

## ***New Pattern in Pakistan***

More and more, Maj. Gen. Iskander Mirza is emerging as the strong man of Pakistan. That bodes well for an end to the crisis that has plagued Pakistan since last fall when the high court invalidated the initial attempt to write a constitution. General Mirza, who had served as Interior Minister, and Ghulam Mohammed, the semiparalyzed Governor General who has designated Mirza to act temporarily in his place, have provided the one continuing link with stability. Mirza enjoys the respect of Pakistanis and foreigners alike for his administrative skill and political astuteness. He won the admiration of the Bengalis for his stern but just administration of East Pakistan when riots there forced the imposition of martial law last year. As acting Governor General he will have a chance further to bridge the separatism that results from the geographical division of Pakistan into two segments 1000 miles apart.

Concurrently, Chaudrhi Mohammed Ali has become Prime Minister in place of the resigned Mohammed Ali. The new Prime Minister previously was Finance Minister, and he is known as a man of integrity. His cabinet is a coalition between the Moslem League, of which he is the new head, and the United Front Party. The coalition became necessary because the supremacy of the Moslem League was seriously challenged in the June elections to the Constituent Assembly, in which the League won only 35 of 80 seats. Despite the parliamentary complications, the rise of an opposition is a healthy sign of political ferment in a country that until recently was dominated by a single party.

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The relative eclipse of Mohammed Ali, the former Premier, also is significant. This engaging personality, who was called back from the embassy in Washington more than two years ago to become Prime Minister, lost the support of politicians and his countrymen alike. The immediate reason for his downfall was his replacement as head of the Moslem League, a development that reflected his inability to build a solid political base. But he also alienated respect by his erratic behavior. In particular the women of Pakistan were aroused when he took a second wife, injuring his prestige at home and embarrassing Pakistan abroad. He had become a mere figurehead, and doubtless he would have fallen long since but for the reputation he acquired of being able to influence American policy.

Now Mohammed Ali reportedly is on his way back to Washington to replace the able Ambassador Amjad Ali, who is being recalled to Karachi, presumably for a cabinet post. It will be pleasant to have Mohammed Ali back; but let us hope this time that no one will regard him as America's best friend in Asia.

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