East wing sealed off

By DAVID LOSBIK, in New Delhi.

KILLING on a mass scale is under way in East Pakistan, caught in the grip of a vicious civil war, according to all available indications from the province, which is now virtually sealed off from the outside world.

Diplomatic sources which still have tenuous radio links with their missions in Dacca, as well as foreign observers who have been in the province since fighting began on Friday, say the 70,000 West Pakistan soldiers are showing no mercy in their bid to suppress the Bengali independence movement.

Estimates of the number of Bengalis who have been killed range from 10,000 to 40,000. Whatever the true figure, it can be said not only of the Bengalis that the government’s determination to impose its will on them is reflected in the ruthlessness with which it will do so.

Hatred voiced

Many senior West Pakistan officers stationed in Dacca during the two New Awami Leagues

Of the two New Awami League leaders, Yehya Khan’s, martial law regime have openly voiced their hatred of their Bengali compatriots.

The past two always tense, fears that encouraged these bitternesses have been given expression to shoulder and to grow.

The clandestine radio stations have a role in this distortion of the truth that the province’s last official imprisoned by a pro-government government had been set up, headed by Major Haji Mohammad Reza, chief of the Bengal Special Branch.

The Awami League leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is speak to the liberation forces. The revolutionary headquarters in Chittagong

Capture hint

But the wording of the announcement indicated that Sheikh Mujib may have to stay in the city at least until Thursday night. Other escape plans are being considered.

As for the Bengalis, they may have been under arrest at the time of the announcement.

NINE BENGALIS CHARGED

Nine news persons were arrested in Kandahar, Afghanistan, last Friday. They were charged with treacherous behaviour and passed to Pakistan.

CYCLONE HITS COAST

Cyclone Max hit the West Australian coast and caused thousands of dollars worth of damage in the town of Port Hedland and caused an estimated $5 million worth of damage in the town of Port Hedland.
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ER WING

By DAVID TOBIAS

There is also concern that fighting may spread across the border which is open to Pakistan. The West Pakistan army has adopted a tougher line and a mood of "no support for India".

Mrs. Gandhi told the Indian Parliament on Saturday that the Indian Army should play a positive role in alleviating the distress of the people of East Pakistan.

Despite pleas from many members to show a more positive response to the plight of the people of East Pakistan, India’s military stance remains firm. The Indian military has not crossed the border.

Mrs. Gandhi said India would not support a "cessationist" movement in the region.

India, she said, had to take into account the national and international repercussions of any move. But the Premier made clear that India had deployed West Pakistan forces earlier to prevent the East wing’s popular movement.

She said the borders with India would remain open for refugees. Her statement was welcomed at a roadside Bangla Desh last night.

Following an emotional discussion in the Lok Sabha, some members protested to the Premier’s interference in its internal affairs. The Pakistan High Commissioner, Mr. Husain, also offered a "complaint" about the Indian news coverage.

The estimated 800 British expatriates in East Pakistan are facing, as the British High Commissioner, Sir Cyril Pickard, British High Commissioner, has said, all foreign missions, has been forbidden to use its transmitter.

But there is no great cause for fear for their safety.

CASUALTIES

By SIMON DRING

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and trucks loaded with troops in camouflage, combat dress, moved through the capital.

Fighting from the clashes in the West wing of the region. Chittagong, was the center of greatest tension all through the crisis which led to the present fighting.

Pretence dropped

The official Government Radio brochure, which dropped its pretense that the situation was "normal," under control. It reported that several had been wounded in Chittagong.
Pretence dropped

The official Government Radio, broadcasting from Dacca, last night dropped its pretense that the situation was "normal" and "under control". It reported that "several thousand" extra troops were being sent to Chittagong to quell mass disturbances.

The official radio, as well as Pakistan's envoy abroad, reiterated a report by Radio Bangladesh that the martial law chief, in East Pakistan, Lieut. Gen. Tikka Khan, had been killed by a "freedom fighter".

The Pakistan High Commissioner, in New Delhi, Mr. Safiqul Hyder, said yesterday Gen. Khan was "very much alive".

But the clandestine radio reported its claim to be based on the bare word of four aides who were with him when he was killed also. Reports coming across the border in the Tripura area said that the general was a victim of a petrol bomb attack in central India.

Concern in India

The civil war in East Pakistan is causing mounting concern in India. The Indian Army Commander-in-Chief, Gen. S. H. F. J. (Sam) Manekshaw, rushed to Delhi for consultations at Cabinet level.

Indira Gandhi, whose political future is unstable and under President's rule direct from written orders from Delhi, has declared that East Pakistan should remain an integral part of India.

There are about 100,000 Indian soldiers in West Bengal at present. They were stationed there to maintain order, during the General Strike of earlier this month. Their presence may prove vital to Indian security.

The reports that conflict could spread to West Bengal in two ways are reassuring. Solidarity with fellow Bengalis in East Pakistan could be exploited and used to generate goodwill.

Significantly, the Marwaris in West Bengal have already started forward their own version of Sheikh Mujib's new, irrelevant six points, and are demanding autonomy from New Delhi.

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and troops loaded with trucks in camouflage, dazed, moved through the capital.

Fleeing from the clashes, many others were injured and wounded among civilian populations of, important towns, will be very high, with light Armies.

Communications between Dacca and the rest of the country and province also have been severed, and it is impossible to say how the occupation is proceeding.

The Army takeover came only in a few hours after the collapse of the talks to deal with the constitutional crisis. Most of the Army commanders refused to explain what was happening on Thursday, except to say: "We are assuming control.

By 6 p.m. on Thursday it was only possible for much of the town to come. The number of troops surrounding my hotel, the Intercontinental, was doubled.

After the news came, there was no way of getting out. The streets were lined with people and people were huffing and puffing.

The hotel closed the bar and restaurant, and tried to send staff home, but a curfew prevented them leaving.

No information could be obtained from telephoning embassies, and the editor of an anti-government newspaper in Calcutta said: "The situation is deteriorating." "The Bengali dream is fading and I expect the army will close down the city, put out the fires and try to build up the trust of the people.""}

Army in control

Reports from East Pakistan yesterday said that there had been widespread firing in the city. In a press statement, the Army said: "The firing in Dacca intensified earlier this morning."

In Dacca, there were reports that Awami League supporters were being killed and that the police were rounding up local leaders.

Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the West Pakistan political leader, was flown back to Dacca last night. He arrived at his hotel and was attacked by a mob.

Gen. Tikka Khan, martial law chief of Pakistan, was flying to New Delhi. He was back in Dacca last night, but his plane landed there before dawn.

A B.C. spokesman said last night that all news bulletins contained news of the situation in East Pakistan. The government was calm and the situation was under control.

BUDGET

By Rowland Summerscales

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The government needs increased, could be used to disarm militants.

Big business will look to the government for credits. Further by 1980, as this hope is growing.