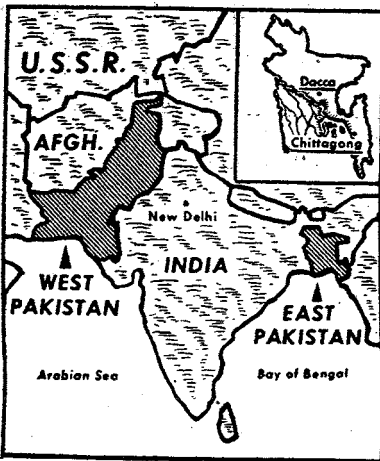


# Civil War in East Pakistan

## --Fierce Battles Reported



East and West Pakistan are separated by 1000 miles of India. Dacca is the capital of the rebel state.

### Independent Bengal State Announced

Associated Press

New Delhi

Civil war broke out in East Pakistan yesterday after Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed independence.

Fierce fighting was reported in several parts of East Pakistan, although there were no direct communications because of press censorship.

Pakistan's president, Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan, announced in Karachi that he has ordered the armed forces "to fully restore the authority of the government."

In a 20-minute broadcast, Yahya Khan accused Sheikh Mujib of treason and outlawed the powerful Awami League. The league won a majority of seats in last December's election for a national assembly but it has never met because of the constitutional crisis.

#### PROCLAMATION

Indian radio monitors picked up a message broadcast from clandestine radio transmitters inside East Pakistan announcing independence for the province — which is separated from West Pakistan by 1000 miles of Indian territory.

The sheik has declared the 75 million people of East Pakistan as citizens of the sovereign independent Bengali nation. Indian monitors quoted an announcer as saying:

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.

Radio Pakistan announced today that the sheik had been arrested several hours after he proclaimed independence. The radio, quoted an official announcement made in the East Pakistani capital of Dacca.

Reports from across the border told of a massive uprising of East Pakistanis against Yahya Khan's imposition of military rule after the failure of his 11-day negotiations with Sheikh Mujib.

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

The news agency dispatch See Back Page



UPI Telephoto

SHEIKH MUJIB Reported arrested

### Wage Limits --Nixon to Act Next Week

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

President Nixon will issue an executive order early next week that will establish machinery to control wages and prices in the construction industry, it was learned last night.

At the same time, the President will lift his suspension of legislation supporting prevailing wages in federal and federally-assisted construction.

The President accepted the plan of Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson, a proposal to establish a series of labor-management boards for each construction and building craft.

The boards would be charged with reviewing wage and contract disputes and ensuring that settlements are non-inflationary.

#### INCREASES

According to Hodgson, acceptable wage increases would approximate an annual increase given construction workers during the mid-1960s.

He said this would mean that an annual wage increase of about 6 per cent would be acceptable. This could be compared to the average

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### Red Guns in DMZ Shell Viet Base

Associated Press

Long

Long-range Communist artillery in the demilitarized zone between the two Vietnams fired at a South Vietnamese base yesterday, Saigon headquarters said.

The enemy 152 mm guns at a range of 16 miles fired from positions in the DMZ and hit Dong Ha, a base 11 miles south of the DMZ, headquarters said. Several soldiers were killed or wounded.

American artillery shelled Communist positions inside the DMZ and the U.S. Command reported 15 enemy soldiers were killed and nine tanks destroyed in the southern half of the six-mile zone. A spokesman said secondary explosions indicated hits on enemy ammunition stores.

The artillery exchange was near the coast, but North Vietnamese gunners also fired

40 shells into the Khe Sanh base near the Laotian border, killing and wounding several Americans. Exact casualty figures were not given for security reasons.

The U.S. Command reported that so far in March enemy activity in the DMZ has increased 50 per cent over February, and half of the increase is in the southern sector.

The North Vietnamese also were reported bringing anti-aircraft missiles farther south — closer to the zone — and were putting some along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos for the first time.

About 20 U.S. Phantom jets attacked an anti-aircraft missile site Thursday inside Laos and about a mile northwest of the DMZ. All the planes returned but results of the raid were not known.

#### THREAT

To meet what appeared to be an increasing threat to the northern front, the Saigon command announced that several battalions of fresh South Vietnamese troops were flown north.

Lieutenant Colonel Tran Van An, chief spokesman for the South Vietnamese command, said there now are more than 20,000 Saigon troops in northernmost Quang Tri Province.

While parts of the remainder of the 22,000-man task force that invaded Laos were withdrawn for reorganization and regrouping, the command spokesman said the South Vietnamese "certainly are capable of launching new attacks."

South Vietnamese spokes- See Back Page

### ...t Today

...a and Marin county and inches in San Francisco... traveler's warnings were used in the mountains, and snow level was down to feet.

The Weather Bureau said temperatures will range in the 50s today and westerly winds of 12 to 25 miles an hour are expected.

# Civil War in East Pakistan

## --Heavy Fighting Reported

From Page 1

also quoted reports from the border that a railway bridge had been blown up and a railway station destroyed near the Indian frontier city of Agartala.

Reports indicated the army was gaining the upper hand in the battle against East Pakistani citizens and militia men.

United News said 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 were reported to have occupied police stations in East Pakistan's Comilla and Noakhali districts.

United News of India said at least eight 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.

The agency said that at Rajshahi, 125 miles north of Calcutta, troops shot their way into the local radio station, killing or arresting employees who offered resistance.

It added that troops took

### Racism Fund

Canberra

No Australian church has contributed to the World Council of Churches special fund to combat racism, a spokesman for the Australian Council of Churches said yesterday.

Reuters

over a college in the city after a bloody clash with the staff and students.

At Jhinaidaha in the Jessore district, the agency said troops opened fire on thousands of people who gathered to seize the local airfield.

A large number of people were reported killed in the same city when a crowd attacked the jail in an attempt to free persons arrested by martial law authorities earlier in the day, the agency added.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said Americans reaching the U.S. consulate in East Pakistan had reported that Pakistani troops and tanks had spread through Dacca and

extensive firing, including the use of tanks," was underway.

There have been no reports of harm to about 1100 Americans, including 200 officials and their dependents now in East Pakistan.

### RIVALRY

Rivalry has existed between East and West Pakistan ever since Britain carved the dominion out of British India nearly 24 years ago.

Separated by Indian territory are East Pakistan, with a population of more than 70 million Bengali-speaking Moslems, and West Pakistan, an arid country bigger than Texas and Louisiana together, inhabited by 50 million Urdu-speaking Moslems.

West Pakistan has 85 per cent of the nation's land and only 46 per cent of its people.

Sheik Mujib has been campaigning for independence for East Pakistan's 70 million people and freedom from what many believe is exploitation by West Pakistani authorities.

Britain divided Pakistan in this manner in an effort to separate the Moslems and the Hindus of India.