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President Lanusse sworn in

LT General Alejandro Agustín Lanusse was sworn in last night as President of Argentina and leader of a government that aims to take the Argentine Revolution back to ballot-box elections.

There were no speeches at the ceremony, in which Lanusse swore to govern by the charter of the Argentine Revolution and the national constitution.

Lanusse will share the responsibility for major government measures with the other two members of the Junta of Commanders in Chief.

After General Lanusse was

sworn in by government notary Jorge E. Garrido, Francisco Manrique was sworn into his old job as social welfare minister.

People's Radical Party member Arturo Mor Roig was then sworn in as interior minister.

Five new secretaries were sworn in; Jorge A. Simonelli for water resources, Rubens San Sebastián for labour, Federico Ugarte for housing, Carlos Roque Argimon for social security and Omar Lima Quintana for community promotion and aid.

All other ministers and secretaries have been confirmed in their posts.



• The Casa Rosada ceremony at which General Lanusse took the oath of office. (Photo by Vicente Ramponi)

Fierce and widespread fighting

Bengali independence declared by Mujib

NEW DELHI
SHEIKH Mujib ur-Rahman last night proclaimed East Pakistan the sovereign independent Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, according to a clandestine radio report monitored near the East Pakistan border.

The declaration of independence came as fighting was reported to be raging between federal troops and followers of Sheikh Mujib. Firing was heard at the border, and reports coming across spoke of heavy fighting.

Pakistani President Yahya Khan accused Mujib and his Awami (People's) league followers of treason in a radio Pakistan broadcast monitored here. He said he had ordered the army to take whatever steps necessary "to restore the authority of the (federal) government" in East Pakistan.

The presidential broadcast came from Karachi in West Pakistan. The reports on the situation in East Pakistan were sketchy. The government imposed total censorship in both the east and west sections of the country, divided by 1,000 miles of Indian territory.

In Petrapole, an Indian town on the border with East Pakistan, UPI correspondent Ajit K. Das said the sound of gunfire was clearly audible yesterday from the town of Benapole, just across the border. There were reports, he said, that Bengali men and women were fighting army troops in the streets of Dacca and other cities throughout East Pakistan.

The 75 million East Pakistanis are primarily Bengalis who speak a different language and differ culturally from the 55 million Punjabis of West Pakistan.

All India Radio and the Press Trust of

India news agency (PTI), also quoting reports from the border, said that there was heavy fighting in several principal towns, principally the East Pakistan capital of Dacca, and that there were numerous casualties on both sides.

The Indian news agency said reports from along the border indicated 10,000 additional Pakistani federal troops arrived aboard five ships on Thursday night and early yesterday at Chittagong and were quickly moved into Dacca, Comilla and Jessore. The 10,000 reinforcement would raise the total number of federal Pakistani troops in East Pakistan to about 70,000.

The East Pakistani Rifles, a type of civil militia, and the police have sided with Rahman's Bengali followers in the battle against the army, all reports said. Most of the federal soldiers are Punjabis from West Pakistan, where the federal government is seated.

The PTI said it was monitoring a clandestine radio station in East Pakistan on which Mujib, who had gone into hiding, declared the province a sovereign, independent nation. He urged his followers to "struggle for freedom from the enemy."

The news agency said the broadcast was being monitored in Agartala, capital of the Indian territory of Tripura, and that an unidentified announcer was reading the message he attributed to Mujib.

The broadcast said Pakistan federal troops had attacked the Khana, base of the East Pakistani Rifles and a police station at midnight on Thursday, killing many people and sparking the insurrection.

Dacca radio, which supported Mujib, said in an early morning broadcast at least 110 people were killed and several

hundred wounded by army attacks on civilians in Dacca, Rangpur and the Port city of Chittagong. Shortly afterward, the radio said it was leaving the air because it had been taken over by army troops.

The army subsequently returned the station to the air and broadcast a curfew order for the entire province in the name of Lieutenant General Tikka Khan, the provincial martial law administrator. It said violators would be shot on sight.

(In Washington, U. S. State Department officials said there were no immediate plans to evacuate the 850 American citizens currently in East Pakistan. They said there had been no reports to indicate U. S. citizens might be endangered.)

The Press Trust of India reported last night that forces loyal to Mujib had captured the Chittagong station of Radio Pakistan.

The news agency, 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.

Later reports say thousands of villagers have joined Awami League volunteers fighting in the streets of four major cities.

Quoting "highly reliable sources" reaching Indian border areas, the PTI said the East Pakistanis were using all available weapons, including spears and canes, against the invading troops.

One report said 1,000 West Pakistani commandos had been flown into East Pakistan via China during the past two days. (P-Reuters)

Gunmen grab £458,240 near London

London

MASKED gunmen ambushed an armoured security truck on a main road into London yesterday and escaped with £458,240.

Police said the gang of five or six men — at least one of them armed with a shotgun — forced the four-man security crew to open their truck.

Then they transferred 28 sackfuls of banknotes into another van — and drove off with the biggest haul stolen in Britain since a half-million pound sterling raid on a Mayfair, London, post office in December, 1969.

The carefully planned ambush took place on a wide, straight highway at Croydon, on the southern fringes of London. But there is believed to have been only one witness, a passing motorist.

The Security Express Company's yellow-painted truck was on its way to the firm's headquarters in Stepney, east London, from the south coast town of Brighton when the gang struck.

The security men, believed to be shocked but unhurt, were driven away in a police car with coats over their heads.

The armoured van showed no signs of being forced or damaged, eyewitnesses said. It was believed the raiders left another £40,000 in coins in the van.

Last night a loss adjusting firm was offering a £245,000 reward for recovery of the stolen money. (Reuters)