

# Civil War Flares as East Pakistanis Claim Independence

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NEW DELHI — Sheik Mujibur Rahman declared independence for East Pakistan Friday as the long smoldering feud between the two wings of the Islamic nation flamed into open civil war.

A clandestine radio broadcast monitored here from a station identifying itself as "The Voice of Independent Bangla Desh (Bengali homeland)," said, "The sheik has declared the 75 million people of East Pakistan as citizens of the sovereign independent Bangla Desh."

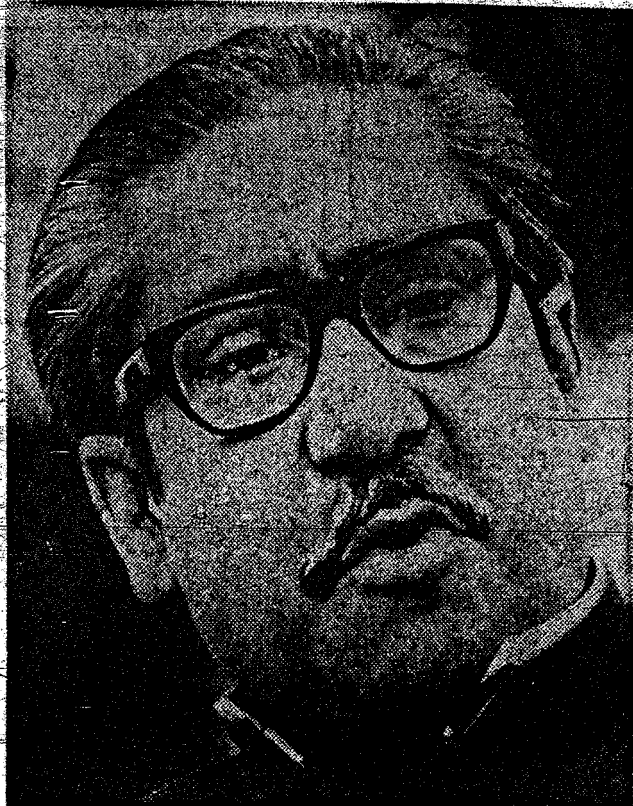
But the official Radio Pakistan announced today that Rahman was arrested only hours after he proclaimed East Pakistan independence.

The radio, quoting an official announcement made in the East Pakistani capital of Dacca, said Rahman was taken into custody at his Dacca residence.

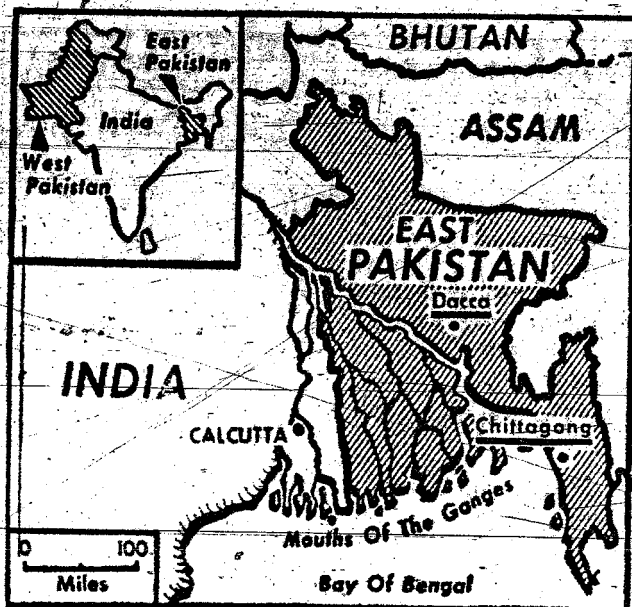
(Reuters news agency quoted the Press Trust of India today as reporting that at least 10,000 civilians were killed in bitter fighting throughout East Pakistan Friday as government troops used tanks, artillery and machine guns against Rahman's followers.)

Radio reports reaching here reported heavy fighting between West Pakistani troops and the East Pakis-

Please Turn to Page 3, Col. 3



UPI Wirephoto



UPI map

**REVOLT**—Sheik Mujibur Rahman, who proclaimed independence for East Pakistan as civil war broke out in the province. Map shows how East and West Pakistan are separated by 1,000 miles of India.

# Pakistan Independence Move Brings Warfare

Continued from First Page  
tani Rifles, loyal to Rahman.

In a broadcast from Karachi on Radio Pakistan, Pakistani President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan charged Rahman and his Awami League with treason, outlawed the league, and imposed martial law and press censorship.

"They have defied the lawful authority and have tried to run a parallel government," he said. "They have unleashed a reign of terror, a number of murders have been committed. Millions of Pakistanis who have settled down in East Pakistan are living in terror. Many have fled."

With censorship in effect, the outside world was dependent upon radio broadcasts and reports from travelers for information

on the situation inside East Pakistan which is separated from larger but less densely populated West Pakistan by 1,000 miles of Indian territory.

The declaration of independence, for instance, was read not by Rahman but in his name.

All India Radio and the news agency Press Trust of India quoted reports from the border saying there was heavy fighting in several principal towns, mainly the East Pakistani capital of Dacca. Numerous casualties were reported on both sides. PTI also reported fighting in Chittagong, Comilla and Rangpur.

Radio Pakistan reported late Friday that the general situation in East Pakistan was under control.

However, it quoted Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan, admini-

nistrator of martial law in East Pakistan, as saying that unbridled political activities had assumed "alarming proportions beyond the normal control of the civil administration (and) the police . . ."

Friction and deep suspicion have plagued the two parts of Pakistan since the nation was founded with partition of India in 1947.

Rahman, whose power rests on his control of the Awami League, and other leaders consistently have demanded greater autonomy for their wing of the nation.

Behind the outbreak of civil war is long-smoldering discontent in East Pakistan over virtually colonial treatment by the federal government based in West Pakistan. It was this that led to the overthrow of President Mohammad Ayub Khan just two years ago and his replacement by a military government headed by Gen. Yahya Khan. Yahya Khan promised an early return to democratic government and

was taking steps in that direction when December's election gave Rahman a victory in East Pakistan that amounted to a virtual mandate for autonomy.

## No Reports of Harm to 1,100 Americans

WASHINGTON (UPI) — State Department press officer Charles Bray said Friday that messages coming from Consul General Arch K. Blood in Dacca, East Pakistan, were fragmentary but there had been no reports of harm to any of the approximately 1,100 Americans there.

U.S. Ambassador Joseph Farland has called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and made a strong request that the Pakistan government insure all possible protection to Americans in East Pakistan.

Bray said no decision had been made on ordering the evacuation of Americans and that "for the moment we are in a standfast position."