

PAKISTANI PARTY TO EXPLOIT GAINS

By JOHN P. CALLAHAN Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES
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Victorious 'United Front'
Expected to Challenge
Moslem League Rule

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DACCA, Pakistan, March 20—Asia's version of backroom politics began in earnestness this week with the big dollar cigar replaced by the aromatic hookah. At stake was the future of the Pakistani Moslem League, a political machine run down by the deceptive assumption of indefinite power born during more than six years of uncontested control.

The victorious protagonist was the United Front party, which polled an overwhelming majority of the 10,000,000 votes cast in the recent elections in East Pakistan.

The count of votes tonight showed that of 237 seats reserved for Moslems in the 309-man Legislature of East Pakistan, seventy-two being reserved for minority groups, the United Front got 180, the Moslem League, 7, and independents, 10.

Underscoring the significance of the vote is the fact that East Bengal, which is the provincial name of East Pakistan, is represented in the National Assembly by forty-five of the seventy-two seats.

The bewildered Moslem League leaders in Karachi, the national capital in West Pakistan, which lies 1,000 miles westward across India, asked: What happened to the spirit of Islam when the people went to polls; did they forget that it was the Moslem League that led them from a minority status in predominantly Hindu India in 1947?

Chiefly a Protest Vote

But the answer to these and to many other questions, which revealed how far league officials had drifted from the mass of hungry, naked peasants, lay in the ballot box. The people voted not so much for the United Front as against the Moslem League.

The list is long and the issues of more than provincial interest. Unless they are settled to the satisfaction of the restive millions here, East Pakistan may break away from West Pakistan, thus reducing the latter zone to the level of a third-rate power instead of the fifth largest nation in the world.

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Aside from the common religious interest, and the elections proved that to be an insufficient tie to avert a breach, there is only economic interdependence, a factor that is also losing significance as both wings pursue independent agricultural and industrial development plans.

Aside from the geographic separation, which is greater than between New York and Chicago, West and East Pakistan are culturally a world apart. Their people dress differently and speak different languages, Urdu in West Pakistan and Bengali in East Pakistan. This has been a bitter inter-zone issue that the Moslem League could not settle. The Bengalis want their tongue to be one of the state languages, but the western section rejected the request.

Then there are many assertions that the Central Government, dominated by the Punjab Province "clique," has relegated East Pakistan to colonial status despite the fact that most of the foreign exchange earnings come from here.

On the Kashmir issue there are not many Bengalis who care whether the state stays with India or comes over to Pakistan. "It is too far away, would not mean anything for us and besides we are preoccupied with getting

our fair share of Central Government allotments, which have been denied to us," East Pakistanis say.

Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, leader of the United Front and last Chief Minister of undivided Bengal, has promised to "right these wrongs." He went to Karachi yesterday and today his associates here said that in meetings with Prime Minister Mohammed Ali and Governor General Ghulam Mohammed "he laid the groundwork" for an early solution of several of these problems.

MMK JALAL.