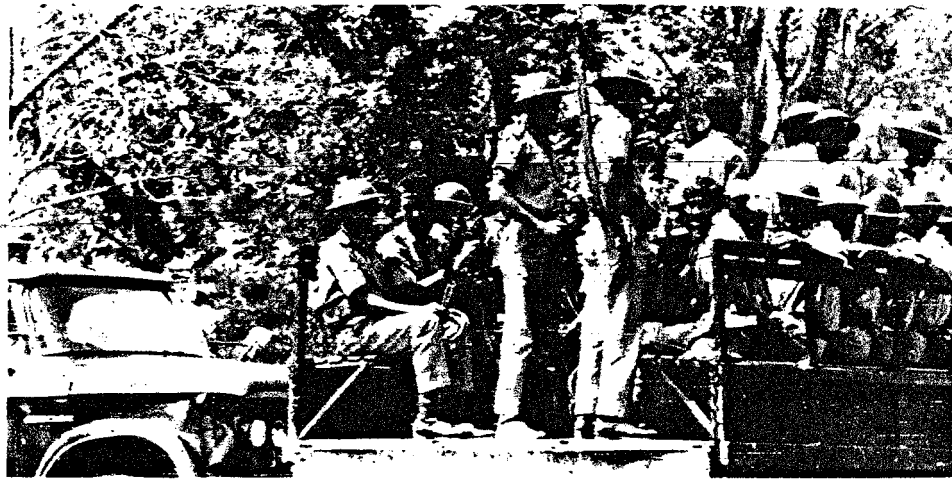


PAK NEAR CIVIL WAR

East declares independence

NEW DELHI, Friday—A civil war situation developed in Pakistan today as President Yahya Khan outlawed the Awami League of East Pakistan, as its leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed independence for the province under the name of "Bangla Desh."

Indian radio monitors reported Sheikh Mujibur made the independence proclamation from a radio station believed captured by his supporters from army authorities, calling itself the "Free Bengal Radio Station."



Pakistani troops in army trucks and manning bren-gun carriers on duty in Dacca. The Pakistan Army has taken control of East Pakistan and banned all political activities.—AP photo

Copter falls into lake, man dies

From Calcutta, the Press Trust of India said reports of heavy casualties in the fighting had reached several points on India's border with East Pakistan.

In his speech President Yahya promised "the crimes committed by Rahman and his Awami League colleagues will not go unpunished."

The President said "the aim of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his party is clear. They want East Pakistan to completely break way from Pakistan."

The President said Sheikh Mujibur and his men "have defied the lawful authority and have tried to run a parallel government."

"They have unleashed a reign of terror, a number of murders have been committed, thousands of innocents who have settled down in East Pakistan are living in terror. Many have fled."

"I should have taken action against Rahman weeks ago, but in my keenness to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people in a peaceful way I tolerated one illegal action after another," President Yahya said. He added that the armed

KHON KAEN, Fri — An amphibious helicopter plunged into a lake on take-off in this provincial town this afternoon killing one of its crew and seriously injuring two others, police said today.

The helicopter, piloted by Flight Lt Sanit Saravajranond and manned by the other three crewmen, was taking off from the lake when its tail dipped into the water.

The helicopter plopped into the lake and sank immediately.

All crew members were rescued by the villagers but Flight Lt Charin Boonkasem, a helicopter mechanic died shortly after.

The pilot and another crew member identified as Flight Lt Chawalit Pathamapibul were seriously injured and admitted to the provincial hospital.

The fourth crew member Flight Sgt Sunthorn Yooindhu, received only minor injuries and was released from hospital after being given treatment.

Major crisis looms along DMZ

SAIGON, Friday—The most serious confrontation in more than three years between North Vietnam and the allies has developed along the Demilitarized Zone.

Saigon sent reinforcements to the north front and headquarters left open the possibility of an attack across the DMZ by South Vietnamese troops with US air support.

The allied commands said North Vietnam had moved troops and long-range artillery into the DMZ for the first time and had moved surface-to-air missiles within a mile of the former buffer zone, closer than ever before.

Artillery duels flared across the DMZ yesterday for the first time in several months, and an armada of 20 US air force F4 Phantom fighter-bombers attacked a newly-built Sam site one mile northwest of the zone in fresh retaliatory raids. The

several South Vietnamese troops were killed or wounded in the artillery duel.

Lieutenant Colonel Tran Van An, the chief spokesman for South Vietnamese military headquarters in Saigon, said several battalions of fresh troops were flown to the northern front.

Reinforced

Some other units that were badly cut up in the recently ended 45-day Laos operation had been reinforced.

Col An said there were more than 20,000 South Vietnamese troops in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam's northernmost province border-

"I never predict what we're doing. I don't know. Wait a few more days."

Some sources felt it would be impossible for the South Vietnamese to mount any big offensive into the DMZ or into North Vietnam after the heavy losses Saigon forces suffered in Laos, with nearly 10,000 casualties.

There was some speculation that both North and South Vietnam might be putting up a bluff. But a miscalculation by either side could trigger major fighting, draw the 10,000 US troops remaining in the northern front into battle and result in a full-scale resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam. —AP

At all costs

The agency said the fighting, "pitted the West Pakistan-dominated central army against the people of East Pakistan and the provincial police and paramilitary East Pakistan Rifles."

Wireless monitors in Calcutta said Sheikh Mujibur, in a special message, appealed to East Pakistanis "to resist the enemy forces at all costs."

CONTINUED PAGE 7

FROM PAGE 1

PAKISTAN

services had "shown considerable restraint in the midst of grave provocation."

"I have ordered them to do their duty fully and restore the authority of the Government."

He said he decided to ban all political activity throughout the country and to impose press censorship.

Martial law authorities clamped Dacca and other areas under a 24-hour curfew and warned that anyone on the streets would be shot on sight.

The clampdown came after West Pakistan forces were reported landing in East Pakistan by sea and air last night.

The Press Trust of India reported that six shiploads of troops had been put ashore at Chittagong and Chalna.

The news agency, quoting a highly reliable report reaching the Indian border town of Agartala, said West Pakistan forces were also arriving in Dacca by air.

Pakistan radio quoted Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant-General Tikka Khan as saying that indiscipline in the Eastern wing had gone to such an extent that the civil administration and East Pakistan police could not control it.

The radio reported at noon that the "general situation has been brought well under control."

The Pakistan crisis worsened yesterday with reports that at least 35 people were killed and more than 100 in-

jured when troops machine-gunned large crowds in the Rangpur and Chittagong districts.

Sheikh Mujibur called for a general strike tomorrow in protest against the army shootings.

He accused the army of unleashing a reign of terror and called on the President to halt all operations immediately.

President Yahya had flown to Dacca from West Pakistan for protracted talks with Sheikh Mujibur in an effort to solve the crisis.

They had been joined by the West Pakistan political leader, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, whose Left-wing People's Party won a majority of seats in the Western province in December's National Assembly elections.

Violence also flared yesterday in West Pakistan, where a 10-hour curfew was clamped on the Punjab industrial town of Lyallpur after a day of clashes between rampaging Leftwing demonstrators and police.

The clashes began when the People's Guards, militant wing of Mr Bhutto's People's Party, defied an official ban and marched through the streets.

An official in India's Foreign Ministry expressed fears the fighting in East Pakistan might spill over the border onto Indian territory.

The official said "the safeguarding of our borders in that situation becomes our serious responsibility."

He said the dramatic developments in East Pakistan no longer "allow us to view the situation as simply an internal matter for Pakistan."

He said the Indian Government had no hard information the Chinese were assisting the Pakistani military authorities in suppressing the revolt in the Eastern wing.

—Agencies

Indian bill seeks bank takeover

NEW DELHI, Fri.—A bill to nationalise all foreign banks in India without compensation was introduced in the upper house of the Indian Parlia-

L
a
fr
tic
of
dor
tro
mo
fiv
nor
ate
Mi
Th
aba
Ph
Pa
tre