

Civil War Continues in Dacca

NEW DELHI, India, March 27 (AP)—United News of India reported thousands dead in fierce fighting in East Pakistan today and said West Pakistan-dominated army units were battling civilians in Dacca, the provincial capital.

The agency also reported that Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan, chief martial law administrator of East Pakistan, died of injuries received when supporters of the province's political leader, Sheik Mujibur Rahman, stormed his residence in Dacca.

No Confirmation

There was no confirmation of the report, however, and Radio Pakistan said that Tikka Khan had issued an order today banning road blocks and barricades. It was not clear whether the order had been issued by the general himself or his office.

Later, Radio Pakistan issued a denial that Tikka Khan had been wounded or even shot.

[The Press Trust of India said more than 10,000 East Pakistani civilians were killed in fighting yesterday. One report told of government machine gunners mowing down 1,500 civilians who charged with daggers and spears.]

With tight censorship, there was no confirmation on any of the reports. All normal communications between East Pakistan and the outside world have been cut.

Sheik Denies Arrest

Radio Pakistan announced that Rahman was under arrest, but monitors in India later reported that the sheik broadcast over a clandestine radio station that he was free and urged East Pakistan to continue fighting for independence.

"I am O. K., comrades—go ahead with your program to achieve the goal of freedom," the broadcast said. "Do not be misguided by enemy propaganda."

Monitors in India quoted Rahman as saying he was in the port city of Chittagong, which unconfirmed reports reach-

[Continued on page 4, col. 2]

Thousands Die in Pakistan War

[Continued from first page]

ing India said was in control of the sheik's Awami League. United News said a fight to control the Dacca radio station was raging and 2,000 persons had been killed on both sides in that battle. It also reported Pakistani air force bombers destroyed a hospital in Dacca, killing most of the patients.

West Claims Control

The government radio in West Pakistan claimed the situation in the eastern province, separated by 1,000 miles of Indian territory, was "well under control." It said the 24-hour curfew imposed in Dacca yesterday had been lifted for nine hours.

About 25 foreign newsmen, including some Americans, were expelled from East Pakistan and flown to Karachi, Pakistan, by way of Colombo, Ceylon. Two of them, Robert Kaylor of United Press International and Sidney H. Schanberg of the New York Times, later filed stories from Bombay indicating the West Pakistan army seemed to have taken control of the East Pakistan capital of Dacca.

Rahman said in another broadcast that he offered Pakistani troops safe conduct out of the eastern region if they laid down their arms but warned their safety would not be guaranteed if they resisted.

The earlier broadcast claimed that the Pakistani air force was dropping bombs on "liberation fighters" and the army was using tanks.

Seize Provincial HQ

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

In another report from the eastern Indian state of Assam, it said that, according to highly reliable reports from across the Pakistani border, at least 180



(AP Wirephoto)

Pakistan soldiers stand guard in provincial capital of Dacca during demonstration last week by Bengalese.

persons were killed early today in a clash between the army and East Pakistanis in the city of Comilla.

The agency said fighting broke out when local residents aided by policemen and members of the East Pakistan Rifles raided the military armory in

Radio Free Bengal carried a message from Rahman last night proclaiming independence for the province.

the Awami League and accused Rahman of treason.

Since Pakistan became independent of Britain on Aug. 14, 1947, Rahman, an insurance salesman, has spent more than nine years in Pakistani jails in his fight for autonomy for East Pakistan.

Shortly afterward, Pakistan President Mohammed Y a h y a Khan, in a nationwide broadcast, banned political activity thruout the country, outlawed



Sheik Mujibur Rahman

occupied the headquarters of the East Pakistan Rifles, the provincial militia, in Comilla district after a prolonged fight.

In another report from the eastern Indian state of Assam, it said that, according to highly reliable reports from across the Pakistani border, at least 180

DECORATOR PERFECT

Mediterranean

~AND FOR AN ELEGANT~

EXCLUSIVELY

Style Co.

