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BANGLADESH

NEWSLETTER

No 14

December 10, 1971

YAHYA'S RECEPTION POST

MY BELOVED REFUGEE BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
PLEASE RETURN HOME. I'M WAITING TO
ACCORD YOU A VERY WARM WELCOME.



Yunus

SOME RECENT EDITORIALS

Newspapers of international repute have been repeatedly urging the world to take note of the continuous repression of the people of Bangladesh by a savage occupation army. So far governments, big and small, either found it convenient to keep their attention away from the horrifying events or saw it a suitable occasion to squeeze out a better bargain in the global configuration for their own comforts. We are presenting in this column extracts from some recent editorials.

The New York Times, commenting on Mrs. Gandhi's search for 'some wise impulse', wrote on Nov 13..."What the subcontinent desperately needs is a strong international pressure on Islamabad to reach a political settlement in the rebellious eastern province -- a settlement that will facilitate the speedy repatriation of the refugees, now threatening India's economic, social and political stability"...

The Washington Post urged the same policy in its editorial on Nov 18: "The key to ending the violence, repression and refugee exodus in East Pak has always been for Pak to free Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. A Bengali from the East, he led the Awami League to victory in national elections last March, only to be arrested as the Pak regime prevented him from taking power. It's a genuine misfortune that as far as anyone could see, Pres. Yahya Khan has not had the insight or political leeway (both are essential) to free Mujibur and to undertake to make a political settlement with him..."

Again in another editorial the New York Times wrote (Nov 22):..."There is no question that the humanitarian needs of the East Bengalis, both those who have fled and those who have remained behind despite brutal military repression, have a heavy claim on the conscience of mankind....In order to deal effectively with the humanitarian needs of the Bengalis it will be necessary to attack the root of the problem -- the political crisis in Pak. It is essential to press for a political solution in East Pak that will put an end to the fighting there and permit the refugees to return in safety...If the UN is to play an effective role for peace and rehabilitation on the subcontinent, the world organization must throw its weight behind mounting inter-

national pressures on Pakistan's Pres. Yahya Khan to reach an accommodation with the elected leaders of East Pak, especially the imprisoned Sheikh Mujibur Rahman..."

In its Nov 23 editorial the New York Times wrote:..."The basic cause of the war threat to the subcontinent remains, however, the action of Pres Yahya Khan to suppress the elected leaders of East Pak and to rule that province by armed terror. It was this brutal action that provoked the headlong flight into India of East Pakistani refugees now said to number more than nine million..."

Washington Post editorial of Nov 24:..."It's (India-Pakistan confrontation) a tragedy. But who can look at its immediate underlying cause, the Pakistan government's repression of the East, and contend that it's that worse than what came before? By the standard rules of the game of the nations, countries which practice atrocities on their own citizens are pretty much left alone to do it. It is only when they commit violence that spreads into another country that the world community is enabled, or forced, to get into the act. The real wrong committed by the Pakistanis was to declare war on a group of their own citizens..."

In the editorial of Nov 25 the New York Times wrote:..."Admittedly, India is reacting to provocations that most other nations long ago would have found intolerable. The Yahya Government's repression of a democratically endorsed autonomy movement in East Pakistan, resulting in a flood of nine million refugees into India (most of them Hindus), has posed a direct threat to India's own democratic institutions and national security. The international community -- and most conspicuously the United States Government -- has been slow to recognize the extreme dangers of this situation, let alone to take steps to meet them. The United Nations has studiously side-stepped the central issue of Pakistani repression despite repeated warnings from the Secretary General U Thant..."

BANGLADESH INFORMATION CENTER

Because of the increased number of lobbyists who have come to Washington and the rapid expansion of the activities Bangladesh Information Center has moved to new larger quarters at 423 5th St. SE, Washington DC 20003 (202) 547-3873.

BANGLADESH CONFERENCE
IN WASHINGTON

A national conference, under the title "Consultation on the American Response to Events in East Pakistan" was held in Washington D.C. from November 10-12. The conference, organized primarily by the representatives of church groups (including the National Council of Churches, the Friends and the Unitarian Universalist Association) attracted about 100 interested public figures from many parts of the US and Canada.

The lead speech was given by Senator Kennedy. In his brief address Kennedy criticized the US policy and decried the terror which has resulted in the daily deaths of 4300 children (Kennedy's figure) in the refugee camps in India.

Another important address was delivered by Prof. Edward Dimock, Director of the South Asia Language and Area Center, University of Chicago. (Copies of Prof. Dimock's scholarly address are available at the Bangladesh Information Center, 423 5th Street SE, Washington D. C. 20003).

State Department Director for Pakistan and Afganistan Bruce Laingen spoke extensively on US policy but failed to provide any convincing defense for the administration policy. He gave strong assurances that the US embassy in West Pakistan has convincing reason to believe that Mujib remains alive.

Mr. Mujahid Hossain, First Secretary of the Embassy of Pakistan, was scheduled to speak at the conference but after arriving in the hall he abruptly walked out after noticing the name of Mr. J.A.M.S. Kibria of the Bangladesh Mission on the program. (Pakistan Embassy later issued a condemnation of the conference.)

Mr. Enayet Karim addressed the conference on behalf of Bangladesh, following an address by Mr. Maharajakrishna Rasgotra, Minister for Political Affairs, Embassy of India.

Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen, who recently returned from a tour of the refugee camps in India and the war-stricken areas of Bangladesh, made the final presentation of the conference.

The conference, which was presided over by Dr. Homer Jack, Secretary General of the World conference of Religion for Peace, was co-sponsored by Harry Applewhite, Director for International Relations, Council for Christian Social Action, United Church of Christ; Robert Jones, Executive Director, Washington Office, Unitarian Universalist Association; Dr. Allan Parrent, Department of International Affairs, National Council of Churches; Edward Snyder, Friends Committee on National Legislation.

A LETTER FROM
BANGLADESH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The following letter, dated Nov 4, 1971, has been addressed to all doctors by the general secretary of the Bangladesh Medical Association, U.K. (9A Wotton Road, London NW2, UK) after his return from Bangladesh:

Dear Colleague:

Conditions are very bad. There is a great shortage of drugs and warm clothing. In September the Commander-in-Chief visited the Hospital, and in October we had a visit from the Acting President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh. A letter from the C-in-C to our President is enclosed. The C-in-C has endorsed our plan to set up 3 more hospitals, and even requested that we set up 10 more instead. The sooner we are able to do this, the greater will be our contribution to the fight for our country.

During the last two months we have given:

- medical and other help to the Mukti Bahini
- medical supplies (5,000 lbs. drugs etc.)
- clothing (2,000 lbs.)

We urgently request your help on the following projects:

1. Dr. Mobin has been doing a tremendous job in establishing the first Bangladesh Hospital. He has been working there for almost six months. He must soon be replaced. We urge you to give three months time to serve in our Hospital. Contact us as soon as possible if you are willing to undertake this vitally needed work.

2. Please try to give us 10% of your salary. This can be easily arranged by bankers order.

3. As to drugs. Contact your local GPs and ask for donations of the free samples they receive regularly. Aspirins, cough mixtures, antibiotics, tetanus toxoid, and anti malarials - all are needed.

4. The response to our appeal for clothing has been moderate. If the Mukti Bahini are not to die of cold, they must have the basic necessities. These can easily be supplied from the UK. Knitted woollen squares, joined together, make very good blankets. Please help us with this.

5. Our mailing list does not include all the Bangladesh doctors in the UK and abroad. We would like to have complete support. Please make a personal effort to find out the names of doctors not already in the Bangladesh Medical Association and send them to us. We would also appreciate your notifying us immediately of changes in address.

Yesterday I received a letter from Bangladesh giving news of the Liberation Army. The Mukti Bahini have captured Chhatak and the Pakistan army has been forced to retreat to Sunamganj. Below is a confidential report of the Combined Military Hospital in Dacca giving details of casualties sustained by the Pakistani forces until July.

Combined Military Hospital, Dacca
Casualties up to 26.7.7.

Total no. dead soldiers brought to hospital 7,493

Total no. soldiers fatally wounded 5,643

Total no. soldiers wounded 4,830

Total no. soldiers dead from snake bite 147

Mentally disabled soldiers subsequently transferred elsewhere - 246
18,359

We have been very active in arousing interest in the British community in our projects, and may establish a medical aid committee along the lines of "Medical Aid to Vietnam." We will try to be in touch with you every 4 - 6 weeks.

It is essential that Bengalis not directly involved in the Liberation Struggle help in their individual capacities. Without physicians and drugs our fighters cannot survive. We can and must help them.

Yours 'incerely,

A T M Zafrullah Chowdhury
General Secretary

A LETTER FROM THE MUKTI BAHINI
COMMANDER - in - CHIEF TO THE PRESIDENT
OF BANGLADESH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To
Dr. A.H.S. Rahman
President,
Bangladesh Medical Association

Oct 13, 1971

Dear Dr. Rahman:

I am taking the opportunity of Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury's temporary return to UK, to write and thank you and, through you, the Bangladesh Medical Association for making Drs. Zafrullah and Mobin available to organize hospitals in the field for the Bangladesh Forces (Mukti Bahini) and for the medical equipment and medicines. So far they have organized one hospital in the Field which I was very impressed with. It promises to be a good hospital even though accommodated in bamboo huts.

I need hardly add that we look forward to your sustained interest and efforts in providing us with medical facilities and equipment which I have no doubt will be properly utilized, under Dr. Zafrullah's dedicated care.

Yours sincerely,

M.A.G. Osmany

PARTICIPATE IN THE ...
LIBERATION STRUGGLE:
HELP MUKTI BAHINI

If you are a doctor, Mukti Bahini need your experience and skill. You can serve in the Mukti Bahini hospitals for three months. Dr. Zillur Rahman Athar M.D. (808 Hillwood Blvd., Nashville, TN 37209, Phone: (615) 356-3912) is coordinating the medical efforts in North America and maintaining liason with the Bangladesh Medical Association in England. Write to him to facilitate the preparation of a rotating roster of doctors available for Mukti Bahini hospitals. You may also establish direct contact with the Medical Association in England (9A Wotton Road,

London NW 2, U.K.)

Please send medicines, winter clothes and/or cash to Mukti Bahini. For information regarding free air transportation of medicines and the channels to send money to Mukti Bahini contact Dr. Muhammad Yunus (500 Paragon Mills #B-7, Nashville, TN 37211, Phone (615) 833-3064).

POETRY READING BY GINSBERG AND VOZNESENSKY

New York: For the first time, Allen Ginsberg and Andrei Voznesensky, the distinguished Russian poet, will give a poetry reading together. The reading to be held on Saturday, November 20th, at 7 p.m., at St. George's Church, 207 E. 16th Street, is intended to raise the public level of consciousness about the problem of Bangladesh and what the American people can do to alleviate it.

To quote Mr. Ginsberg, who has recently returned from a tour of the refugee camps in India:

Millions of brothers in woe,
Millions of sisters nowhere to go,
Millions of children in the rain,
Millions of mothers in pain --
September flood over Jessore road.

Joining them will be Kenneth Koch, Ed Sanders, Gregory Corso, Peter Orlovsky, Anne Waldman, Michael Brownstein, Dick Gallup, and Ron Padgett.

The reading is sponsored by Americans for Bangladesh, a group of concerned citizens working to educate the public about Bangladesh and to raise relief funds for Bangladesh.

POETRY READING IN ENGLAND

Glenda Jackson, the actress, read a Bengali poem as well as passages from Shakespeare and Yeats at a Sadlers Wells Theatre concert on Nov 14, 71 to raise funds for refugees from Bangladesh. Bengali artists included well-known folk singers and Birender Shankar, nephew of Ravi Shankar, the celebrated sitar player.

BANGLADESH ACTIVITIES AROUND THE U.S.

San Francisco Bay Area

Dr. A.R. Mallick and Dr. A. Hoque, members of the Bangladesh delegation to the UN, spoke to a gathering of approximately 250 students and faculty of Stanford University on Nov 2. The American League for Bangladesh organized an elaborate publicity campaign for the rally in the community and on campus. The Stanford Daily and the local Palo Alto Times gave good coverage of the event. Immediately preceding the rally the visitors addressed a group of local newsmen. In the news conference the visitors explained the nature of the liberation struggle in Bangladesh. Repeatedly they stressed the fact that the 75 million people of Bangladesh are fighting to be free from an enemy whose nature is fascist and whose tactics are medieval. The rally was opened by Joan Baez's song on Bangladesh followed by opening remarks by the chairman of the American League for Bangladesh. He pointed out to the gathering how another poor and populous country in South Asia became the victim of Mr. Nixon's generation of peace.

In his opening speech, Dr. Mallick dealt with the background of the genocidal war in Bangladesh. He told the rally that the 75 million Bengalis of Bangladesh are fighting a true and genuine liberation struggle. Their struggle is for life against death. He exposed the brutal and medieval character of the Pakistani regime. The enemy is waging a war for the extermination of a people.

Following Dr. Mallick, Dr. Hoque spoke to the assembly. He gave an eyewitness account of his experiences and told the rally that despite heavy odds, the liberation struggle is forging ahead and the victory of the Mukti Bahini, Bangladesh peoples army, is inevitable. At the end of the rally, Mrs. Hubert Marshall, spokesman for the Stanford Women for Peace, made a scathing attack on the Nixon administration for its complicity in the genocide in Bangladesh.

In addition to Stanford campus the visitors also spoke in U.C. Berkeley and Santa Cruz. They appealed to the citizens to help stop all aid to the repressive and brutal regime in Pakistan.

- 629 -

Santa Cruz, California:

At a meeting of the students and faculty of the University of California at Santa Cruz on Nov 10, it was decided to organize a campus group called "Friends of Bangladesh," with Chris Maier and Evelyn Lee as coordinators and Professor Dilip Basu as advisor. The group intends to educate the campus and local communities on the Bangladesh issue, through leafleting, lectures, teach-in, film-shows etc. Students were urged to mail some pertinent literature to their parents, asking them to contribute toward refugee relief and write to their congressmen and senators. Two hundred and fifty students signed up to fast on November 18 as a gesture of solidarity with Bangladesh and contribute their meal tickets to refugee relief.

East Lansing, Michigan

Arrangements are in progress for fast on Dec 1, 71, in 16 Dormitories, 20 sororities, 30 fraternities and 13 coop housing. Proceeds from the fast will go to help the refugees. Educational campaign on Bangladesh is continuing rigorously. Speakers from Bangladesh Association addressed meetings in several Dorms and high schools on Bangladesh issue. There was a short TV appearance in the local TV appealing for funds for the Bengali refugees. On Nov 14, Rev Warren Day and Mr. S. Poddar from Lansing Area Committee for Emergency Refugee Fund had 15 minute radio Program about the conditions of refugees and causes leading to this gravest human disaster. All Lansing area Presbyterian Churches collected funds in their churches on Nov 21, to help the refugees.

Dewitt, Michigan

The Lions Club of Dewitt - Lansing invited the President of Bangladesh Association, Michigan State University to speak to its meeting on Nov 18, 71. He spoke in the meeting on the Bangladesh issue and appealed for funds and winter clothes. Literature and leaflets were also distributed.

Ann Arbor, Michigan

On the 22nd of Nov about 1000 students of the South Quadrangle of the University of Michigan observed a fast to donate their money for the Bangladesh refugees. In the evening a mass meeting and a cultural show was

organized for the fasting students. Mr. Rod Huber and Mr. Hank Haitowit spoke on the situation in Bangladesh. Miss Sheron Lower and Miss Indu Malini performed Bengali dances to the tune of Tagore songs presented by Miss Beth Lingdberg, Mr. Ashok Talwar and Mr and Mrs Raja. The program was produced and conducted by Mr. Peter Hook and Miss Sneholata Deeksheet. The fast was organized by Mr. Bart Taub.

A weekly Bangladesh information desk at the univ. center distributes materials on Bangladesh situation under the management of a sub-committee chairman Miss Terry Cline.

Urbana, Illinois

Bangladesh Association at the University of Illinois took part in a panel discussion sponsored by the local cosmopolitan club. Mr. Mohammad H. Mondal and Mr. Rabbani of the Association and Dr. M. Rahman of Eastern Illinois University at Charleston, Ill. spoke on the background of the tragedy in Bangladesh and the future of Bangladesh. The association is presenting a film in the first week of December to raise funds. A drive for collection of winter clothes for the Mukti Bahini is in progress.

ARMS FOR PAKISTAN

Two recent reports from the Daily Telegraph (Nov 10, 13) reveal a flow of British and German arms through illegal channels. British equipment has included tanks, aircraft and guns; it was shipped by way of Las Palmas through Pak ships. British officials expressed puzzlement. These secret shipments may have originated from weapons ostensibly discarded as scrap. Spare parts for US M-47 tanks are involved in the West German leak of arms. There are suspicions that bribes have been paid to officials to camouflage deliveries of live equipment and spare parts as 'demilitarized' equipment sold by the Bundeswehr at scrap prices.

BANGLADESH NEWS DIGEST

Nov 11
NY Times

Reporting from a "guerrilla hamlet" in East Bengal, Malcolm Browne sends a detailed dispatch: "This guerrilla hamlet, in common with many rural communities in the deltaic flood plain of East Pakistan is a good 20 miles from the nearest road or footpath. It is accessible only through a maze of shallow canals clogged with water plants and offering innumerable positions for ambushing intruders...Guerrillas in 'liberated zones' like this one feel completely secure from army operations and their houses display Bangladesh posters and portraits of the imprisoned Bengali leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman... As a rule of thumb, foreign diplomats and military observers consider that about a quarter of the region is controlled by the guerrillas, who claim a force of at least 100,000 men. But even in the heart of army-occupied territory Pak Control is tenuous... (One) guerrilla officer explained that local units were organized in 40-man platoons comprising 4 squads of 10 men each...

"Communications between guerrilla districts are said to be rapid and reliable...'Broadly speaking,' a guerrilla surgeon said, 'we are organized in three levels, we have a sabotage unit which works mainly against power lines, bridges, railroads, vital services in cities and, of course, all military and police organizations. Second, we have the guerrillas, who ordinarily confine themselves to small-unit actions. Each liberated village trains its own guerrilla force, and usually we have instructors from the former Eas Pak police, the East Bengal Regiment or the East Pak rifles. Third, we have the front fighters - our divisional units, which will fight the final battles with large units of the Pak Army. So far, the guerrillas have done most of the work...

"Generally speaking the officers and men show little interest in politics and reply vaguely when asked about their objectives. A Captain gave a typical response, saying: "Bangladesh will be a democracy. We hear talk about Maoist leaders taking over the

movement, but as far as we are concerned that is nonsense. For all of us the idea is to create an independent, democratic Bengali State. The details we can work out after the victory."

Nov 12 L
L Times (Rawalpindi)

The Chinese seemed to have pressed caution on Yahya. Evidence suggests that the three main points put across to the Pak delegation were: (a) find a political solution to the East Bengal crisis: (b) on no account should India be attacked: (c) this was not the moment to raise the Indo-Pak conflict in the UN Security Council.

Guardian (Karachi)

Speaking at Lahore, Z.A. Bhutto asked India to exercise patience for two months until it could negotiate with a civilian govt. in Pakistan. (Bonn)

The West German govt. is to give the UN a further 50 million marks to help East Bengal refugees and aid to India will be increased

Daily Telegraph (Dacca)

Some units of the Pak Army who are not actually engaged in border warfare are showing signs of strain. Soldiers have been harassing shopkeepers and demanding goods for exceedingly low prices if not as gifts. The behavior of the troops is certainly worse than it was two months ago.

NY Times (Agartala)

In the Kamalpur conflict the guerrillas have occupied a 12 sq-mile area. Guerrilla sources also said that they had seized control of a 5 sq-mile area at Salda Nadi and a 16 sq-mile area that includes Kasba. In 3 weeks of fighting Kasba has changed hands five times. In the last engagement, a key guerrilla leader, Khaled Musharoff was wounded severely.

(Washington).

Alarmed by what one US official called a "dramatic escalation of fighting" along the Indo-Pak border in the last few days, the US has called on the two sides to avoid all-out war.

Nov 13

Daily Telegraph (Karachi)

Addressing supporters at Karachi, Z.A. Bhutto warned that he would not tolerate any attempt

to form an East Pakistan dominated govt. after next month's by-elections. He declared: "we will topple it within 40 days." Bhutto expects to head the govt. to be formed after the elections.

(Dacca)

Nurul Amin expects to be the next Prime Minister of Pakistan. He has played a key role in forming a coalition of the 6 small parties which opposed Mujib. Because of his age and health, he is expected to have a dynamic deputy, either A.M. Malik or Mahmud Ali. Few observers expect Amin's cabinet to satisfy Bangladesh supporters.

(London)

Guerrillas fired upon a British ship near Chalna, less than 48 hrs after a similar incident when a British freighter had been damaged forcing it to berth at Calcutta.

London Times (Bethberia)

Fred Bridgland reports that he watched about 400 refugees cross into India in about three hours across this area. According to his guide, the town is part of a liberated area of 100 square miles. A batch of 48 young Mukti Bahini said that they had led a group of over 1000 refugees on a trek from Barisal, taking 13 days to cover 155 miles.

Mafizul Islam, leader of the group, said that the Razakars and the Pak Army were making sweeps on villages in Suder sub-division at intervals of about three days. He said: "They are killing all the young men. They don't ask questions whether you are Hindu or Muslim. What matters is whether you are a Bengali."

Prafulla Nag, a refugee, said the Razakars and Pak Army were "taking away our women and looting and burning the villages." Refugees from other districts also spoke of villages being burnt, women being abducted and young men killed, sometimes by being burned alive.

(Delhi)

According to informed sources, Indian contingency plans provide for complete isolation of East Bengal and W Pak. by a naval blockade if war breaks out. This would imperil the supply line for the Pak Army in East Bengal since Pak ships would have to run a dangerous gauntlet around Indian naval bases along the western and eastern coastline.

(Rome)

M.H. Sufi, advisor to Yahya Khan, said that

even though the agric. situation in East Bengal was "rather dismal, the food situation had been "under control and all talk of a disaster on the food front has been proved to be wrong."

Wash Post (Delhi)

One effect of the anti-Hindu nature of Pak-military occupation in East Bengal has been that extreme Hindu groups in India are demanding retribution to be taken of the Moslems in India.

Officials here stress a limit to how long India can bear the economic and social costs of the present refugee situation. Most speak of a breaking point around Jan., at the latest in April.

N Y Times (Agartala)

Kasturi Rangan writes from Sector 3 headquarters of the Mukti Bahini, located on the border between East Bengal and Tripura: "Talking to the commandant and other leaders of the Mukti Bahini one gets the impression that their group is now fairly well organized along the lines of the Indian or Pakistani armies. Each sector commander is assigned a specific area to be liberated. Sector 3 has jurisdiction over an area that stretches as far as Dacca. Among the recent guerrilla exploits in this sector was the seizure of the town of Kasbah, about 15 miles SW from here. The credit for liberating a 40-mile wedge near Belonia goes to Sector 1. So does the credit for the guerrilla activities in Chittagong port...Neither the rebel govt. nor its military commanders seems to direct the operation of the troops in the field. The sector commanders make all decisions. They draw up all plans and strategy."

(Washington)

US Secretary of State William Rogers urged "maximum restraint" on both India and Pak. He also said that in case of war; the US "will do everything to stay out."

Nov 14

Observer (Rawalpindi)

People are apprehensive, defiant, mournful. Awareness of the magnitude of the human disaster in East Bengal has penetrated West Pak by now, in spite of strict Press censorship.

A talk with Z.A. Bhutto showed that Pak can probably hope for little help from Peking

in the event of war. Bhutto is an old hand at talking sympathetically to the Chinese, but he does not seem to have brought back the goods -- if one is right in expecting them to include a defense pact, immediate military aid, a promise of air cover and manoeuvrings on India's ne border.

(Dacca)

US aid officials said that guerrillas had damaged a UN ship carrying relief food grains. 4 Pak Army collaborators were reported shot dead by guerrillas as the latest victims in a series of killings during the past 24 hrs.

NY Times (Delhi)

Both Pak and Indian troops have crossed into each other's territory, with Indian troops entering in force on at least two occasions this month. Casualties on both sides are reported heavy.

Bengali guerrillas are making large-scale attempts to seize and hold sizable areas in East Bengal. They already hold some strategic areas but Pak has counterattacked with heavy artillery and mortar and with strafing by jets. Each time the guerrillas launch a major assault on Pak positions, the Paks shell their base camps, some in India. Pak is reported to have shelled civilian population centers on the Indian side.

Chicago Tribune (Calcutta)

Dr. John Seaman estimates that 500,000 children refugees may die from protein malnutrition by the end of the year. At least 100,000 are estimated dead already. Dr Nevin Srimshaw, US nutrition expert, estimates that 200,000 babies will die unless prompt steps for relief are taken.

Nov 15

Daily Telegraph

Claire Hollingworth writes from a liberated zone 80 miles inside East Bengal: "On a tour of the area by boat and on foot -- there are no roads in the region -- no attempts were made to hide the presence of Mukti Foj guerrillas. Everywhere the atmosphere was extremely relaxed and in 48 hours I did not hear a sound of a single shot fired in anger. Obviously, the 15000 inhabitants have tremendous confidence in Bangladesh because they are reconstructing the 'basha' houses and repairing the damage to the embankments caused by the recent flood. Some schools are open and there is a clinic where minor ailments can be treated...The guerrilla's morale is high

despite a shortage of modern weapons and a chronic lack of ammunition. About 2000 guerrillas are already deployed in surrounding villages in readiness for decisive action. Much will depend on the supplies of ammunition they can obtain within the next few weeks.

London Times (Delhi)

Unconfirmed reports suggest that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed flew to Delhi on a secret mission. There is talk of an Indo-Bangladesh friendship pact amounting to a defense pact.

Wash Post (Delhi)

For all the talk of increased world sympathy, Mrs. Gandhi returned with no commitments that hold the possibility of easing the crisis and the threat of an Indo-Pak war has not diminished. "In fact, Mrs. Gandhi's trip may spell the end of India's belief that the problem can be solved through international diplomacy, "one well-informed source said.

Christian Science Monitor (Dacca)

Writing about his travels within East Bengal, Henry Hayward says: "We saw no burned villages, no slain villagers. But then this is the secret war of East Pak. Officially it doesn't exist. It's always somewhere else. You don't see it. You just hear about it -- from ordinary frightened people with no reason to lie..."

"The evidence may be flimsy, hearsay, or far away. But too many humble people of East Pak risk great trouble for themselves to make sure you know..."

"A whisper, and a flat denial. Worried city men and toil-worn farmers with no organized program, against the word of urbane officials with a policy to pursue and statistics to back up what they say."

"You take your choice in accepting or rejecting the very existence of this internecine war. Somehow you can't help believing the little people. Their tale of terror is told too often to be always wrong.

Boston Globe (Boston)

Dr Nevin Scrimshaw, Chairman of the UN Protein Advisory group and internationally known nutrition expert, asked the US to stop all military and financial aid to Pak

and to give greater assistance to India for refugee relief. He said that US arms shipments had encouraged Pak to continue military repression and the continued flow of refugees into India.

Nov 16

London Times (Delhi)

Indian Defence Minister, Jagjivan Ram, hinted that the decision to recognize Bangladesh had already been taken. He added that the announcement would be made at an appropriate time.

Toronto Globe & Mail (Karachi)

7 right-wing political parties agreed to form a United Coalition Party in the national assembly under the leadership of Nurul Amin. The coalition is expected to be the largest with 120 seats. Nurul Amin demanded that the Prime Minister be from East Bengal. Z. A. Bhutto, has said that an East Pakistani could be a Prime Minister only if a West Pakistani is President.

Wash Post (Dacca)

A US missionary and 2 W German consular officials were killed in separate incidents near Dacca. The priest was shot and the diplomats were killed when their car hit a road mine.

Christian Science Monitor (Dacca)

Bengali guerrilla activity is hard at work spreading industrial and economic chaos, attacking power and communications facilities, harassing the army. The jute industry depends upon a remaining highly vulnerable power line. Jute farmers are being discouraged from sowing; shipping or selling their important export crop. Loss is estimated at \$130 million for fiscal 71-72 if the security situation grows noworse. Twenty million lbs of tea are stuck in Sylhet district with the rail line being cut.

Urban support for the Mukti Bahini is probably stronger than in the countryside where peasants are sympathetic with objectives but anxious not to get involved personally. With only a few Army battalions remaining in Dacca after dispersal of main forces to the borders, the city could swarm with Mukti if the organization so decreed, but they have apparently not yet been told to operate in strength. Included among liberated areas are said to be portions of Dacca district, Noakhali, Faridpur, Patuakhali, and Dinajpur.

NY Times (Delhi)

A clash between Pak and Indian troops was reported at Shikarpur, where the guerrillas have a large base camp. India said that 4 Pak battalions had crossed into India for the raid.

Nov 17

London Times (Delhi)

According to the Indian Express, if the East Bengal crisis remained unsolved in the near future the Indian govt would declare a national emergency, recognize Bangladesh, enter into a defense treaty with its govt., and openly support the Liberation Front.

Informed sources confirm IM Tajuddin's visit to Delhi. The meeting is understood to include discussions on a treaty incorporating a defense pact. Impartial observers point to one remaining chance of breaking the deadlock: If Yahya can be persuaded to hand over power to a West Pak like Vice-Admiral Ahsan, former naval chief. Ahsan resigned as Governor of East Pak when told of the military plans in March.

Wash Post (Delhi)

Reports arrived here of Pak shelling of Agartala, fourth time in three weeks. Pak shelling and firing was also reported from Mahendraganj area of the Garo Hills district in Meghalaya.

NY Times

In an interview here Rehman Sobhan has reported that Sheikh Mujib was seen about four weeks ago, "listless and feeble," in a prison courtroom in Lyallpur, West Pak. The informant was a Bengali sent to Lyallpur to testify against Mujib. Sobhan also reported some resentment by Bangladesh leaders against US efforts to seek a compromise between the Pak govt and them. He said that the mission in Calcutta had been warned by the leadership against contacts with Americans who were said to be seeking to split the independence movement through elements willing to compromise on a complete break-away from West Pak. The US has approached both sides, according to US govt. sources, but that no mediation was likely in the near future.

(Shekharnagar)

Malcolm Browne visited this town and writes: "A task force of W Pak troops visited this town of 8000 on Oct 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 the population, most of which fled into nearby ponds, canals 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 US aid program was reportedly loaded into the boats by the troops."

"A warehouse filled with bags of phosphate fertilizer was burned and most of the bags were destroyed. Several buildings belonging to the mosque were burned down, and the Hindu temple was burned and sacked, and its idols were smashed by gunfire..."

"It is widely charged that the army is used relief aid more as a political lever than for genuinely humanitarian purposes, withholding it from rebel areas..."

"According to officials, the guerrillas control only about a fourth of the land area of East Pakistan. On the other hand, it appears to many people who regularly travel in the interior of the country that the guerrillas in fact control a much larger proportion of the land area and most of the Bengali population."

Nov 19

C.S. Monitor (Dacca)

East Bengal's need for food is genuine, but supplying it 20 million destitutes is a problem. Whenever the objectives of the military machine and the humanitarian operation happen to conflict, the military needs threaten to take precedence. There is the obvious probability that the Army will take over UN trucks along with any others it needs. With the present trucks regarded as a writeoff, the difficult decision for UN officials is whether or not to bring in more vehicles to do the job, knowing they also may be confiscated. In addition, officials worry that UN

food itself might be diverted for govt., political or military use. As yet there is no indication of this on a massive scale, but recent interference by Razakars with food distribution causes concern. The Razakars, meanwhile, regard looting as one of their main functions. They are known to operate as gangs in some areas. Some suspect they have instructions from the Pak Army to prevent food distribution in sectors where anti-govt. activities has been reported.

Nov 19

Boston Globe (Dacca)

This usually bustling city of three million persons turns into a ghost town at sundown -- the streets empty as if by magic and an uneasy quiet settles over the city. In an attempt to cut down on the bombings, West Pak officials started a house-to-house search through the metropolitan area of the city today, looking for Bengalis. Officials said 138 suspects were arrested and four armed rebels were killed trying to escape.

Guerrillas swim in a vast, warm, hospitable sea of people... They are winning and they know it. They are being careful not to destroy too much of what they hope to inherit shortly. They have only to keep on gently shaking the tree and the fruit will fall without breaking the branches" one Western diplomat said.

Nov 20

Wash Post (Calcutta)

Mukti Bahini are gaining in their guerrilla war, and it has become less likely that they could be reined in even if any political leader wanted. their fight for independence curtailed. Thousands of Mukti Bahini guerrillas finished their training and entered East Bengal in combat units. It appears that the Mukti Bahini are now preparing for a major military push in an attempt to accelerate their success by a series of coordinated attacks with Dacca as a main target.

Nov 21

Daily Telegraph (New Delhi)

Bengali leader Maulana Bhashani, 89, is in New Delhi for talks with the Indian govt. It is impossible at this stage to assess the significance of Bhashani's presence in Delhi. It is almost certain that Mrs. Gandhi will continue to resist pressure to recognize Bangladesh or go beyond strictly limited sup-

port for the Bangladesh guerrilla

Nov 21

NY Times (Washington)

Officials at the Agency for International Development are weighing a multi-million-dollar program to try to woo the Bengali refugees to go back in return for material benefits. Congressional sources said that a program involving US funds to induce Bengali refugees to return home might be approved, but only after close scrutiny. The sources said the Pak govt might be expected to welcome any such program as an indirect form of economic aid that would relieve the heavy drain on its own resources. Aid officials conceded that no final plans could be formulated until the Senate and House agreed on the foreign aid authorization bill.

(Karachi)

It is clear that the Pak Army in the Eastern province is being led by officers who have learned nothing from Vietnam. Perhaps political warfare is just too difficult and untidy for the world's regular military, who prefer to believe that politics is bunk and God is with the big battalions. In East Bengal the big battalions are fighting a desperate battle of survival. There is an overwhelming impression in the cities and the hamlets that the Bengali people want independence and are prepared to fight the Pak Army to the death for it.

Nov 22

London Times (Karachi)

Pak radio reported a major clash with Indian troops northwest of Jessore. It said that Indian forces and their "agents" had attacked Pak positions. It also said that information had been received of similar attacks from Comilla, Chittagong Hill tracts, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Rangpur districts.

(Dacca)

The police said that Dacca and Narayanganj had come in for heavy strafing from guerrillas last night. Shelling over the city was reported, apparently from the Buriganga and Sitalakya rivers.

Nov 23

London Times (Dacca)

Pak claimed that India had launched an all-out offensive, concentrating on the Jessore sector. Fierce fighting was reported continuing.

(Rawalpindi)

Pak admitted that Indian forces were making "incursions" in Pak territory. Fighting in Sylhet and Chittagong hill areas was continuing. The areas east and north of Chittagong port were also reported under attack.

(Delhi)

India denied any incursions into Pak territory. It acknowledged that border clashes were increasing and the situation was tense and dangerous. According to Indian reports, border clashes are spreading from Agartala to the Assam border, Cooch Behar in North Bengal, and Dinajpur in West Bengal.

NY Times (Calcutta)

According to reports here, a major offensive by Bengali guerrillas is apparently under way on the western side of East Bengal. Capture of Jessore seems to be a key initial objective. First hand details are non-existent because of tightening security here. One newsman who did make it to a Mukti Bahini headquarters near Taki reported that the commander there said that most of the railroad and road to Jessore were under his control. According to other reports guerrillas had pushed 20 miles into East Bengal on the northwest corner.

Nov 24

London Times (Rawalpindi)

Claiming threat of external aggression, Yahya declared a national emergency yesterday. According to Western sources, the fiercest fighting has been in the Jessore area and in the Belonia bulge in the Noakhali district. Parts of the bulge and of the Chittagong hills were thought to be held by the guerrillas. The guerrillas were also thought to be pushing toward the Jessore railway line which is the main connecting link from Khulna to the north.

(Debhata)

Mukti Bahini guerrillas in this area described the fighting as a "do or die" battle to liberate their country and establish an independent Bangladesh. M.A. Jalil, a guerrilla leader, told the correspondent that the most immediate objective was to capture strategic towns in S.E. Bangladesh, eventually giving them control of the area on the Bay of Bengal, which would hinder the Pak Army supply link from West Pak.

(Delhi)

In spite of allegations and counter-allegations it is now obvious that Indian and Pak armour units have been locked in a serious and fierce tank battle north-west of Jessore during the past few days. It would appear that the Indian govt. has several objectives in mind. India certainly does not want to make a formal declaration of war and it would seem as though troops disguised as guerrillas have been sent across the border to provoke Pak into war. If Pak strikes on the western frontier India will recognize Bangladesh, and then on the invitation of the Bengalis would formally enter East Bengal.

Wash Post (Dacca)

Over half of the UN force has been ordered to leave for Bangkok on Wed by UN officials because of the Jessore fighting, the state of emergency, and the sinking of two UN ships by guerrillas early today. 6 UN trucks were taken over by the Army yesterday.

Chicago Tribune (Rawalpindi)

Senior Army officers said that Pak has lost 8 planes in the fighting and has suffered heavy casualties on the ground, military attaches reported.

(Washington)

Pak Ambassador A.N. Raza told newsmen that "the war is on." He added that he did not know whether a formal declaration of war was imminent. Raza said that there were "certain bilateral agreements" between the US and Pak but that he was not certain what they were. Pak had "no agreement of any kind with China," he said. He also asserted that there were no refugees flowing into India and that the total number was only 2 million.

New York Times (Washington)

US officials said that information available indicated that Indian regular forces had crossed into East Bengal and were closely collaborating or spearheading the guerrilla attacks against the Pak army there. US officials disputed Pak charges of an Indian full-scale invasion as having occurred. Charles Bray of SD conceded that the US had little independent information from the area. He said the US was in touch with Soviet Union and other powers, but not China as yet.

(Bagda)

Large numbers of Indian troops pushed nearby toward the East Bengal border yesterday and, according to officers, crossed into East Bengal. None of the officers attempted to deny that their troops were headed to support the Bengali guerrillas who had opened an offensive.

Nov 25

NY Times (Calcutta)

Mrs. Gandhi acknowledged that Indian troops had crossed into East Bengal to battle Pak forces, but that they had done so only on Sunday and "in self-defense." There were now no troops in East Bengal, a spokesman later said. Reliable reports indicated that heavy fighting was continuing in the districts of Jessore, Kinajpur, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet. Sources in the Bangladesh govt said that Indian tanks were supporting a big battle around Meherpur. Details of the fighting remain sketchy with foreign correspondents being barred from border areas.

(Islamabad)

Military reserves are being called up. Pak reported that Chanderpur had been retaken by Pak but that Chuagacha (Jessore) and Atgram (Sylhet) were still in Indian hands. Accredited diplomats seem, for the most part, uncertain as to the seriousness of the situation in the absence of first hand reports from foreign observers on the border.

A 12-member delegation from China arrived, partly to inaugurate a large industrial complex built with Chinese aid and also due to discuss Pakistan's needs during the current emergency.

(Washington)

President Nixon was reported to be contemplating a personal appeal to Yahya to release Sheikh Mujib and to seek by personal negotiations a peaceful solution of the East Bengal crisis. Informants also said that a request to the Security Council was also under consideration. Charles Bray of SD declined comment on whether there were any secret commitments binding Pak and US.

(United Nations)

Pakistan, uncertain whether she would get the necessary support from big powers, was

still reluctant to call for a meeting of the Security Council.

FOURTEEN YEARS' RIGOROUS
IMPRISONMENT FOR PROFESSORS

According to a press release issued in Dacca on Nov 9 four professors of Dacca University and 55 civil servants have been sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment by the martial court. The sentences were passed in absentia.

The four professors are: Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed Choudhury, Prof. Abdur Razzak, Prof. Sarwar Murshed and Prof. Mazharul Islam. Among the civil servants are: Khondkar Asaduzzaman, Hasan Taufiq Imam, Abdus Samad, Nurul Kader Khan, Syed Abdus Samad, Qndrat-e-Ilahi, Khashruzzaman Choudhury, Rakibuddin Ahmed, Waliul Islam, Akbar Ali Khan, Kamal Siddiqui, Taufiq Ilahi and Sadat Hossain.

HOLIDAY CARD

A painting by the well-known Bengali artist Qamrul Hasan, called Composition I, has been selected as the design for Bangladesh holiday card. The painting depicts three women wearing saris. The inside of the card bears a verse from the Gitanjali by Tagore. The cards are available at the Bangladesh Information Center, Washington D.C. at a price of \$1.50 for a box of ten.

PLEASE NOTE

"Do you support the proposition that the United States should support the independence of Bangladesh?" That was the question asked in the Public Broadcasting system TV-network program called "Advocate". Send them a card today stating that you do support the proposition. Address: Advocate, P.B.NO. 1971, Boston, Mass.

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