

Foreign News Roundup

Rebels Flee Own Capital City

CHUADANGA, East Pakistan. (AP) — Demoralized forces of breakaway East Pakistan abandoned this provisional capital without a fight Friday. Thousands of refugees streamed out of the city toward the Indian border.

Pakistani government troops captured Kushtia, 30 miles to the north and resistance everywhere appeared to be crumbling.

The Indian government radio, consistently partisan, spoke for the first time of a Bangla Desh retreat and reported the followers of Sheik Mujibur Rahman were resorting to guerrilla warfare. Bangla Desh is the name the rebels gave East Pakistan when they declared their independence three weeks ago.

There was little evidence of guerrilla fighting in the Chuadanga region, however. Bangla Desh troops appeared battle shy and ready to throw away their arms. There was confusion everywhere. Bangla Desh officers had virtually given up the fight.

Chuadanga, a city of some 25,000 people which the recently-formed Bangla Desh government established as its provisional capital, was almost deserted.

Refugees reported Chuadanga was shelled and then strafed by two Pakistani air force Sabre jets shortly before noon.

When foreign newsmen reached the town later several streets were pitted with small craters and the walls of the police station were scarred with machinegun bullets. Several buildings were damaged by rocket or mortar fire.

A dead cow and two dead dogs still lay in the main street. Twelve people were said to have been killed in the attack but there were no officials on hand to verify the report.

