

# **Bengal Rebel Capital Under Army Attack: Pakistan Attacks Provisional Rebel Capital**

By Lee Leseaze; Washington Post Foreign Service

*The Washington Post, Times Herald* ; Apr 16, 1971; cbgr1971

The Washington Post

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**EAST PAKISTAN BOR-**

**DER, April 15**—The provincial capital of Free Bengal was attacked by Pakistan army troops today, according to Bengali resistance reports.

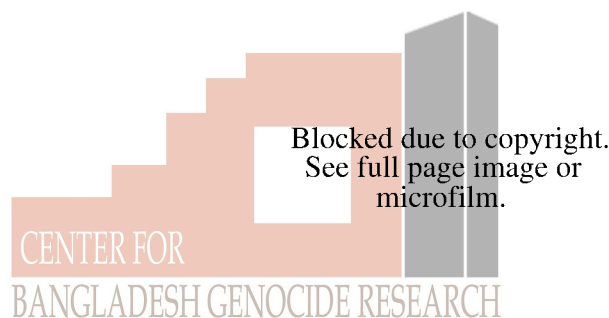
The capital, Chuadanga, has been one of the places most securely held by the rebels since the civil war broke out three weeks ago. However, as Bengali resistance appears to be crumbling throughout East Pakistan, the army has been able to move further from its bases and strike at rebel sanctuaries.

[Both India and Pakistan have accused the other of making armed attacks across their border in connection with the civil war now going on in East Pakistan.]

Unarmed Bangla Desh (Bengali Nation) supporters who man this unnamed border crossing point 12 miles from Chuadanga told reporters of the army attack.

"The situation has gotten worse and worse," one young man said.

See **PAKISTAN, A25, Col. 1**



**East Pakistani refugees sit on the ground at a shelter camp set up in Benapol, India, near the border.**

# Pakistan Attacks Provisional Rebel Capital

PAKISTAN, April 7 (AP)—At the border, a length of time to cheer about. They are answered. For more than 10 days since it was declared the provisional capital, Chuadanga has been a rebel showcase. Foreign correspondents of their civil war and porters have been welcomed and given tours of the town.

However, the Bengalis here refused to allow reporters to visit Chuadanga and witness the fighting today. "Things have gotten critical," a Bengali explained. "We don't have the time for you now."

The army attack came the day rebel leaders had announced they would swear in their provisional government at Chuadanga. The ceremony was cancelled, but will be held elsewhere when 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 in Bangla Desh. The prime minister has appealed for aid over clandestine radio and has invited world 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 many roads impossible late this month.

Some Indian observers sympathetic to the rebels are predicting that armed resistance will be finished within a week.

The army's rapid success once it began to move aggressively out of its base areas raises the question why the troops did not crush the Bengalis earlier. Pakistan has not revealed its military thinking, but officials watching the civil war believe the army overestimated the rebels' strength and determination.

In addition, President Yahya Khan and his generals apparently guessed correctly that Bengali resolve would decline rather than increase as time passed. Initial enthusiasm for the cause of Bangla Desh was soured by shortages of supplies. Hopes of a quick victory were extinguished as Bengalis in several areas saw their inability to confront the far better armed and very brutal regular army.

The lowered Bengali morale is particularly striking at this border crossing where 10 days ago it was heresy to raise the possibility of defeat.

Then, Dr. Ashabul Haq, one of Chuadanga's rebel leaders, told all visiting reporters that control of Kushtia District had been firmly established and his forces would soon take the offensive against the Pakistan army in more distant areas. Crowds of young boys and men would gather to hear Dr. Haq speak and they would cheer on signal.

Now Dr. Haq's representa-

ly believe, it would be the Pakistan government that would be accused of sending

## India, Pakistan Trade

### Aggression Charges

From News Dispatches

NEW DELHI, April 7

India and Pakistan have accused each other of aggression in connection with the three-week-old civil war in East Pakistan.

In the most serious change of protests since the three-week India-Pakistan war in September 1965, both countries said today that their territory had been violated.

The Indian government said the Pakistan armed forces had been carrying out "wanton and unprovoked aggressive activities" along India's border with East Pakistan since April 7, including strafing a village from the air.

A Foreign Ministry note delivered to the Pakistan Commissioner said the Pakistani capital of Dacca today that Pakistan armed forces which earlier cleared juring Indian nationals and had concentrated troops along the border of the Indian state of Tripura.

again accused India of sending armed infiltrators into East Pakistan. Radio Pakistan said India's "hostile posture had endangered peace and tranquility in the subcontinent and made the situation more explosive."

The radio said Indian infiltrators and arms were aiding "antistate elements"—the phrase the government net-work has used to describe the East Pakistan independence forces of Sheik Mujibur Rahman.

The radio claimed that the Pakistan army had thwarted an attempt by "armed Indian infiltrators and antistate elements" to blow up a key railway bridge linking Dacca, the provincial capital, and the port of Chittagong.

A broadcast by Radio Pakistan, monitored here said it was announced in the East Pakistani capital of Dacca today that Pakistan armed forces which earlier cleared pockets of "miscreants" in Dacca now had moved fur-

ther north, reached Bengali separatists.

In an English-language broadcast beamed to South-east Asia, Moscow Radio Cleskey told newsmen that no military equipment had been sent since the fighting broke out in East Pakistan on March 25 and that none was in the pipeline for delivery now. It said that the innumerable casualties, suffering and the vation of the Pakistani people "greatly disturbs" the Bengalis.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that a six-man government of the Bangla Desh (Bengali Nation) had been sworn in Thursday, the first day of the Bengali new year, and that two emissaries of the government had flown from Calcutta to Europe to seek recognition of their self-proclaimed independent government.

In Washington, the State Department strongly rejected reports that the United States was sending arms to Pakistan and had cut off its food aid shipments there during the fighting between the central

