

President Marcos yesterday declared March 29 to April 4 as "Tax Consciousness Week" to stress the role of tax-  
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RIFLE-carrying girls march at a Pakistan Day parade in Dacca, East Pakistan, just before troops from West Pakistan, moved in to take control

of the rebelling province. Fighting was reported to be continuing in Comilla and Chittagong, according to latest reports. (AP)

Manuel Salak

(THE MANILA TIMES)  
DOD CITY,  
28 — President  
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### IN COMILLA, CHITTAGONG

## Fighting continues in East Pakistan

NEW DELHI, March 28

— (AP) — Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's supporters Sunday formed a provisional government in East Pakistan and appealed to other countries to extend immediate recognition, a clandestine radio broadcast reported.

The broadcast, monitored by Indian sources, said a Major Zia Khan had been appointed temporary head of the new government of Bengali Desh (Bengali nation) "under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

The Pakistan government radio network has insisted the 51-year-old sheikh was

arrested but his supporters claimed he was still free.

\* \* \*

NEW DELHI, March 28 (UPI) — Government air force helicopters have launched shelling attacks against the East Pakistani cities of Comilla and Chittagong in an attempt to rout rebel holdouts, reports said today.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) relayed the reports from the Indian border town of Agartala, capital of Tripura state which borders East Pakistan.

PTI also reported that "Free Bengal Radio," a

clandestine transmitter of the civilian rebels supporting Bengali leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's independence movement, was appealing for help to India and neighboring countries.

Help the freedom movement in the gravest moment of our struggle against alien rulers," PTI quoted the radio as saying.

\* \* \*

### Fierce battle

NEW DELHI, March 28 (UPI) — Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's liberation army killed 300 troops of the

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# Fighting continues in East Pakistan

From page 1

Punjab regiment in a fierce battle Saturday in Comilla City, the Free Bengal Radio said today.

The radio broadcast was picked up by Indian news agencies at Agartala, capital of Tripura territory bordering East Pakistan.

The radio said the enemy troops have been retreating or surrendering to the Mukti Fouz (liberation army) since Saturday.

The clandestine radio said the leader of the Bengali rebels is hale and hearty and is directing the operations of the Mukti Fouz.

The rebel radio said government planes bombed and seriously damaged two hospitals Saturday.

## Commander-in-chief

It broadcast a statement by Major Zia who announced that he is the commander-in-chief of the liberation army.

The radio did not give the first name of Zia nor any details about him.

Zia declared over the radio: "I hereby assume powers of the provisional head of the liberation army of Swadhin Bangla Desh (Independent Bengal Homeland)."

He said, "I order the freedom fighters to continue the struggle till the ultimate victory, which will soon be ours."

The Free Bengal Radio asked all young people possessing arms to report to Major Zia or to his two aides given as Capt. Natop aides, whose names sir and Capt. Phuian, at the Lal Digi (Red Lake) boulevard in Chittagong.

**DACCA, East Pakistan, March 28**—(UPI)—The capital of East Pakistan was in the iron grip of army control following the departure of President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan and a reign of gunfire and widespread burning of property in which troops reasserted government control.

Troops moved into the streets of Dacca late Thursday night, halting traffic, cordoning off key areas, and setting up roadblocks. Telephone communications within the city were cut from midnight until dawn.

Gunfire and explosions were heard as soldiers apparently moved against targets selected by martial law authorities.

By Friday morning, columns of smoke

communications were out, observers judged the total would be substantial.

## Arrested

Meanwhile, government authorities announced Saturday morning that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the East Pakistan autonomy movement which the West Pakistani-dominated army aimed to crush, had been arrested in his combined home and headquarters in a residential area of the city at 1:30 Friday morning (1430 GMT).

Just before telephone communications ended around 1 a.m., the Sheikh was reported by an aide still at the headquarters. There, the aide said, Awami League volunteers had set up roadblocks along routes leading to the house and that two of them had been killed by soldiers when troops moved into the streets at about 11 p.m. Thursday.

There were reports of citizens erecting barricades across the streets in various parts of the city.

One Pakistani source reported in a telephone call to the Dacca Intercontinental Hotel that thousands of Bengali dwellers of the city were pouring into the downtown area carrying wooden staves, iron rods, and other makeshift weapons.

The source telephoned back later from his home in the area that he heard sounds of heavy machinegun fire and had shuttered himself inside his house for fear of attracting the attention of troops who were shooting civilians on sight.

## Peasants marching

**NEW DELHI, March 28** (Reuters) — The army was today reported in complete control of East Pakistan but the Press Trust of India said thousands of armed peasants were marching on towns.

Radio Pakistan monitored here quoted an official announcement as saying that with the army in control, life was returning to normal and government and other workers were back at their jobs.

The PTI news agency report saying thousands of armed civilians from rural areas were on the march also quoted clandestine radio messages as saying: "Enemy troops are retreating, or surrendering to the Mukti Fouz (Freedom fighters) since yesterday."

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## Recognition

**UNITED NATIONS, March 28** (AP) — President Nixon has been asked for

galis from East Pakistan paraded in a small plaza opposite UN headquarters with signs demanding withdrawal of West Pakistani troops from East Pakistan and "UN membership for independent Bangla Desh now."

"Bangla Desh" is Bengali for "Bengali Homeland."

Other signs referred to Mohammed Yahya Khan, president of the Pakistan based in West Pakistan, and Lt. Tikka Khan, martial law administrator of East Pakistan reported killed. They read, "Stupid Yahya, surrender now," and "Tika dead, Yahya next."

The two-hour demonstration was arranged by the East Pakistan League of America.

Its president, Kazi Shamsuddin Ahmed, said he had sent telegrams Friday to Nixon and Thant stating "Sheikh Mujibur Rahman leader of Bangla Desh, has declared independence."

The telegram to Nixon Nixon added, "Request immediate recognition in the name of freedom, liberty, and self-determination of 75 million people of Bangla Desh."

The one to Thant added, "Request immediately Security Council intervention" to the same end.

# KAY ANG SAM BUL

were heard as soldiers apparently moved against targets selected by martial law authorities.

By Friday morning, columns of smoke were seen over the city and only sporadic gunfire sounded with occasional louder explosions from heavy weapons.

The only traffic was military trucks carrying heavily armed soldiers, tanks, and army jeeps which patrolled the deserted streets.

By sunset Friday when foreign newsmen were ordered out of the stricken city by martial law authorities, a heavy smoke pall lay over Dacca and orange flames could be seen billowing skyward from one fire on the southern edge of the city.

There were no figures available for casualties in the night's action against the population by troops. From the heavy firing Thursday night and sketchy reports received before telephone

lows:

The six fourth prizes were

## Recognition

UNITED NATIONS, March 28 (AP) — President Nixon has been asked for US recognition of an independent East Pakistan and UN Secretary-General U Thant for Security Council intervention to defend it, local East Pakistani leaders said Saturday.

The announcement came as about 75 New York Ben-

## Over a cup

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handicrafts, food items, vegetable preserves and ceramics. Interested parties may get in touch with the Bureau of Commerce. Please don't write me.

An Asian news service staffed by Asian newsmen to service Asian newspapers and magazines is long overdue. We are happy to hear that some effort in this direction is al-