



For Choicest  
**BANARSI  
 SAREES  
 SUITS-SCARVES  
 AND RAW SILK**

Please Visit  
**BANARAS SILK HOUSE**  
 ELPHINSTONE STREET, SACDAR  
 KARACHI-2 TEL: 514923

ORIENT

# Bhutto says East Wing reaction unwarranted 'PPP not responsible for present state of affairs'

Mr Z. A. Bhutto, Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, said here yesterday that judged by any "objective standard" it would be seen that a necessary postponement of the National Assembly session should not warrant the "extreme reaction" that the Pakistan Awami League had shown.

At the end of his party's two-day Central Committee meeting here, Mr Bhutto dictated a statement to newsmen.

The statement said: "We are naturally deeply concerned about the deteriorating conditions in East Pakistan. We have taken every initiative and measure to find an agreed constitutional settlement. In this search for such a settlement we only wanted a brief postponement of the National Assembly session to complete our negotiations with the Awami League for a compromise formula to prevent a deadlock in the Assembly with all its irredeemable consequences.

Our position was acclaimed throughout West Pakistan by the common people. The position taken by us was for the abiding integrity of Pakistan and we fail to understand why Awami League thought it necessary to react in the manner it has chosen. We are not responsible for the present state of affairs. Judged by any objective standard it will be seen that a necessary postponement of the National Assembly session should not warrant extreme reaction that the Pakistan Awami League had shown."

### STILL HOPEFUL

Talking to newsmen, Mr Bhutto said that his party was making endeavours to remain as close to the Awami League's Six Point programme as possible for the sake of integrity and solidarity of the country.

The PPP Chief said that he was still hopeful of coming to some understanding with the major party of Pakistan on the constitutional issue.

"He said that his party had embarked upon this path in the larger interest of the country. He was asked if it was a matter of

choice for him what would he prefer — separation of the two Wings or acceptance of Awami League's Six-Point programme.

He put a counter question to the reporter: "Is there any basic difference between the two?"

He said that it could be argued that the Six-Point programme of the Awami League amounted to secession of the East from the other half of the country. He, however, made it clear that it was not his party's position on the Six-Point programme.

Asked if he would now demand convening of the National Assem-

(Continued on back page col. 2)

## Pakistan to lodge complaint with ICAO at Montreal

### Ban on overflights by India

A four-member Pakistani delegation led by Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Attorney General, left here early yesterday morning for Montreal.

The delegation will present Pakistan's case before the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in respect of the arbitrary ban on overflights imposed recently by India.

The delegation included representatives of the Pakistan International Airlines, Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan had informed ICAO on Feb 5, about the Indian decision banning flights by Pakistani aircraft over its territory which is in clear violation of international and bilateral treaties.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that Pakistan had already replied to an inquiry from ICAO about the incident involving the hijacking of an Indian plane.

It was stated in the reply that there was no connection between the hijacking incident and

# Bhutto on situation

(Continued from page 1)

bly session to diffuse the "explosive situation" in East Pakistan. Mr Bhutto replied: "Your question is valid. Events are fast taking place. We will be in touch with you (the Press) to let you know about it.

Asked for his comment on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's recent statement for having two different constitutions for each province, Mr Bhutto said that he did not know what was the constitutional sanctity for that arrangement.

Asked if he endorses Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's demand for handing over power to the people's elected representatives, Mr Bhutto said that it was much better to direct all efforts towards the constitution-making which could provide constitutional guarantee for civilian rule for all the times.

Mr Bhutto said that his party's stand was motivated by the sole consideration of having a lasting solution to the constitutional problem.

## WANTS A.L. TO RESPOND

Asked what was his appraisal of the present situation following Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's refusal to attend the conference of leaders of parliamentary groups as convened by the President, the PPP leader said that he was still hopeful of coming to some understanding with the majority party of the country on the constitutional crisis. He reiterated that he was even today prepared to go to Dacca to meet Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and complete his talks with him on the constitutional issue. He, however, said that he would not say anything beyond this at this stage. "There should be at least some response to my offer from the other end," he added.

Mr Bhutto said his party's stand that the two majority parties should have some settlement on an agreed constitution or that they should have negotiations before meeting in the Assembly, would be very well vindicated when the Assembly meets. The procedures to be laid down in the Assembly and the manner in which it proceeds would vindicate the position of his party.

The People's Party Chairman said that when President General Yahya's invitation to the conference of leaders of parliamentary groups was announced over Radio, his party immediately responded to it in a "positive manner."

He said that the main point was that there must be either a settlement between the two major parties or failing a settlement, there must be a discussion on the

constitutional arrangement under which Pakistan is to exist.

He said that whenever the National Assembly meets and holds its day-to-day business, one would appreciate why the PPP took his stand and why it was necessary to have the opportunity of completing discussions with the Awami League before the two parties meet in the National Assembly.

He said that these discussions would not have led to an impasse. The People's Party, Mr Bhutto added, was trying as rapidly as possible to complete these preliminaries before the two parties meet in the Assembly.

He said: "We are faced with an extraordinary situation in the sense that the Awami League says that the constitution of Pakistan is to be framed on the basis of its Six-Point programme." The People's Party, Mr Bhutto added, was within its right to be heard in the Assembly.

Asked what was the subject matter of today's discussion at the Central Committee's meeting, Mr Bhutto said the Committee had an exhaustive review of all steps the party had taken since the last election: "We also examined what would have been the result if without completing these negotiations the party sat in the Assembly. We also reviewed and examined whether we have not done all that was within our power and capacity to arrive at some understanding with Awami League on the issue of constitution in the interest of the country."—APP

PPI adds: When his attention was drawn to the killings, looting and arson in East Pakistan, Mr Bhutto said, "We are very much concerned over the situation there". The People's Party, he said, is anxious that the troops be withdrawn and the power is transferred to the elected representatives of the people.

The problem, he pointed out, was extremely complicated and is a legacy of 23 years. His party, he said, was also responsible to the people of Pakistan and to those who elected us.

Thus, he maintained, it is our duty to fulfil them, and added that his party wants to resolve the present crisis in the country.

When asked that the National Assembly was the proper forum for discussing all matters, the PPP Chief replied that it was in normal circumstances that all matters are discussed in the Assembly, but this is an extraordinary situation.

Mr Bhutto further said, "We want one Pakistan with a viable constitution for a federal state." The conduct of the People's Party, he said, had been very reasonable ever since the political activities started.