

# Mujib sets up independent republic

NEW DELHI, Fri. — Civil war broke out in East Pakistan today and large-scale fighting was going on between West and East Pakistan armed forces.

While fighting raged Pakistan President Yahya Khan outlawed the Awami League of East Pakistan as provincial leader Sheikh Mujib proclaimed independence for the province.

Indian radio monitors reported Rahman made the independence proclamation from a radio station believed captured by his supporters from Army authorities.

The radio station called itself Free Bengal Radio Station.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Awami League supporters had captured the radio station in the port city of Chittagong.

## Heavy casualties

PTI, quoting reports from the Indian frontier with East Pakistan, said there had been heavy casualties.

The reports came in the wake of a West Pakistan Army take-over in the eastern region which has been demanding greater autonomy from West Pakistan.

The news agency, quoting authoritative reports reaching Calcutta, said President Yahya Khan had called on the martial law authorities to crush the movement led by East Pakistan leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

It reported that heavy fighting was taking place in the East Pakistan capital of Dacca and several other parts of the region.

The fighting had assumed the proportions of a civil war.

Reliable reports in Calcutta said at least 10,000 West Pakistani troops had landed in East Pakistan ports, bringing the total to about 70,000.

Units of the East Pakistan Rifles, which is made up of East Pakistan Bengalis, and local police were resisting the West Pakistani forces, the reports said.

Strict censorship was imposed on all news out of Dacca after the martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Tikka Khan, said the law and order situation was out of control.

## Curfew in Dacca

Sheikh Mujib called on his people to resist the Army after President Yahya clamped a 24-hour curfew on Dacca and other areas and warned that anyone on the streets would be shot on sight.

PTI said Sheikh Mujib told East Pakistanis "to resist the enemy forces at any cost in every corner of Bangla Desh (Bengali nation)."

The news agency said Sheikh Mujib's message was carried by wireless and was monitored in Calcutta.

In Hongkong, the Pakistan Trade Commissioner, Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, said: "I have no other information apart from the news media."

"Unless I get information from my government directly, all normal activities would continue. I have nothing to say."