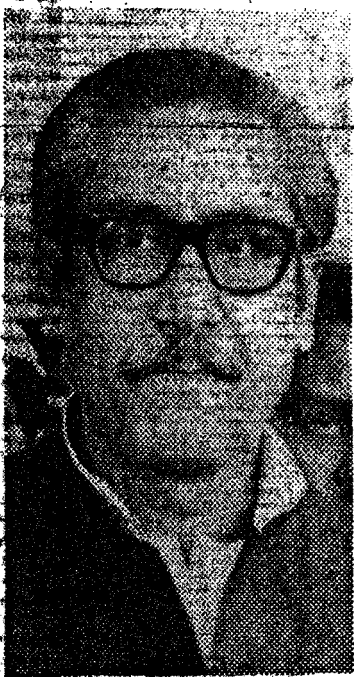


# 10,000 Civilians Reported Killed In Bengal Strife



GENERAL YAHYA

UPI



SHEIKH MUJIB

UPI

## Mujib Believed Seized After Proclaiming Independence

New Delhi, Saturday, March 27 (Reuter)—The Press Trust of India reported today at least 10,000 civilians were killed in bitter fighting throughout East Pakistan yesterday as troops used tanks and artillery against followers of breakaway leaders Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

[Radio Pakistan announced today that Sheikh Mujib was arrested only hours after he proclaimed independence for East Pakistan, the Associated Press reported.]

Forces loyal to the East Pakistan leader, who earlier had proclaimed an independent Bengali republic, were reported to have captured the Chittagong station of Radio Pakistan last night.

The Press Trust of India, quoting a "highly reliable report" reaching Calcutta, said Pakistani troops were forced to retreat from the station in the East Pakistan port after fierce fighting.

There was no word directly from East Pakistan, where censorship was imposed and several cities were under curfew.

Earlier, a clandestine radio monitored in India said Sheikh Mujib had proclaimed East Pakistan the sovereign independent People's Republic of Bangla Desh (Bengali nation).

(Continued, Page A 4, Col. 1)



*Grim-faced West Pakistani troops on alert in Dacca* AP

## 10,000 Civilians Reported Killed In East Pakistan

(Continued from Page A 1)

A later broadcast by what was described as the Free Bangla Desh radio station said the East Pakistan Rifles, a state militia, aided by the "Liberation Army," had encircled a West Pakistani regiment in an undisclosed area of East Pakistan and were about to destroy it.

This broadcast, monitored at the Indian town of Gauhati, near the East Pakistan border, appealed to the United Nations and Afro-Asian countries for support and help in the fight for liberation from what was described as the colonial domination of West Pakistan.

The radio said the liberation

fighting two days ago when 35 persons were reported to have been killed and more than 100 injured by troops in the Rangpur and Chittagong districts.

And unrest spread simultaneously in the west, where a curfew was imposed on the industrial town of Lyallpur after a day of clashes between left-wing demonstrators and police.

In his broadcast tonight, General Yahya, the 54-year-old president who has pledged to restore Pakistan to civilian rule, said that events in the east had taken a very serious turn.

He denounced Sheikh Mujib as a traitor and said the Awami League, which won an overwhelming majority of seats in

The radio said the liberation struggle in Bangla Desh was part of the Afro-Asian movement for freedom from colonial domination.

Civil war was reported elsewhere in East Pakistan as thousands of villagers fought West

Pakistani troops in other major cities, even using spears and clubs in the battles.

### Fighting Spreads

Quoting "highly reliable reports" reaching Indian border areas, the Indian news agency said fighting was also raging in Dacca, the state capital, Camilla and Rangpur.

As the Army moved to crush the secessionist movement led by Sheikh Mujib—denounced as a traitor by President A. M. Yahya Khan in a nationwide broadcast yesterday—the agency said the fighting had assumed the proportions of civil war.

One report said 1,000 West Pakistani commandos were flown into East Pakistan via China during the past two days.

Fighting was said to be heavy in Rangpur where West Pakistani troops are reported to have shot and killed at least 20 persons two days ago.

### Clandestine Radio

The clandestine radio report monitored in India said Sheikh Mujib had gone underground. The broadcast, thought to originate from the northern region of East Pakistan, called on the people to fight until all enemy troops were vanquished.

The broadcast said West Pakistani troops had been surrounded by Bangla Desh forces in Chittagong, Comilla, Sylhet, Jessore, Barisal and Khulna.

The Bangla Desh forces were from the East Pakistani regiment, East Pakistan Rifles and police, the radio said.

whelming majority of seats in East Pakistan in National Assembly elections last December, would be banned.

General Yahya said it was imperative that the situation should be brought under control as soon as possible. But he insisted that his aim was still in transfer power "to the elected representatives of the people."

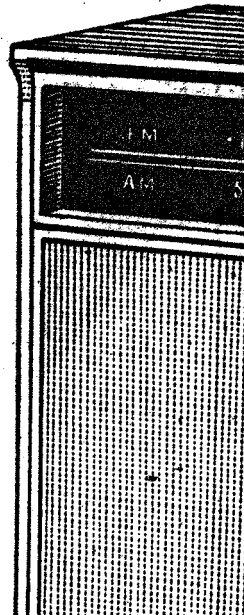
### "Take Fresh Steps"

"As soon as the situation permits I will take fresh steps toward this objective," he declared.

But "in view of the grave situation which exists in the country today, I have decided to ban all political activities throughout the country," General Yahya said.

*Stewart*

**BALTIMORE**



## 70,000 Troops

Reports from the Indian news agency said that at least 10,000 troops from West Pakistan had now been landed in the east bringing their strength in the territory to about 70,000 men.

All-India Radio tonight reported heavy fighting in Dacca despite the curfew.

An official spokesman said Indian security forces along the 1,340-mile border with East Pakistan had been placed on alert.

The Indian cabinet will meet tomorrow to discuss the crisis.

General Yahya in his broadcast denounced Sheikh Mujib as a traitor and outlawed his Awami (People's) League party and also banned political activity throughout the country.

### "Out Of Control"

The martial law administrator in East Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan, admitted in a broadcast over Dacca Radio that the "law and order situation was out of control."

But he gave no details of the fighting and a few hours later Dacca Radio claimed that the province was under the full control of the authorities.

Resentment in the eastern wing of the country against the more prosperous west, which was seen as getting favored treatment from the central government, has long threatened to split the country.

The crisis came to a head after major disorders in East Pakistan early this month and the breakdown of peace talks among General Yahya, Sheikh Mujib and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the dominant political personality in the West.

The crisis flared into open