

Gallant fight for freedom, Mujib tells the world

CALCUTTA, March 26.

SHEIKH Mujibur Rahman said in a message to the world today that the people of Bangla Desh were fighting gallantly for their freedom.

The message, broadcast by an unidentified wireless station, was picked up here.

It was believed that the station was located at Chittagong or Chalna in East Pakistan.

Mr. Rahman said in the message: "Pakistani armed forces suddenly attacked the East Pakistan Rifles base at Bilkhana and Rajarbagh near here at Bilkhana and Rajarbagh near here at zero hours today, killing a lot of

STERN FIGHTING

"Stern fighting is going on with the EPR in Dacca and the police force. The people are fighting the enemy gallantly for the cause of the freedom of Bangla Desh.

"Every section of the people of Bangla Desh must resist the enemy forces at all costs in every corner of Bangla Desh.

"May Allah bless you and help you in the struggle for freedom from the enemy.

"Jai Bangla."

There was no word about the whereabouts of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, early this afternoon, more than three hours after the Army went into action to crush the Bangla Desh movement.

With the Army authorities imposing the strictest censorship yet, there were no reports from Dacca, except for the orders issued by the martial law administrator.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his colleagues could not have been taken by surprise by the military operations.

In his speeches during the past two months, he had repeatedly called upon the people to be prepared for a long and bitter struggle and to be ready to make every sacrifice.

This was also the theme of an article by Mr. Rahman, published in "The Hindustan Standard" of Calcutta on March 10. In that article, he wrote:

'Our people have already proclaimed to the world that they shall no longer allow themselves to be exploited as a colony or a market.

"They have expressed their determination to be the free citizens of a free country.—P.T.I. & UNI.