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RABIUL A

Entire deep south-eastern strip secured Ramu, Cox's Bazar, Teknaf in firm grip of Army

COX'S BAZAR, May 8:—in two successive operations spread over nearly 38 hours last week the quick moving Pakistan troops secured the entire deep south-eastern strip of East Pakistan lying between the big villages Ramu, about ten miles north of here, and Teknaf town right on the Pakistan-Burma border, writes APP's Special Correspondent Altaf Yawar.

In a despatch after his 3-day journey with the troops in the 1,000-mile area, square he says: "The beach resort of Cox's Bazar on the Bay of Bengal coast was secured on Wednesday just as the clock struck the midday hour while Teknaf, the last Pakistani settlement on the border with Burma, was in firm grip of the Pakistan Army on Thursday afternoon."

The Correspondent further says: "I was with the Pakistan Army column which advanced towards Cox's Bazar from the sea-side and linked up with the column which approached this town by the land route. After overnight travel in a troop carrier from Chittagong along the coast the troops in battle dress made a spectacular beach landing."

Life normal

From the small troop carrier I saw life both on the shore and the small and big off-shore islands. Pakistan flag was flying on bamboo and tin huts and also on large number of sail and power boats. Inhabitants were engaged in their routines, catching fish, transporting passengers and goods, ploughing fields or rearing cattle.

The land route column of the Army received big ovation as it entered Cox's Bazar and

took over its control without firing a single shot.

Majority of shops in the town were open and doing business. A shopkeeper told me he had more than sufficient stocks and that his prices were normal.

Having established order from Chittagong to Cox's Bazar, the Pakistan Army launched its last major offensive early on Thursday morning when a column swooped down to Teknaf through winding Arakan Road and established its camp in Teknaf under hills thick with green foliage.

The major part of the 60-mile road is sandwiched by the broad and beautiful Naf river on the left and green hills on the right. The column did not encounter any resistance as it advanced.

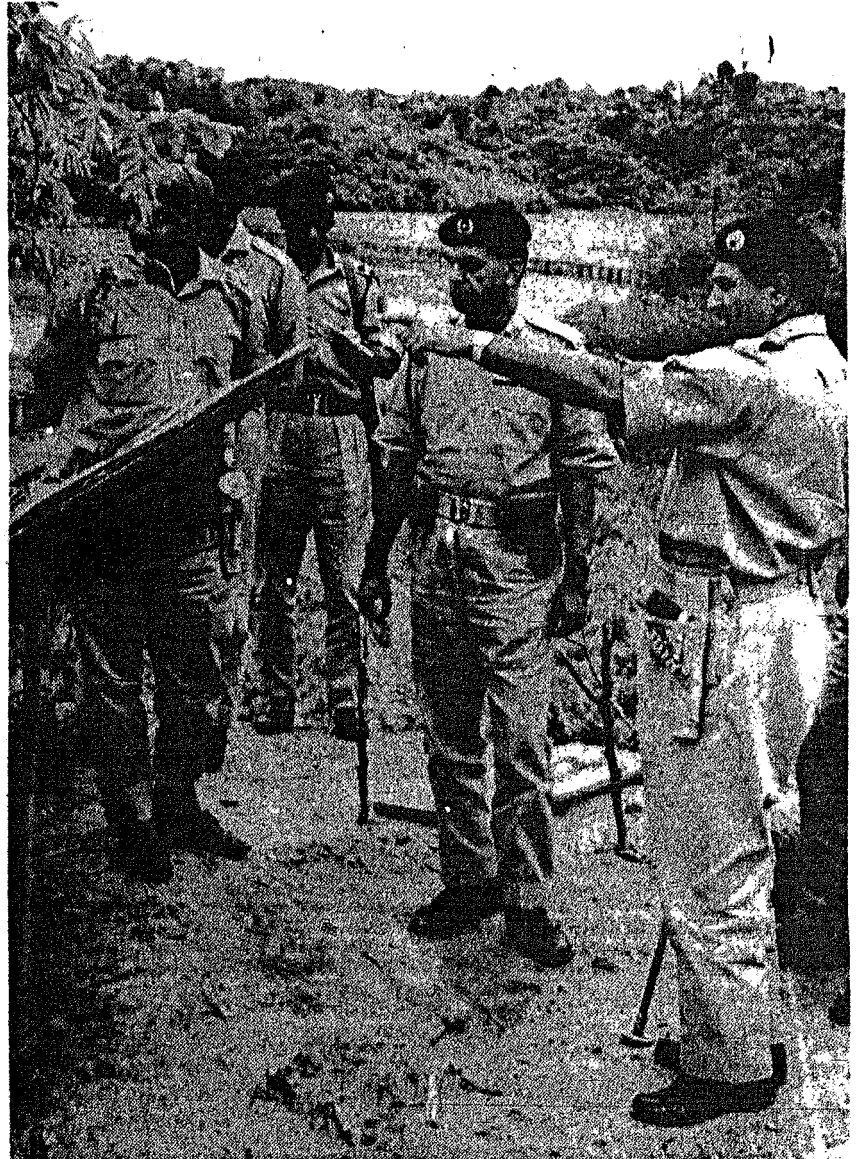
Procession

All through the journey the Army column ran into cheering crowd carrying Pakistan flag, raising slogans and waving at the troops at Maricha, Ukhia, Gundum, Whykong and Nhila, almost the entire populations had turned up to welcome the troops.

At the Pakistan outpost of Gundum the column Commander exchanged pleasantries with a civilian officer of the adjoining Burmese Customs Post.

As the Army column arrived at the outskirts of Teknaf town a big procession led by Maulana Muhammad Ibrahim head of Madrasah-e-Islamia greeted the officers and jawans.

With the securing of Teknaf, the entire Chittagong region, which roughly comprises one third of land mass of East Pakistan, is clear of saboteurs and anti-state elements.



Lieut-General A.A.K. Niazi, Commander, Eastern Command, during his visit to the

border area in Sylhet district Sunday (9.5.71), pointing to a place where Indian

infiltrators were thrashed by Pakistan troops.

Peace prevails in Faridpur

By A Special Correspondent

Peace and normalcy has been prevailing in the district of Faridpur. Since it was cleared of the miscreants by the Pakistan Army the peace-lov-

ers. By sunset all shops and business places were also closed.

The rural people became so troubled by the bootlegging