

Pakistan Troops Attack Capital of Free Bengal

Resistance Seems to Crumble Throughout Eastern Area as Army Strikes From Bases

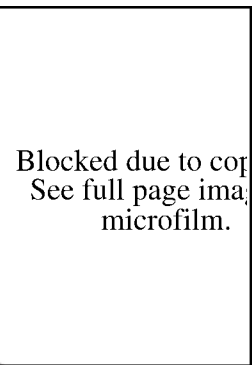
BY LEE LESCAZE

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INDIA-EAST PAKISTAN BORDER—The provisional capital of free Bengal was attacked by Pakistan army troops Thursday, according to Bengali resistance reports. The capital, Chuadanga, has been one of the places most securely held by the rebels since the civil war broke out in East Pakistan three weeks ago. However, as Bengali resistance appears to be crumbling throughout East Pakistan, the army has been able to move further from its bases and strike at rebel sanctuaries. Unarmed Bangla Desh (Bengal nation) supporters who man this unnamed border crossing point 12 miles from Chaudanga told reporters of the army attack. "The situation has gotten worse and worse," one young man said. For more than 10 days since it was declared the provisional capital, Chuadanga has been a rebel showcase. Indian and

foreign reporters have been welcomed and given tours of the peaceful town. However, the Bengalis here refused to allow reporters to visit Chuadanga and witness Thursday's fighting. "Things have gotten critical," a Bengali explained. "We don't have time for you now." The army attack came on the day rebel leaders had announced they would swear in their provisional government at Chuadanga. The ceremony was canceled but will be held elsewhere, where conditions are more favorable, Bengali officials said. It is widely believed that most provisional government figures, including Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed, have been operating in Calcutta rather than Bangla Desh. The prime minister has appealed for aid over a clandestine radio and has invited diplomats and reporters to tour the "liberated" areas of East Pakistan. Such a tour would be

very short. Rebel-held areas have shrunk dramatically over the last few days and there is no indication that the Pakistan army will be stopped as it tries to eliminate armed opposition before the monsoon rains make travel on. Some Indian observers sympathetic to the rebels are predicting that armed resistance will be finished within a week. India, Pakistan Both Charge Aggression NEW DELHI (AP)—India and Pakistan Thursday accused each other of aggression in connection with the civil war in East Pakistan. (In the most serious exchange of protests since the three-week India-Pakistan war in September, 1965, both countries said their territory had been violated. The Indian government, for the first time since the civil war started on March 25, said the Pakistan armed forces were carrying out "wanton and unprovoked aggressive activities" along India's border with East Pakistan. A Foreign Ministry note delivered to the Pakistan high commissioner said the Pakistan army had fired light and medium machine guns into Indian territory, injuring Indian nationals and had concen-



ACTION—Map shows Chuadanga, provisional capital of Free Bengal, reported under attack. Times map

a Radio Pakistan English broadcast heard here said India was trying "to further its own objective of dismembering Pakistan." India Claims Turks Fly Pakistan Troops CALCUTTA (AP)—Indian intelligence sources reported Thursday that Turkish army transport planes are helping to fly Pakistani troops to East Pakistan. More than a squadron of Turkish C-130 aircraft are taking part in the round-the-clock airlift which has flown at least 15,000 government troops from Pakistan's western wing, the sources reported. Pakistan and Turkey are partners in the American-backed Central Treaty Organization. Britain and Iran are its other full members. Turks Accused Indian sources claim to have information that top Turkish army and air force officers recently visited Pakistan to assess President Agha Moham-mad Yahya Khan's requirements in his current fight against secessionist forces in the eastern province. They claim agreement also had been reached by which Turkey will send troops to aid Pakistan if war breaks out with India.