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10,000 killed in Pakistan

NEW DELHI, March 27 — (AP) — Radio Pakistan announced Saturday that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested only hours after he proclaimed independence for East Pakistan.

(Reuters news agency reported from New Delhi, India that at least 10,000 civilians were killed in East Pakistan yesterday when troops used tanks and artillery against supporters of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Reuters picked up the news

reported by Press Trust of India, the largest news agency in that country).

(The Press Trust of India said the army used tanks in the provincial capital of Dacca, in Chittagong, Comilla, Maraingunj, Rangpur, Khulna and Jessore).

In custody

The radio, quoting an official announcement made in the East Pakistani capital of Dacca, said Rahman was taken into custody from his resid-

ence in the city at 1:30 a.m. local time (10:30 a.m. Friday, Philippine time).

The 51-year-old Awami League leader was arrested as the West Pakistan-dominated army sought to reassert its control in the eastern province.

Army winning

Reports reaching neighboring India indicated the army was gaining the upper hand in the battle against East Pakistani citi-

zens and militia men.

United News of India said in a dispatch from the Indian border town of Agartala that the army had occupied the headquarters of the paramilitary East Pakistani Rifles in Comilla district after a prolonged fight.

The army also was reported to have occupied police stations in East Pakistan's Comilla and Noakhali districts.

The agency said there were heavy casualties on both sides.

Radio Pakistan reported that an around the clock curfew imposed by Dacca by the martial law authorities on Friday was lifted for a nine hour period beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday — indicating the army was in control of the city.

Independence

As of noon Saturday, Indian monitors had not reported any broadcasts from the clandestine "Voice of Independent

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10,000 killed in Pakistan

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Bangla Desh (Bengali National) which was on the air intermittently until late Friday.

The radio had carried a message Friday night proclaiming independence for

NEW DELHI, March 27 (AP)—United News of India reported Saturday that chief martial law administrator of East Pakistan, Lieut. Gen. Tikka Khan, died from injuries received during an attack on his residence in Dacca by supporters of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The agency, in a dispatch from the Indian border town of Agastala, said the general succumbed to his injuries in a nursing home where he was taken following the attack.

The agency quoted a report received from across the border from a source.

the province, which is separated from West Pakistan by 1,000 miles of Indian territory.

"The Sheikh has declared the 75 million people of East Pakistan as citizens of the Independent Bangla Desh" Indian monitors quoted an announcer as saying.

The announcement was made shortly before Pakistan President Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan made a nationwide broadcast in which he banned all political activity throughout the country, outlawed the Awami league — which had won a majority of the seats in elections last December for a national assembly — and accused Rahman of treason.

Yahya said Rahman and other Awami League leaders were "enemies of Pakistan."

"They want Pakistan to break, this is a crime which will not go unpunished."

But Yahya in his 20 minute broadcast did not mention anything about the fate of Rahman and unconfirmed reports reaching India said he had gone underground.

The radio, in announcing his arrest, did not give details of the arrest and did not specify whether Rahman had been in his residence throughout the day.

Insurance salesman

Since Pakistan became independent on August 14, 1947, Rahman — who is an insurance salesman by profession — has spent nine



Map shows East and West Pakistan where civil war now rages. It was taken by AP in 1965 at the height of the religious upheaval.

March 27 (Reuters) — At least 10,000 civilians were reported killed in East Pakistan yesterday when troops used tanks and artillery against supporters of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who has proclaimed independence for the eastern wing of the country.

Reporting this, the Press Trust of India said the army used tanks in the provincial capital of Dacca, in Chittagong, Comilla, Mairangunj, Rangpur, Khulna and Jessore.

The agency attributed its reports to information reaching the Assam town of Gauhati from across the border.

The reports said casualties were heaviest in Chittagong and members of Mujib's Awami League were still holding on the city radio station they seized overnight.

More than 1,500 people, many of them villagers, were killed as they tried to seize the airport at Jessore.

Troops used machineguns on the mob which attacked the airport with spears, sticks, swords and daggers, the reports said.

Bombing

NEW DELHI, March 27 (Reuters) — Pakistan air force planes today bombed East Pakistan town of Comilla, according to reliable reports received by the Press Trust of India news

agency.

The agency said tanks and artillery were used against civilians in Dacca, Chittagong and other cities in East Pakistan, which Sheikh Mujib has declared independent as the state of Bangla Desh (Bengal nation).

The air strike was against the town of Comilla, which members of Sheikh Mujib's Awami League claimed to hold in a clandestine broadcast earlier today.

There were conflicting reports about the fate of Sheikh Mujib — elected leader of the 75 million mainly Bengali population of East Pakistan.

Comilla, the town reported to have been bombed, has a population of about 50,000 and lies 55 miles (90 km.) east of Dacca near the border of the Indian state of Tripura.

Denial

NEW DELHI, March 27 (Reuters) — Supporters of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the East Pakistan breakaway movement, today denied a government radio report that he had been arrested.

The denial came in a broadcast from a secret radio station somewhere in East Pakistan — which Sheikh Mujib has declared independent as the state of Bangha Desh.

dence throughout the day.

Insurance salesman

Since Pakistan became independent on August 14, 1947, Rahman — who is an insurance salesman by profession — has spent nine years and eight months in Pakistani jails in connection with his demands for greater autonomy for the eastern province.

United News of India, in a dispatch from the Eastern Indian state of Assam, said that according to highly reliable reports from across the Pakistani border at least 180 persons were killed in a clash between the army and the East Pakistanis in the district city of Comilla early Saturday.

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