

# One of Pakistan's Two Worlds Is in Ferment

By Warren Unna

Washington Post Foreign Service

**D**ACCA, East Pakistan— It has been a hot month in East Bengal, and the political temperature is simmering as well. Trouble may come again next month as it did last if rising food prices excite people in the countryside enough to cause them to join city dwellers in protest demonstrations.

The Bengali-speaking people of East Pakistan figure they constitute about 60 per cent of the country's population, earn most of the foreign exchange through sale of jute—and yet get short-changed in self-government, economic development and even military defense.

Some want this area to become autonomous, and perhaps separate from West Pakistan. But most people say they want only a "fair deal."

Pakistan President Ayub Khan says, and probably rightly, that he has done more to redress East Pakistan's grievances than any other leader. He thinks that by 1985 East Pakistan can catch up with the West after many years of getting the short end—under British colonial administration as well as under independent Pakistan's original Muslim League rule.

Ayub looks on the current protest moves as seditious, and aimed at secession and not just a fair deal. He has likened the protests to the American South's move toward civil war a century ago and threatened to answer in the "language of weapons." The East Bengalis interpret this as a warning that their protests may be put down by Ayub's Punjabi army in the West and have grown even angrier.

## Strike Called

**N**OW AYUB'S government has closed down East Bengal's leading newspaper, Ittefaq, and jailed its editor, one of Pakistan's most respected, Ta-

azzul Husain. This has impelled all Pakistan journalists—from the West as well as the East—to call for a national protest strike on Tuesday.

Ayub, a professional soldier, never has liked or understood the tactical compromises of a politician. And in East Bengal, he has permitted no really sensitive politicians to represent him in his government. Because of the gulf in understanding and interpretation between East Pakistan's Bengali language and the Urdu spoken in the West, it took a long while for Ayub to hear that Ittefaq editor Husain's oblique references to the folly of a Sukarno really were deploring a unformed president at home.

Ayub's government has jailed all significant members of the autonomy-seeking Awami League, the group which led the successful protest demonstration here on June 7 and 8 in which all business came to a halt and ten people were killed by police. It was the largest civil disturbance casualty list since independence.

The sudden beginning of the monsoon prevented further massacre during the "antirepression" demonstration of June 17 to 20. The Bengalis simply didn't want to venture out into the rain and only one black protest flag was hoisted—over the Awami League's headquarters.

## The CIA Again?

**I**T IS BECOMING habitual around the world to blame the American Central Intelligence Agency for untoward disturbances and CIA is thought, somehow, to be behind the autonomy move here—even by pro-American members of the government. They have some vague notion that Americans would like to separate East and West Pakistan in order to help India.

This supposedly could occur by either

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coupling Pakistan's East Bengal to India's West Bengal, or making it a "highway" should Indian troops have to pass through on their way to India's isolated Assam front against China.

Actually, many East Bengalis have refused to buy West Pakistan's Kashmir cause against India and would like to re-establish some of their pre-partition trade ties with the other Bengal, which centers around Calcutta. One local editor explained: "The govern-

ment in the West thinks that economic relations would be harmful for us. They have kept India from buying our jute. The economy of East Pakistan has been destroyed for political reasons."

Zahiruddin, a local attorney and executive secretary of the Awami League, and the group's only spokesman out of jail, explained that the League became persuaded in favor of autonomy after last fall's war with India.

"For 17 days we were completely isolated," Zahiruddin said in an interview. "You couldn't write a letter to West Pakistan. You couldn't leave East Pakistan. We were left defenseless militarily. This sense of isolation gave us a feeling that unless we are self-sufficient this kind of 'unlty' will not help us very much. We must have our own political and economic rights."

### Dismember the West

**S**HAUKAT ALI KHAN, treasurer of the East Pakistan National Awami

Party, a leftist-oriented group whose leaders are not in jail, thinks a better balance between East and West might be achieved if the West were to be dismembered into the four provinces it contained during British days: Punjab, Sind, Northwest Frontier and Baluchistan.

But neither the Awami League nor the National Awami Party really speaks for the discontented middle class, which wants a fair deal. Ironically, the civil service and the police are particularly ardent because they feel frustrated in trying to run a government in East Pakistan which, according to some, is nothing but a letter drop to convey requests to the national capital of Rawalpindi in the West.

If the current floods continue to ruin the rice paddies, as well as the jute cash crops, and prices for the basic rice meal continue to rise, there is definite fear that the peasants may join the city middle classes in whatever new protest movement takes shape.

How to prevent this?

Observers say it is not merely a matter of replacing Ayub's governor here, for any Bengali automatically takes on the coloration of a Quisling when he becomes the central government's man.

Instead, you hear the plea for more local authority. True, the new, and third, five-year plan may be allocating more development money to the East. But what good is it, they say, if all the approval and implementation must be carried out from Rawalpindi?

Also, the suggestion has been made that President Ayub visit his eastern province at least more often than the two times he has come here so far this year. And there is a desire that the President learn enough of the Bengali language to at least introduce his speeches before an interpreter takes over.

**MMR JALAL**

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