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Biharis to undergo transfer and search

MURAPARA (UPI) — More than 20,000 Biharis, mostly women, children and old men, are expected to be moved into a former reformatory here while Bangladesh security forces search for armed anti-Bengali holdouts in Dacca's suburban Mirpur, a Bangladesh army officer said Saturday.

The Bihari enclave has been the scene of heavy fighting between Bangladesh soldiers and police and residents for the past week. A Bangladesh official said Friday at least 100 soldiers and policemen and 250 residents had been killed.

Scattered clashes were reported Friday and several persons wounded.

(British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home arrived in New Delhi Saturday for talks with Indian leaders on "the subcontinent of India and the rapidly-changing world." Britain recognized Bangladesh Friday.)

Lt. Mansurul Islam Mazumder, in charge of the camp, said about 1,500 frightened Biharis arrived Friday pleading "don't rape us." He said "I am very afraid for the young girls and I have told them not to come out."

"This is a temporary arrangement," he said. "They must go back to their homes as soon as they are secured."

Mazumder said 1,000 more were to arrive Saturday and he had been told to expect about 20,000 Biharis from Mirpur, about 12 miles from Murapara, before the search-and-disarm operations are completed.

A high-ranking Bangladesh

official said the government is determined to collect all weapons in the enclave, which houses as many as 200,000 Bihari Moslems.

Authorities believe some deserters and holdouts from the Pakistani army are hiding out in Mirpur and Mohammadpur, another Bihari enclave near Dacca, and have organized resistance among the non-Bengalis. Many Biharis were accused of having collaborated with the Pakistani army and serving in paramilitary forces during the Bengali struggle for liberation.

The transfer apparently was undertaken in great haste for when the first Biharis arrived there was no food waiting for them.



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