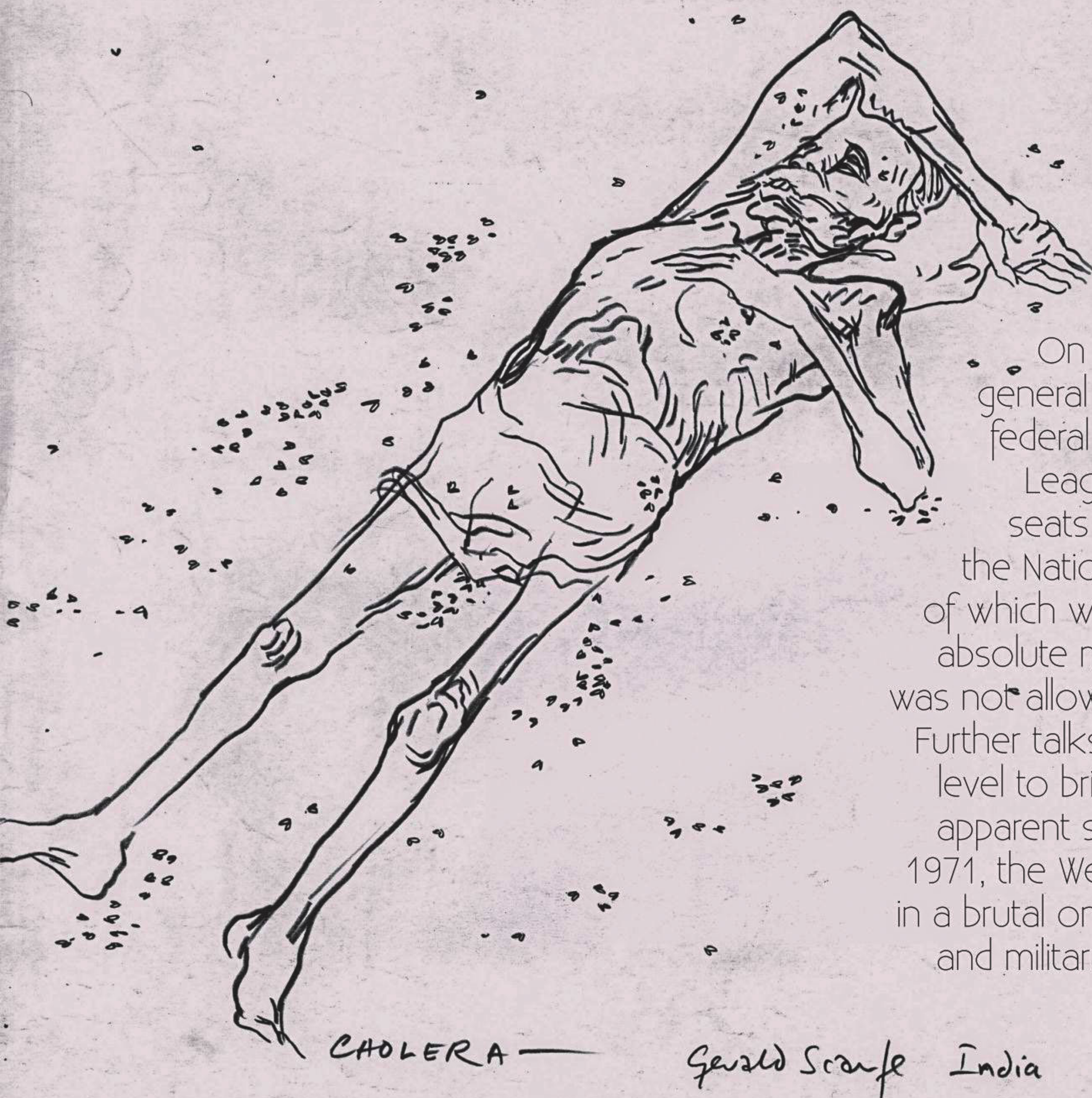


# The agony of WAR

On 7 December, 1970, the first general election of Pakistan at the federal level was held. The Awami League bagged 167 out of 169 seats allotted to East Pakistan in the National Assembly, the strength of which was 313. Even after securing absolute majority, the Awami League was not allowed to form a government. Further talks took place at the highest level to bring about a solution to the apparent stalemate, but on 25 March, 1971, the West Pakistan army engaged in a brutal onslaught on Bengali civilians and military/paramilitary forces of the erstwhile East Pakistan.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

