

PAKISTANIS IN RIOT ON LANGUAGE ISSUE

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KARACHI, Pakistan, April 22
—Thousands of persons stormed the National Assembly today in protest against the Government's decision to consider the use of Bengali as a second state language.

Bengali is the provincial tongue of 42,000,000 persons in East Pakistan, who represent 54 per cent of the country's total population. They are separated from this western zone by more than 1,000 miles of India.

While English is the official language of the Government, Urdu, which is spoken in most of the western zone, is recognized as the state language.

East Pakistan's sensitivity over linguistic discrimination became an issue in that province's elections last month. The Moslem League, which founded the country and is still in control in West Pakistan, was defeated in East Pakistan by the United Front party.

West Pakistan advocates of Urdu as the only national language began their protest last night after the Government had announced the formation of a committee to study the practicability of making Bengali a second tongue.

Under the leadership of Abdul Huq, 82-year-old mullah (clergy-like teacher) who has devoted most of his life to propagating Urdu, a public meeting was organized. Bands of students from Urdu College warned shopkeepers to close in sympathy with the movement.

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