwards in search of shelter and food. The stream is neverending.

Schools and Government offices have been turned into huge dormitories but space is limited and most families are in the open. A great number of women and children have constructed pathetic grass huts.

Sanitation is non-existent, the heat is stifling, and the stench is unbearable. Pools of stagnant water are seen everywhere and an epidemic could break out at any moment.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
20TH JUNE, 1971

POGROM IN PAKISTAN

*Teachers, Writers, Journalists eliminated
Magistrates shot,
Doctors disappear
Gestapo-like raids, rape, extortion.*

LAST WEEK the Sunday Times published a first-hand report by Anthony Mascarenhas about the excess of the Pakistan Army in East Pakistan. Now we have had news—more up to date and detailed and perhaps even more horrifying of what is happening in East Pakistan. This is not by Anthony Mascarenhas, but it comes to us from academic and professional sources we know to be unimpeachable.

A NEW campaign of terror has begun in East Pakistan. Its aim is to eliminate any possibility of another secessionist uprising or political challenge to the unity of the state

The Military government in Dacca has ordered a two-pronged follow-up to its defeat of the Bangla Desh forces in the field. First, all public servants, teachers, writers, journalists and industrialists are being screened.

Second, anyone considered potentially dangerous is being "eliminated". Army intelligence has already begun arresting and interrogating teachers, journalists and other influential Bengalis. A list of suspects, thought to be either supporters or sympathisers of the secessionist Awami League has been prepared.

They are being classified in three categories—white, grey and black. The white will be given clearance. The grey will lose their jobs and may be imprisoned. The black will be shot.

Action against the Civil Service has already begun and 36 Bengali District Magistrates and sub-divisional officers have either been killed or have fled to the other side.

When army units entered the towns of Comilla, Rangpur, Kushtia, Noakhali, Faridpur and Serajganj, the local magistrates and the police superintendents were shot out of hand.

Civil servants on the grey list have been transferred to West Pakistan. They include Taslim Ahmed, Inspector-General of Police. When the army struck Dacca on the night of 25th March, the police revolted and fought for 18 hours.

A new element in the regime of terror is the Gestapostyle pick-up. Some of those wanted for questioning are arrested openly. Others are called to the army cantonment for interrogation. Most of them do not return. Those who do are often picked up again by secret agent known as RAZAKARS, a term used by the volunteers of the Nizam of Hyderabad who resisted the Indian takeover of the State in 1948. Razakars literally means duty to the king or State.

By night and day parts of Dacca are sealed off by troops searching for Hindus, Awami Leaguers and students. Everyone must carry an identity card. Cars are stopped and searched and the entrances to the city are blocked by checkposts.

If the jawan (infantryman) at the post finds anyone without an identity card and is in no mood to listen, a trip to the cantonment may follow.

Dacca is frequently shaken by bomb blasts after which security is tightened and areas searched for "miscreants" the army term for members of the MUKTI FOUJ (liberation army).

Whatever the army has completed, its task of clearing an area of "miscreants" it is replaced by the militia. These are tough frontier people who are considered more ruthless and less disciplined than the regular army. They are paid three rupees (about 18p) a day and are lured to East Pakistan by the promise of booty.

The persecution of East Pakistan's Hindu minority and the surviving elements of its Bengali nationalism has a quality of casual horror about it.

Shanker, a college student of Jagannath College, escaped to a nearby village on 27th March. Two months later he returned alone to see what remained of his home at Thatari Bazar. Two non-Bengalis spotted him, shouted "Hindu", "Hindu" and chase developed. The boy was caught and taken in procession to the mosque where his throat was cut.

Abu Awal, the district magistrate at Bhola had the reputation of being a loyal government servant. He protected the non-Bengali population when the Awami League rose in revolt and prevented the Police station armoury from falling into the hands of the Mukti Fouj.

When they attacked on 1st May, he went to receive them. The Brigadier in charge of the action asked him to resume his post. He

had hardly turned his back on the officers, when a sepoy shot him with a rifle.

About a dozen Bengali army officers were transferred to West Pakistan. They said goodbye to their families and reported at Dacca Airport to board a PIA flight to Karachi. Their families have not so far heard from them. When they inquired at Army headquarters they were told that they had deserted. The mutilated body of a major was delivered to his family with a letter of regret that he had committed suicide.

The whereabouts of Brig. Majumdar, one of the best known Bengali officers, is unknown. He stayed with his Punjabi colleagues when his Bengali troops revolted in Chittagong. When his family asked about him, they were told that any inquiry would invite trouble.

On the night of June 2, an army jeep entered the Dhanmondi residential area of Dacca. A government officer called Huq was dragged out of his house and taken to Kurmitola army cantonment.

His wife telephoned Shafiul Azam, civilian head of the East Pakistan government who contacted army headquarters and was told no one called Huq had been brought in.

An industrialist, Ranada Saha, was told to arrange a gala evening for army officers at his village home in Mirzapur. He went to discuss the arrangements and did not return.

Troops surrounded the house of a civil servant called Amin. He was taken away in an army truck with his aged parents, his wife and three children. His brother was an officer in Bengal Regiment which revolted and is now leading the Bangla Desh resistance near Comilla. The Amin family returned two days later without Mr. Amin.

A captain entered Mitford Hospital in Dacca with two soldiers on 15th May, went to Ward Two and led away Dr. Rahman and another of his colleagues. They were told they were needed to work in Mymensingh. Their whereabouts are now unknown.

Other troops went to American-run Holy Family Hospital but there were no surgeons, there. The hospital is now considering closing down because many of its doctors have fled including the renowned child specialist, Dr. M. N. Huq.

At Sylhet, all doctors except Surgeon-General Dr. Shamsuddin, fled across the border when the army entered the town. A major found Dr. Shamsuddin in the hospital theatre and shot him point blank.

Most of the senior Bengali officers of the PIA are missing after being picked up, including Mr. Fazlul Huq, Deputy Managing Director

for East Pakistan and Captain Sekander Ali, chief sector pilot. Since the military takeover the airline has dismissed about 2,000 Bengalis.

Razakars have seized the two children of Major Khaled Mosharraf of the Bengal Regiment who deserted to the Mukti Fouj. The children aged six and four were first taken as hostages by the army. Their mother escaped to India. The children were released but then retaken.

Relatives of missing persons believe that the Razakars are junior army officers working independently in league with non-Bengalis. Some families have received ransom demands and one case is known of money being paid without success.

The Razakars have now extended their operations from murder and extortion to prostitution. In Agrabad in Chittagong, they run a camp of young girls who are allocated nightly to senior officials. They also kidnapped girls for their parties. Some have not returned. Ferdousi, the leading Bengali singer, narrowly escaped a similar fate when army officers entered her home. Her mother telephoned a general whom she knew and military police were sent to her rescue.

A recent development is the return to duty, duress, of a number of Intelligence Department official who went absent in March in response to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's call for non-cooperation with the federal government.

They are now obliged to submit the names of "undesirable persons" to the army, which is taking care not to pick up the wrong people as it did on the nights of 25th and 26th March.

On those two nights, the army killed more than 20 University professors. Of these, Dr. Moniruzzaman of the Physics department was shot dead instead of his namesake in the Bengali Department, Mr. Monaim of the English Department was similarly killed instead of Mr. Munir, also of the Bengali Department.

Some University teachers reported for duty on 1st June at the instigation of General Tikka Khan, the Martial Law Administrator, but some of them have since fallen into the hands of the RAZAKARS.

The activities of RAZAKARS are known, if not overtly approved, by the military administration. Occasionally, they are a source of concern. Recently the administration managed to induce a few hundred jute workers to resume production in Dacca. On 29th May three of their trade union leaders were taken away in an army jeep. By the following day the workers had fled.

The PROBLEMS of return for the 6 million refugees seem insuperable. In Dacca, Jessore, Rangpur, Ishurdi, Khulna and Chittagong their houses and shops have been taken over by non-Bengalis.

Backed by the army on 28th April, they cleared Mirpur and Mohamadpur, two residential districts covering 15 square miles in Dacca, of their entire Bengali population, killing everyone who had ignored an advance warning to leave.

In Jessore soldiers surrounded the house of Mr. Masihur Ranmañ, an Awami League member of the National Assembly, and non-Bengali civilians went in killing everyone. A 10 year old boy jumped from the first floor and was shot in mid-air by a sepoy.

Organisations caring for the refugees who came into East Pakistan at the time of Partition and the Razakar backed 'Peace Committee' are publishing press notices inviting applications for "allotment" of shops and houses left by Bengalis.

In Chittagong locked shops and houses in Laldighi and Reazuddin Bazar were broken open by the army and handed over to non-Bengalis. Nearly all sequestered property now has signboards and name-plates in Urdu, the language of West Pakistan.

In the villages the houses have been distributed among members of the right wing Jamat-e-Islam and Muslim League which were humiliated in the last election by the Awami League.

All Hindu bank accounts have also been frozen, together with those of suspected Awami League supporters. The manager of the British National & Grindlays Bank in Dacca was the only banker to have queried the directive.

Bengalis have also been forbidden to approach major railway, port and dock installations. When 5,000 labourers returned to work in Chittagong docks on 1st May, they were driven away. The installations are now run by military, naval and non-Bengali personnel.

Senior railway officers in Chittagong were shot and the workers colony burnt down. In Dacca, Ishurdi and Syedpur no Bengali dares approach a railway junction.

At Dacca and Chittagong airports, 250 porters were flown in from West Pakistan to replace the Bengalis.

Three thousand Punjabi police now patrol Dacca while Khyber Rifles from the North-West Frontier and Rangers from the West Pakistan border, man police stations outside.

Most of the 10,000 militiamen in East Pakistan Rifles who revolted in March have either crossed the border or are hiding in the villages. Those who responded to an amnesty call surrendered in Dacca on 15th May, they were seen being driven away in open trucks blindfolded with their hands tied behind their backs.

A few days later hundreds of naked corpses were found in the river Buriganga and Sitalakhya.

The East Pakistan Rifles have now been renamed the Pakistan Defence Force and hundreds of Biharis have been recruited. They are now being trained with rifles and machine-guns at Peelkhana.

On 28th May, in the Khilgaon district of Dacca, 100 suspects were picked up after a bomb damaged a non-Bengali shop.

At Motijheel, a non-Bengali demanded 10,000 rupees (about 600 Pounds) from his neighbour, threatening to hand him over to the army if the money was not paid within 24 hours.

A radio and camera retailer in Stadium market, Dacca found his stock missing on the 12th May, and reported the incident to the Martial Law Headquarters. That night during curfew, the shop was set on fire.

Begum Majeda, a housewife, was fetching water from a street tap. Two Punjabi policemen tried to lift her on to a truck. She screamed and the Punjabis were beaten off with sticks and stones. That night whole of the Bashabo area was set on fire.

It is now considered unsafe to wear wristwatches on the streets in Dacca and transistor radios and television sets are kept hidden at home. Soldiers sell looted transistors, TV sets and wristwatches at between 3 and 6 pounds each on the streets.

One officer Colonel Abdul Bari has deposited one crore of rupees —the equivalent of 833,000 pounds —at the State Bank of Pakistan.

Efforts are now being made to clean the cities up, just before the sponsored visit to Dacca of a small party of foreign journalists in May. The bodies of students were removed from Jagannath Hall and Iqbal Hall in the University Campus and debris was cleared away from the shelled areas of Shakharpatty, Tantibazar, Shantinagar and Rajarbagh.

Schools and colleges have reopened but there are few students. One school with 800 students before the fighting reopened with only ten.

Most young people between the ages of 16 and 26 have crossed the border to join the MUKTI FOUJ Training camps.

Their widespread fear is that to be young in East Pakistan is to be killed. They nurture the hopes also that they may one day live in a free **BANGLADESH**.

THE HONGKONG STANDARD

June 25, 1971

ANOTHER CENGHIS

For hundreds of years, the name of Cenghis Khan has echoed through history as a byword for cruelty and butchery.

In the 20th century, it seems a Pakistani namesake of the great killer is determined to out-do his grisly predecessor.

Pakistani General Tikka Khan—with modern nicety known as the “pacifier” of rebellious East Pakistan—is commanding fierce Punjabi and Pathan troops who are running wild in a fearsome blood bath.

There is overwhelming evidence of murder, of senseless slaughter of children, of rape, or prostitution organised by and for senior army officers, of wholesale, maddened, crazed, blood-thirsty determined massacre.

Cenghis Khan, for all his bloody faults, at least built up an empire in the course of his career.

Tikka Khan and his gang of uniformed cut-throats will be remembered for trying to destroy the people of half a nation.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH,

London, August 1, 1971

PAKISTAN ARMY ON CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

by Clare Hollingworth

President Yahya Khan is expected to visit East Pakistan today or next Tuesday. He will arrive in Dacca at the height of a psychological warfare campaign by Bangladesh guerrillas.

This is designed not against the West Pakistanis or the army but rather to frighten the Bengali population from areas of future actions.

The guerrillas claim they will soon take “dramatic action”. The Bengalis have been warned not to go near the airport.

There was a clash on Friday night, at Farmgate, an industrial suburb between the city and the airport, between the guerrillas and the army.

The exchange of automatic fire and loud explosions could be heard throughout the city and six guerrillas are reported killed.

Far more serious was the destruction by the army of three Christian villages of Loodaria, Nalchata and Laripara near Dacca, situated on the branch railway line which runs from Tongi to Arikhold on a high embankment.

This is the first time the Defence Forces have been involved in the burning down and flattening of houses of purely Christian communities. The guerrillas had derailed a train some miles away along the line—I saw the results of this action.

At the moment these villages are completely surrounded by water and many of the men who live there work in offices and hotels in Dacca. They say that between 3,000 and 4,000 Christians have been rendered homeless and a few hundred were taken away by the army for questioning.

Although these events took place on Wednesday, I have been unable to obtain any comment from the military spokesman, who has not been available since then. The Catholic clergy in the area are deeply concerned by this first attack on members of their community.

AL HAWADITH,

Lebanon, August 20, 1971

WAR OF ANNIHILATION

The Pakistani officer stood in one of the small villages of East Pakistan (Bengal) and told the hungry public gathered around him: “My men are wounded and I want some blood. I want volunteers”. Before waiting for a reply...the soldiers rushed forward, selected some young men, threw them on the ground, and pricked them in the arteries. Blood began to flow and continued flowing until the young men died.

This is one picture out of dozens of others which take place every day since the present regime in West Pakistan declared a war of annihilation against the opposing “people” in Pakistan.

The migration of millions to India, therefore, is not strange. They have fled from massacre and hunger.

EL COMMERCIO,

Ecuador—September 2, 1971

SLAUGHTER OF 200,000 BENGALIS

by Alfonso Rumazo Gonzales

The slaughter of 200,000 Bengalis in East Pakistan can only be described by its true name: Genocide. The crime has been perpetrated by the West Pakistan army under the orders of the tyrant who governs there: General Yahya Khan. This figure of 200,000 given by Leon F. Hesser, Director of (U.S. Aid Agency) A. I. D. rises to 300,000 in British calculations. “This has been like a Greek tragedy” expressed the British expert sent there with help.

What did East Pakistan, inhabited principally by Bengalis, ask for? Autonomy. The western sector of the country is separated from the

eastern one by 1,600 kilometers of Indian territory. How can it exist in these conditions? Is it fit that a country should have its territory in two parts at a great distance from each other? This request for autonomy last March was answered with guns and arms even to the extent of sending to the grave of such an incredibly large number of people. A U.S. commentator stated that only the Second World War had produced crimes of this magnitude.

And it is not only that so many have perished—this crime continues even though in smaller numbers now—but that 8,000,000, plagued by hunger and terror, have crossed the frontier and fled into India. The Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi received them and is now the intermediary for the distribution of the aid received from the U.S.A., U.K. and a few other countries. For the next six months, many millions of dollars will be essential if those unfortunate people are to be saved from dying of misery and hunger.

The tragedy has increased even more. The whole of East Pakistan appears menaced by famine. By November, the shortfall in the food requirements and the actual production will be 4,000,000 tons of rice and wheat. Even if this shortfall is obtained, how can it be transported in a country whose roads and bridges are completely destroyed by the war of liberation? The patriots have tried at every point to prevent communication by the soldiers of the tyrant Yahya Khan and continue obstructing the criminal repression by destroying roads and bridges, even though thereby the danger of starvation is coming to them as fatally as the destruction they have been experiencing..

This whole game with its devious and deceitful manoeuvrings is developing with the neglect of the main problem: the human being. Not one of the countries who have granted help to those unfortunate millions, have condemned the monstrous genocide committed there with such fury and ruthlessness. The whole world should have risen up in arms to denounce the terrible slaughter. Nobody has spoken; not one has done their duty of defending the right to life which is clearly the focal and fundamental point in the Charter of Human Rights, fully observed in "theory" only. The man of the twentieth century—said Russell—is more ruthless and cynical than that of all the previous centuries.

THE AGE,

Australia, September 11, 1971

THE LOST MILLIONS

by Max Beattie

More than 160 days after the first East Pakistani massacres, ragged, sad-eyed Bengali peasants are still walking into what they believe is the haven of India carrying their naked babies with them.

Astonishingly, as many as 40,000 still come every day. This is a movement of people the like of which the world has rarely seen. Indian officials now say freely they expect the influx—more than eight million have arrived already—to rise above 10 million will before the end of the year.

The September refugees talk of shootings, and rape almost as commonly as did the forerunners five months ago.....

SUMMA MAGAZINE,

Caracas, October, 1971

A COUNTRY FULL OF CORPSES

The extermination of the Jewish people by the Nazi regime, the atomic crime of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the massacres of Biafra, the napalm of Vietnam, all the great genocides of humanity have found a new equivalent: East Pakistan. Despite the world press having supplied a clear exposition of facts, the people do not appear to have realised that at this moment—and again in Asia—millions and millions of human beings face destruction of their life and motherland.

The fact can be briefly summed up: East Pakistan has been invaded 5 months ago by the army of West Pakistan, may be, their own brothers. Its inhabitants have been murdered in thousands, its women have been raped; children and aged are dying of hunger and cholera, and more than eight million persons have carried out one of the most dramatic migrations in history, crossing the frontier and taking refuge in India, the country with which once Pakistan was united.

A pathetic view of the tragedy is given to us by the fact that in a single night in the city of Dacca were killed 50,000 persons by the invading army. Between 26 March—the date of invasion—and this moment, the dead reach more than a million, and every day 30,000 persons leave East Pakistan and take refuge in Indian territory.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

November 17, 1971

EAST PAKISTAN TOWN AFTER RAID BY ARMY

Fire and Destruction

A task force of West Pakistani troops visited this town Shekharnagar, East Pakistan, of 8,000 on October 27 and destroyed it.

Apparently informed—mistakenly, according to residents—that a guerrilla group was here, the army attacked without warning in motor launches. Toward the end of the 20-mile trip from Dacca the launches'

engines alerted Shekharnagar's population, most of which fled into nearby ponds, cannals and paddy fields.

Shooting into houses and huts as they advanced, the troops set fire to nearly every building. Surviving residents pointed to the fresh graves where 19 villagers were buried.

The concrete schoolhouse was stripped of its furniture and doors, which the troops burned to cook their evening meal, and a rice mill was destroyed. The village's stock of freshly harvested rice was burned for the most part, and some 300 cows and sheep were slaughtered.

A large quantity of wheat that villagers said had been sent under a United States aid program was reportedly loaded into the boats by the troops.

A warehouse filled with bags of phoshate fertilizer was burned and most of the bags were destroyed.

Several buildings belonging to the mosque were burned down and the Hindu temple—there are about 400 Hindus in the community—was burned and sacked, and its idols were smashed by gunfire.

Even the local post office was sacked, and the villagers say the troops took away its stock of stamps and money.

"Do you see this?" a villager said, "They even destroyed our fruit. Banana trees like these take a long time to grow, and the soldiers heaped up burning straw around them and destroyed them."

NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE (U.S.A)

November 22, 1971

BENGAL : THE TIME OF REVENGE

The ghostly remains of recently burned villages scarred the semi-tropical countryside. Bloating corpses, entangled among white and purple water hyacinths, floated in the canals as reminders that the verdant landscape was a scene of tragedy. Along with Clare Hollingworth of London's *Daily Telegraph*, I had travelled 45 miles outside the capital of Dacca—and into the heart of one of the "liberated" zones held by the Mukti Bahini guerrillas. The evidence—living as well as dead—of civil war was everywhere. Hundreds of peasants watched our small dugout during the three-hour trip through the swampland canals, but none of them—not the children tending cattle, nor the fishermen repairing their nets, nor the women carrying mounds of mud to repair their flimsy palm leaf houses—returned our waves. "The reason for their seeming sullenness," Mukti Bahini fighter told me later, "is their sufferings.

There is hardly a Bengali family left that has not lost one or several of its relatives"...

...In ramshackle towns and tiny villages, people were quick to tell me of daily executions carried out by the army, of wanton destruction and brutalities. In one small village, everyone seemed to know the story of a 14 year-old girl who was raped by twelve soldiers and then killed—together with her day-old baby. Inhabitants of another village recounted how two soldiers had been captured and taken to the martial-law administrator when they demanded two virgins; the next day the village was burned and 38 people were killed by the army. Several times during my trip into the rebel area, I saw Pakistani soldiers loot stores and help themselves to anything they wanted. To the Bengalis, such barbarism is a stimulant to their hopes of a free state. Everywhere I went, Mukti Bahini rebels and sympathizers were talking about the coming hours of judgement. At one river crossing, I came upon an army sergeant beating a Bengali with a huge stick. He stopped when he saw me, and later the Bengali told me, "its like that every day. But the day of revenge is coming and it will be terrible."

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

December 20, 1971

BODIES OF DOCTORS, JOURNALISTS, WRITERS
AND PROFESSORS DUMPED IN PITS

(Despatch from C. S. Pandit, datelined Dacca, December 19, 1971)

In the last week before the surrender of the Pakistani occupation army, about 120 intellectuals, including top doctors, professors, journalists, both men and women, were spirited away from their houses during curfew hours under military escort. Nothing was heard of them until about 36 bodies with hands tied behind, were found dumped in the pits of some brick kilns.

The shock of the tragedy spread like wild fire among the people who started thronging the place. Among the dead were the bodies of Dr. Fazle Rabbi, a top cardiologist of Dacca Medical College; Dr. Alim Choudhury, an eye specialist; Mr. Nizamuddin, a journalist representing the BBC and one of Pakistan's two news agencies, Pakistan Press International; Mr. Shahidullah Kaiser, a well-known author and joint editor of a magazine; Mrs. Akhtar Imam, provost of women's hostel of Dacca University; Prof. Munir Choudhury, head of the Department of Bengali, Dacca University; Dr. Santosh Bhattacharya, Professor of History; Mr. Sirajuddin Hussain, news editor of Ittefaq and many others.

THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

December 20, 1971

CALCULATED LIQUIDATION OF INTELLECTUALS
BEFORE SURRENDER

(Despatch by Arun Bhattacharjee from Dacca Secretariat, December 19, 1971)

The Secretary-General, Ruhul Quddus, of the Bangladesh Government, harshly accused the Pakistani army generals of calculated liquidation and mass murder of the intellectuals of Dacca before surrender.

Mr. Quddus was in tears when he said that the best doctors, professors, administrators and intellectuals of Bangladesh were killed to cripple Bangladesh. When I pointed out that Pakistani Army General Farman Ali and his staff were saying that these were done by the para-military forces and the Razakars, he said, "I know with certainty that the plan to liquidate them was hatched by these Generals in Dacca cantonment, and on their specific orders, the para-military forces arrested them and killed them inside the cantonment".

THE TIMES

London, December 30, 1971

INTELLECTUALS BUTCHERED BEFORE SURRENDER

Peter Hazelhurst

No one will ever know how many intellectuals, doctors, journalists and young men, most of whom were not involved in politics, were rounded up and herded off to disappear for ever.

Mrs. Moshina Pasha, the wife of Prof. Anwar Pasha, Assistant Professor of Bengali at Dacca University, is at present visiting the big pits in which the mutilated bodies of Bengali intellectuals were discovered to identify the body of her husband.

Like many others, Prof. Pasha was taken away two days before the Pakistanis surrendered to the Indian army and driven to a razakar execution camp.

Two colleagues, Mr. Rashidul Hasan, Lecturer in the Department of English, and Professor Santosh Bhattacharya, Professor of History, were rounded up on the same morning by the same group of armed razakars.

The Pakistani prisoners-of-war maintain that they know nothing about the atrocities, but evidence has been produced alleging that the razakars were acting under the direct orders of a senior officer.

A memorandum discovered on his desk is said to have contained the name of one victim, Mr. Nizamuddin, with the comment "motivated stories"; Mr. Nizamuddin's name was ticked off.

The sole survivor of this pogrom, Mr. Dalwar Hussain, the Chief Accountant of the Greenland Mercantile Company of Dacca, said that on the morning of December 14, several razakars pulled him out of his house. After placing a blindfold around his eyes, they drove him by bus to a camp on the outskirts of Dacca.

He was forced into a room. A little later, the cloth around his eyes slackened and he discovered that he was in a room with a score or so of other prisoners. Some of them had been tortured. Toe nails had been ripped off and toes amputated.

After an hour they were interrogated. The prisoners identified themselves as doctors, lawyers, professors and journalists. They were forced into a bus and driven out to marshlands on the outskirts of Dacca.

The Razakars led their victims to a big tree where about another 130 prisoners were huddled. Several prisoners asked the Razakars why they were killing fellow Bengalis. "One of them told us to shut up and gave an order", "finish the bastards off", Mr. Hussain said, "they started to shoot prisoners with rifles, and others were simply bayoneted to death. I managed to slip the rope off my wrists and made a dash towards the river. By a miracle I escaped".