

# Confusing War Reports In Pakistan

*Reuters*

New Delhi

Pakistani authorities said yesterday the army was in complete control in rebellious East Pakistan but radio reports heard here said a provisional government has been set up in the dissident east.

The official Pakistani radio in Karachi, more than 1000 miles away from the eastern half of the war-torn country, said the situation in the east was returning to normal and people were going back to work.

But the Press Trust of India news agency quoted a clandestine radio report, saying Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's "liberation army" had captured the important northern town of Rangpur after bitter fighting Saturday.

Another radio message monitored in Calcutta, reported that a provisional Bangla Desh (Bengali nation) government had been set up in the east. Earlier reports, often confused and contradictory, claimed thousands of people had died in fighting which was said to include planes bombing towns and tanks used against civilians.

The Indian news agency also quoted Dacca radio, taken over by West Pakistan troops Friday, as saying that martial law authorities in East Pakistan had asked for

*See Back Page*



More than 1000 Indians protested Pakistani government actions in New Delhi

IP Wirephoto

## A Battle of Radios

# Confusion Over Pakistan

From Page 1

troop reinforcements from the western region.

The secret radio said the provisional government in East Pakistan would be guided by Awami Peoples League leader Sheikh Mujibur who, it said, was directing "the liberation struggle" from Chittagong, the main port in East Pakistan.

According to the radio, quoted by PTI, several thousand troops of the "liberation army" were marching from Chittagong to Dacca. The radio said that Major Jia Khan, in command of the "liberation army," had appealed for recognition of the provisional government.

There were fewer reports yesterday from the clandestine radio, said to be manned by supporters of Sheikh Mujib, but PTI carried reports

More Pakistan news,  
Page 13

saying that air force helicopters were used to fire on the towns of Comilla and Chittagong yesterday.

Pakistani authorities said a clandestine radio had been set up on a ship in the Hooghly river, near Calcutta in India, calling itself "the voice of Bangla Desh" and issuing "concocted stories."

The Indian government yesterday rejected that allegation as "false and mischievous."

Pakistan denied reports that the martial law administrator in East Pakistan, Lieutenant General Ral Tikka Khan, had been killed or injured in the fighting.

Censorship in Pakistan continued and foreign press

and television correspondents reaching New Delhi from Pakistan yesterday reported that they had been bundled out of Dacca Friday night and flown to Karachi Saturday via Colombo, Ceylon.

PTI also said Sheikh Mujibur was "quite hale and hearty and is directing the operations of the Mukti Fouz (freedom fighters)."

Pakistan radio described reports that the Awami League supporters were in control of Chittagong, Comilla and Jessore as completely baseless.

But the clandestine radio said all government and semi-government offices were still closed in response to the East Pakistan leader's instructions.

As a result of the non-cooperation movement, it said, the army faced an

acute shortage of food, medicines and other supplies.

Dacca radio said Sheikh Mujib had been arrested but clandestine broadcasts said he had gone underground.

The swift-moving events in Pakistan started when the Awami League, which won a majority in recent elections for a constituent assembly, demanded virtual autonomy for East Pakistan — which is more populous but poorer than the western wing.

more populous — but poorer Strongman President Yahya Khan wanted the constituent assembly to bring the country back to democratic rule. But Yahya postponed the assembly at the request of the western leader, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Yahya and Sheikh Mujibur met in Dacca last week to seek a compromise on eastern demands, but violence broke out shortly afterwards.