

E. Pakistan Yields Last Major Town

From Wire Services

ICHIKHALI, East Pakistan — Bangla Desh surrendered its last important town without a fight yesterday and the Pakistan civil war appeared to be ended in the Western Provinces bordering West Bengal.

A Reuter correspondent in India said that at the airport of the outskirts of Agartala, in India, but bordered on three sides by East Pakistan, he could hear the sound of bombs and artillery shells bursting and see flashes and palls of smoke at several areas across the border.

Meanwhile Associated Press reported from Calcutta that the Pakistani deputy high commissioner

PAKISTAN, Page 14

W. Pakistan forces mop up last resistance

★ PAKISTAN

Continued from Page 1

there hoisted the green, red and gold flag of East Pakistan over his office yesterday. His was the first foreign diplomatic mission to support the newly proclaimed independent republic of Bangla Desh.

The deputy high commissioner, Houssain Ali, an East Pakistani, announced the mission's new allegiance.

A United Press International dispatch from New Delhi reported that President Varahgiri Venkateswari of India said yesterday his government is considering recognizing the secessionist rebel government in East Pakistan. The

Pakistani consulate in Calcutta defected to the rebel regime.

Giri told newsmen at Gururaj Sudhar, 200 miles northwest of New Delhi, that India's sympathies were with the rebels but it was up to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to make the decision on recognizing their Bangla Desh (Bengal Land) government.

As they have at town after town during the last 10 days, the Bengali rebels chose to retreat rather than defend Meherpur.

From a small village half a mile from Meherpur, occasional mortar shots and short bursts of rifle fire could be heard, but the handful of East Pakistan Rifle soldiers still around

said that no one was manning defensive positions in the town. It appeared that the advancing Pakistan army was firing the mortar shells to make completely sure that all defenders had time to flee.

Three armed soldiers passing through the small village seemed to have remained more to watch than to fight. As the mortar

rounds fell slightly nearer, they piled into a truck with a dozen civilians and drove toward India.

Most of their comrades were already installed in India yesterday morning before a shot was fired at Meherpur.

An Indian border security camp appeared to be taking care of about 200 East Pakistan Riflemen.

BANGLADESH GENOCIDE RESEARCH