

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
A History of Bengali Politics

English translation:

After the end of the British rule in 1947, our subcontinent was divided into two parts, India and Pakistan. Pakistan was further divided into two provinces. On the east side was East Pakistan and on the west was West Pakistan. After this was divided in '47, East... Bengal... the one that was East Pakistan, they started having conflicts with West Pakistan concerning language, people, and on other grounds, and the distance between them started growing. The distance was reflected in all sectors... political, economic, and social. The Language Movement in 1952 was due to this. Although the majority of the population of East Pakistan was Bengali, they [the government] made Urdu the state language, which was not the language of West Pakistan's Sindhis, Punjabis, Balochis or Peshawar's Pashto-speaking people. This led to a movement among the Bengalis. They wanted to make Bengali another state language of Pakistan. But the Pakistan government at that time tried to suppress it. Thus, through revolution, processions and ultimately through the loss of some student lives, the Pakistan government had to agree to make Bengali another state language of Pakistan. Although Bengali was documented as another state language, the application of it in daily life was not... that is... its use... or the governors of West Pakistan, who used to rule Pakistan, did not really accept this. Gradually this became an issue, and a cause of economic differences. In '70 even when East Pakistan's party, Awami League, won the majority of votes in the national elections, under the influence of the military forces and the West [Pakistanis] he [the party leader] was not allowed to take up his position. This resulted in the start of the Liberation War, and on March 26th, 1971, the war officially started. After fighting for nine long months, particularly fighting the guerilla wars, and in December fighting directly [unclear] ... and victory was achieved on December 16th. This was the birth of present-day Bangladesh as a new, independent state.

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