

# Pakistan Sheik Arrested

NEW DELHI, India, March 27 [Saturday] (AP)—Radio Pakistan announced today that Sheik Mujibur Rahman was arrested only hours after he proclaimed independence for East Pakistan.

The radio, quoting an official announcement made in the East Pakistani capital of Dacca, said Sheik Mujib was taken into custody at his residence in the city at 2:30 p. m. [Chicago time] yesterday.

The 51-year-old Awami League leader was arrested as the West Pakistan-dominated army sought to reassert its control in the eastern province.

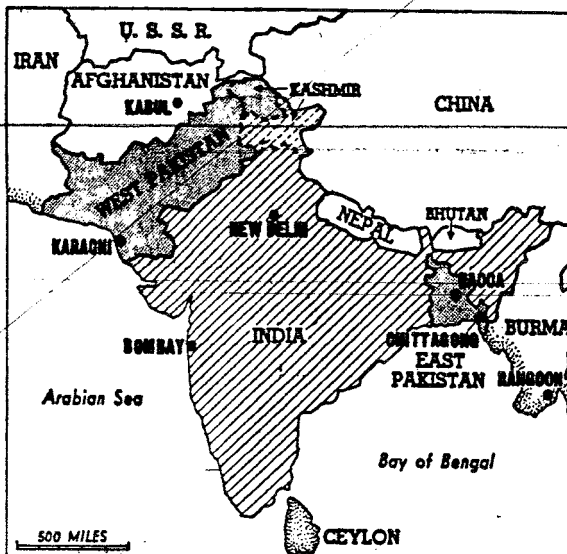
Reports reaching neighboring India indicated the army was gaining the upper hand in the battle against East Pakistani citizens and militiamen.

## Curfew Reported Lifted

United News of India said in a dispatch from the Indian border town of Agartala that the army had occupied the headquarters of the East Pakistani Rifles, the provincial militia, in Comilla district, after a prolonged fight.

The army also was reported to have occupied police stations in East Pakistan's Comilla and Noakhali districts.

The agency said there were heavy casualties on both sides. Radio Pakistan reported that a 24-hour curfew imposed in



Dacca yesterday was lifted for a nine-hour period this morning, indicating the army was in control of the city.

President Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan imposed martial law in the province in an attempt to put down what amounted to civil war.

"I have ordered the armed forces to do their job and fully restore the authority of the government," the president said in a 20-minute broadcast. He said Sheik Mujib and other Awami League leaders

were "enemies of Pakistan."

Yahya accused Sheik Mujib of treason and outlawed the powerful Awami League, which won a majority of seats in last December's election for a National Assembly. The assembly never met because of the constitutional crisis.

## Announce Independence

As Yahya spoke, Indian radio monitors picked up a message which was broadcast from clandestine radio transmitters inside East Pakistan and which announced the province's

independence. The province is separated from West Pakistan by 1,000 miles of Indian territory.

The radio station used by the sheik called itself the Voice of Independent Bengal. It broadcast an appeal to the United Nations and to other Asian and African governments to rally to its cause.

United News of India reported in a dispatch from the east Indian state of Assam that heavy casualties occurred in the provincial capital of Dacca. The agency said about 200 East Pakistanis had been chased across the border by Pakistani troops.

## Eight Reported Killed

Other reports along the 1,349-mile border between India and East Pakistan told of battles involving West Pakistan-dominated troops, East Pakistan police and a paramilitary organization known as the Pakistan Rifles.

United News of India said at least 8 persons were killed and more than 100 injured when Pakistani troops fired on demonstrators at Ramgarh near the border with the Indian state of Tripura.

Unconfirmed reports said some East Pakistani members of the police force and another paramilitary organization had fled across the border into the Indian territory of Tripura.