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Government of India

PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY

14th August



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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi

"Partition's pains can never be forgotten. Millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence. In memory of the struggles and sacrifices of our people, 14th August will be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day."

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Background

The partition of India in its most basic form is a story of unprecedented human displacement and forced migration. It is a story in which millions sought new homes in environments that were alien and resistive. More than being a story of a violent divide based on faith and religion, it is also a story of how a way of life and ages of co-existence came to a sudden and dramatic end.

About 6 million non-Muslims moved out from what had become West Pakistan and another 6.5 million Muslims moved out from the Indian part of Punjab, Delhi, etc., into West Pakistan. In the east, an estimated 2 million non-Muslims moved out of East Bengal (Pakistan) and later in 1950, another 2 million non-Muslims moved into West (India) Bengal. It is estimated that about one million Muslims had moved out of West Bengal.

The estimate of those killed has varied from 500,000 to over 1,000,000. The generally accepted figure stands at around 500,000.

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Nehru,Mountbatten and Jinnah

Historical Backdrop of Partition

The Freedom of India was nevertheless an easy go as it came with tragic communal violence engulfing the life of more than a million people amidst the demand of Separate Pakistan and the threat of Direct Action with the root cause being religion. The Divide and Rule Policy of the British strategically seeded the roots of communalism in India and was later cultivated by Jinnah and Muslim League with his policy of the Two-nation theory which was the prime reason for creation of Pakistan. In matter of weeks, 12 million people majorly Hindus and Sikhs crossed newly formed international borders, over a million lost their lives, thousands of children went missing, thousands of women were raped and especially the two states of Punjab and West Bengal was in a complete state of turmoil.

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''The British Government was mediator rather than arbitrator''



Viceroy Mountbatten along with Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Acharya Kriplani, Sardar Baldev Singh, Sardar Abdur Nishjar, Liaquat Ali and Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

On February 20 (1947), British Prime Minister Clement Attlee had announced in the House of Commons that the Government had decided to hand over power and leave India not later than 30 June 1948. The whole process however was fast forwarded by Lord Mountbatten by almost a year. Mountbatten had returned to New Delhi from London on May 31, 1947, carrying with him the approval for advancing the transfer of power. The plan was broadly agreed upon in the historic meeting of June 2, 1947. The decision to partition India was like a pre-condition. There was widespread opposition to the plan in general and more specifically to the idea that a country such as India should be partititioned on the basis of religious following. The mental divide appears, it was said, to have existed only among the leaders and other interests who saw in the country's partition their own bright future.

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Historic Press Conference: June 4, 1947



"We Are In A Hurry To Quit"

"YOU MUST DECIDE YOUR FATE AT ONCE".
MOUNTBATTEN'S APPEAL TO PRINCES

Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 3.

While the latest British plan—there is no alternative—conforms substantially to your correspondent's earlier messages, some important points have not yet come to light.

Lord Mountbatten told ... backed the Sikh case, which was presented by Sardar Baldev Singh—the Punjab being their only homeland.

It is understood that the assurance to the Sikhs in the Viceroy's broadcast is well meant and

Viceroy Lord Mountbatten addressed a historic press conference in New Delhi on June 4, 1947. As the Viceroy announced the plan to transfer power almost a year ahead of the earlier schedule, a series of questions followed. The most important was regarding the transfer of population. The Viceroy's answer was : "Personally I don't see it (people moving out) . . . some measure of transfer will come about in a natural way . . . people will transfer themselves . . " (The Tribune June 5, 1947)

As time would show this would be a huge understatement. Over 13 million people were uprooted and forced to migrate as a result of the partition.



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The All India Muslim League Resolves on Partition



(Illustrated London News July 5, 1947 (Digital Photo Archives NMML New Delhi)

The All India Muslim League had met on June 9, 1947 at the Imperial Hotel in New Delhi. The resolution seeking partition was virtually unanimous - 300 for and 10 against. Jinnah is seen making the announcement of the passage of the resolution to the press. Many League leaders were unhappy for the division of the new dominion of Pakistan into two wings East and West. This, as time would show, was not a workable idea. The East of Pakistan was forced to separate and form the new dominion of Bangladesh in 1971.

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Meeting with the Indian Leaders on 2 June 1947. From Mountbatten's left: Jinnah, Liaquat Ali Khan, Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Sardar Baldev Singh, Acharya Kripalani, Sardar Patel, and Pandit Nehru.

On 4 June, at a Press Conference, Lord Mountbatten, Viceroy of India, announced the date of independence as 14/15 August. This was much sooner than anyone had expected. The Independence of India Act was passed by the British Parliament on July 18 to accommodate the faster time-table announced by Lord Mountbatten.

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Press Opinions: 'Tragic that India should have found Dominion Status in Division not in Unity'


THE VICEROY'S MESSAGE TO INDIA

SWEDISH CHAIRMAN OF U.N.O. PALESTINE COMMITTEE

INDIANS WARNED OF FUTURE RESPONSIBILITY

BRITISH PLAN PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR VICEROY

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

→ **British Plan Personal Triumph for Viceroy**

"Those who are saying that the division of India has become almost inevitable and in the same breath are appealing to their countrymen to get ready to receive the gift of independence are talking in contradictory terms. In my opinion the leaders . . . have falled prey to British."

- Baba Kharak Singh, the senior and highly respected Punjab leader (The Tribune June 25, 1947).

Sir Radcliffe, the man who was assigned to draw the line for partition had never earlier visited India. There was no way he could have understood its complexities. When he was first approached to head the Punjab Boundary Commission, he was expected to complete the task by June 1948. But as it turned out with the Transfer of Power being preponed by almost a year, he had just three weeks to draw the line. The process was conducted like a personal agenda. As this report suggests, the whole plan and the preponed schedule of its implementation was seen as a personal triumph of the Viceroy.



British Plan Personal Triumph for Viceroy

'Dangerous principle - namely a man changes his nationality with religion'

"Frankly I am unable to understand...the reasons behind the acceptance of the British plan of partition...I am bound to support my government... I regret to say however that ... we have accepted a dangerous principle namely a man changes his nationality with religion... whether the acceptance of this rather reactionary principle will help India to avoid civil war I do not know." - William Dobie, M.P. House of Commons (The Tribune, June 6, 1947).

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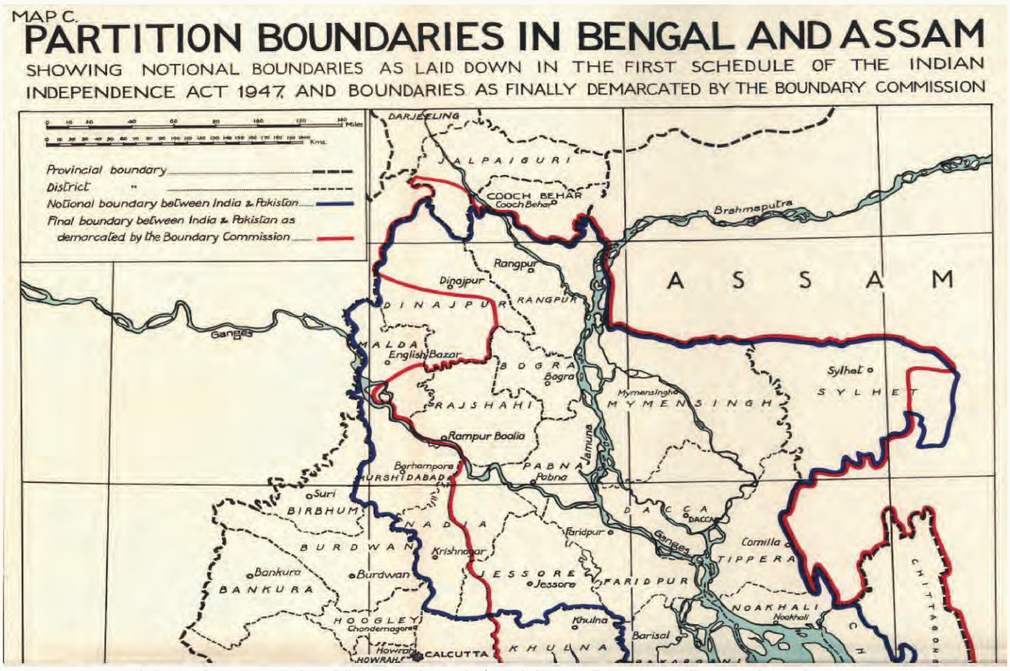

Map showing the National and final boundaries in Bengal and Assam.

In June 1947, Mountbatten asked Sir Cyril Radcliffe, a barrister, to chair two Boundary Commissions—one for Bengal. He had no knowledge of India and had never been to India before. Mountbatten considered this a favourable point as no one would accuse him of being biased one way or another. The members of the Boundary Commission were evenly divided and could not agree on the division. The decisions were thus left to Radcliffe. He arrived in India on July 8, and completed his Report by August 12.



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The migration and rehabilitation of people took a different form in Bengal compared to Punjab, continuing over decades. Officials downplayed the crisis and encouraged refugees to return to their homes and refused relief to migrants from East Bengal.

Refugees awaiting transport at Ranaghat, West Bengal.



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Suhrawardy and Jinnah

The Masterminds of the Communal Riots

The history of India's Partition is incomplete without a mention of the sordid episode of the Great Calcutta Killings of 1946 when Calcutta was taken over by vicious forces of communal frenzy. The Muslim League fought the election based on a single point agenda-creation of Pakistan. The veiled propaganda was that the campaign was to oust the British but in reality it was against the Sikhs and Hindus. The initial proposal of the two-nation theory was completely rejected by The Indian National Congress, further inciting Jinnah to devise the plan of 'Direct Action'.

In Jinnah's words "We do not want war. If you want war, we accept your offer unhesitatingly. We will either have a divided India or a destroyed India"

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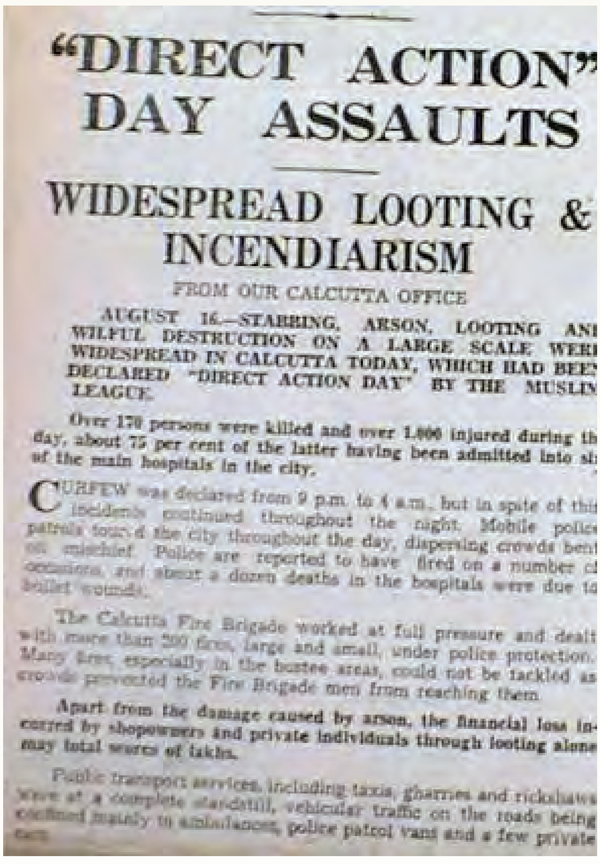

"DIRECT ACTION" DAY ASSAULTS

WIDESPREAD LOOTING & INCENDIARISM

FROM OUR CALCUTTA OFFICE

AUGUST 16.—STABBING, ARSON, LOOTING AN WILFUL DESTRUCTION ON A LARGE SCALE WER WIDESPREAD IN CALCUTTA TODAY, WHICH HAD BEE DECLARED "DIRECT ACTION DAY" BY THE MUSLI LEAGUE.

Over 170 persons were killed and over 1,000 injured during th day, about 75 per cent of the latter having been admitted into s of the main hospitals in the city.

CURFEW was declared from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., but in spite of thi incidents continued throughout the night. Mobile police patrols toured the city throughout the day, dispersing crowds bent on mischief. Police are reported to have fired on a number o occasions, and about a dozen deaths in the hospitals were due to bullet wounds.

The Calcutta Fire Brigade worked at full pressure and dealt with more than 200 fires, large and small, under police protection. Many fires, especially in the bustee areas, could not be tackled as crowds prevented the Fire Brigade men from reaching them.

Apart from the damage caused by arson, the financial loss incurred by shopowners and private individuals through looting alone may total scores of lakhs.

Public transport services, including taxis, gharries and rickshaws were at a complete standstill, vehicular traffic on the roads being confined mainly to ambulances, police patrol vans and a few private cars.

th

Amrit Bazar Patrika (18 August,1946)

Syed Muhammed Usman, who was the mayor of Calcutta offered his complete support to the Muslim League's propaganda and issued a widely circulated leaflet that said "Kafer ! toder dhongsher aar deri nei! Sarbik hotyakando ghotbei! (Infidels, Your End is not far away! You will be massacred)"

In order for the riots to be successful with respect to the Muslim League's agenda, Hindu police officers in or around Calcutta were sent to leave or purposely transferred and were replaced by Muslim officers in nearly 22 out of 24 police stations by the then Prime Minister of Bengal, HS Suhrawardy. It was pertinent as these officers aided in the butchering, raping and looting of Hindus in Calcutta.

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Riots at North Calcutta supported by the administration of Suhrawardy

On 1st August 1946, an Urdu newspaper 'Asre Jadid' published an editorial titled 'Direct Action'. In this article, it blamed the British rule for the Direct Action. It said, "These Britishers who do not exercise their votes in the Constituent Assembly Election are responsible for the present state of affairs." It blamed the Britishers for appeasing the Congress and conspiring by putting Hindus against Muslim interests. It said, "Direct Action should be taken against them. To the Muslims, Direct Action means a fight and a fight implies violence. Direct Action may not be civil disobedience but will be in the nature of revolt. There are many instances of British ingratitude to the Muslims and hence the decision of the British to hand over the power to Congress is not surprising."Suranjan Das in his book -Communal Riots in Bengal quoted another leaflet titled 'Quami Jung Ka Tabl-e-baz Aaya' which means 'The Drum Announcing the War for the community has been clarioned'.

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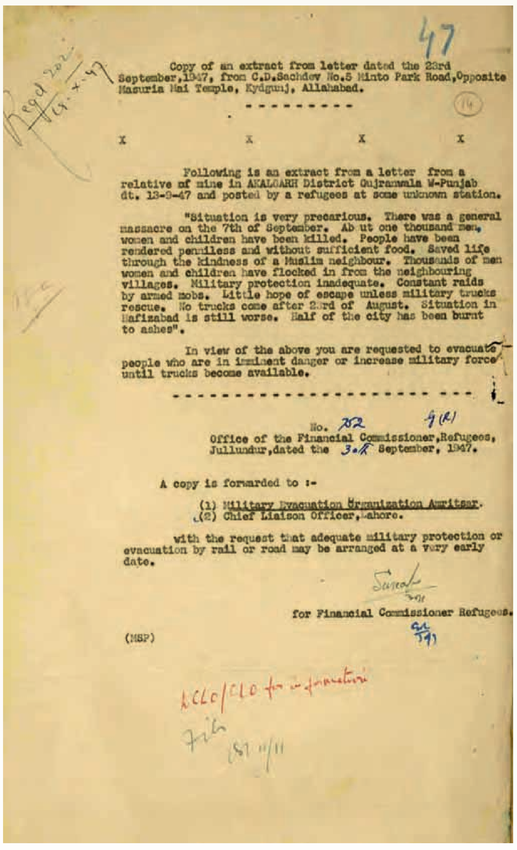

Copy of an extract from letter dated the 23rd September,1947, from G.D.Sachdev No.5 Minto Park Road,Opposite Masuria Mai Temple, Kydgunj, Allahabad.

X X X X

Following is an extract from a letter from a relative of mine in AKALGARH District Gujranwala W-Punjab dt. 13-9-47 and posted by a refugees at some unknown station.

"Situation is very precarious. There was a general massacre on the 7th of September. About one thousand men, women and children have been killed. People have been rendered penniless and without sufficient food. Saved life through the kindness of a Muslim neighbour. Thousands of men women and children have flocked in from the neighbouring villages. Military protection inadequate. Constant raids by armed mobs. Little hope of escape unless military trucks rescue. No trucks come after 23rd of August. Situation in Hafizabad is still worse. Half of the city has been burnt to ashes".

In view of the above you are requested to evacuate people who are in imminent danger or increase military force until trucks become available.

No. 252
Office of the Financial Commissioner,Refugees, Jullundur,dated the 30th September, 1947.

A copy is forwarded to :-

(1) Military Evacuation Organization Amritsar.
(2) Chief Liaison Officer,Lahore.

with the request that adequate military protection or evacuation by rail or road may be arranged at a very early date.

for Financial Commissioner Refugees.

(NSP)

The violence of 1947 and the announcement of Partition resulted in millions of people being displaced from their homes overnight

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Perhaps the largest number of people migrated in Kafilas, walking scores of miles in the searing heat and the torrential rains of a particularly heavy monsoon. As the Kafilas walked, more and more people would join from the villages they passed through extending the length of the Kafilas, which could stretch between 10 miles to27 miles and hold tens of thousands of people

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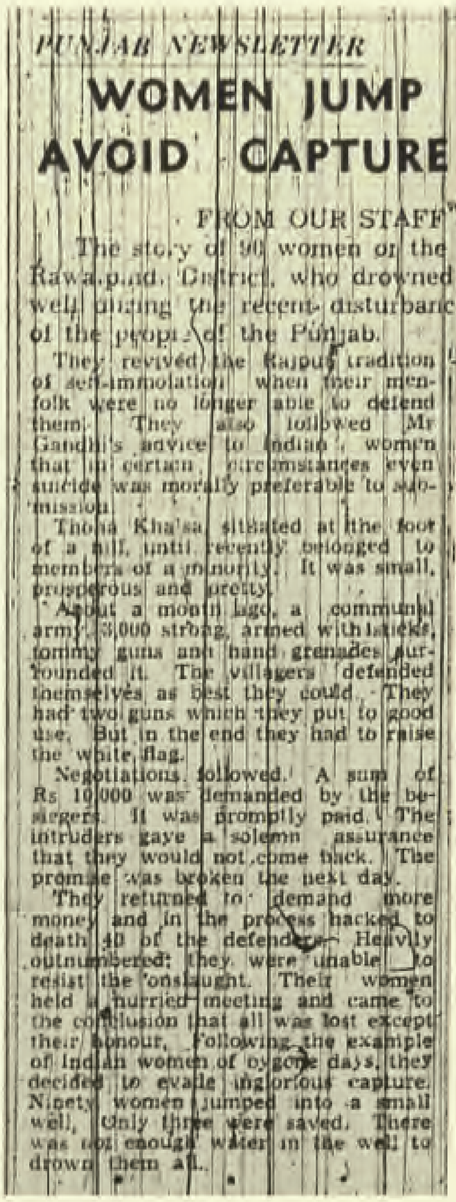

PUNJAB NEWSLETTER

WOMEN JUMP INTO WELL TO AVOID CAPTURE

FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The story of 90 women of the little village of Thoha Khalsa, Rawalpindi District, who drowned themselves by jumping into a well during the recent disturbances, has stirred the imagination of the people of the Punjab.

They revived the Rajput tradition of self-immolation when their menfolk were no longer able to defend them. They also followed Mr Gandhi's advice to Indian women that in certain circumstances even suicide was morally preferable to submission.

Thoha Khalsa situated at the foot of a hill, until recently belonged to members of a minority. It was small, prosperous and pretty.

About a month ago, a communal army, 3,000 strong, armed with lathis, tommy guns and hand grenades surrounded it. The villagers defended themselves as best they could. They had two guns which they put to good use. But in the end they had to raise the white flag.

Negotiations followed. A sum of Rs 10,000 was demanded by the besiegers. It was promptly paid. The intruders gave a solemn assurance that they would not come back. The promise was broken the next day.

They returned to demand more money and in the process hacked to death 40 of the defenders. Heavily outnumbered, they were unable to resist the onslaught. Their women held a hurried meeting and came to the conclusion that all was lost except their honour. Following the example of Indian women of bygone days, they decided to evade inglorious capture. Ninety women jumped into a small well. Only three were saved. There was not enough water in the well to drown them all.

Women suffered enormously during the Partition, and their experience of the Partition and its trauma was very different from that of the men. They were abducted and raped and many were sold into prostitution. Many were forced to convert their religion and marry the very men who might have slaughtered their family. In addition, their own family members often undertook to kill them to 'save the honour of the family'. The Indian government reported 33,000 women as abducted, while the Pakistan government estimated 50,000 abducted women. But these statistics vastly underestimated the extent of suffering.

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Humans and Rail, two long cues moving in s
ame destination, yet journey wrecked

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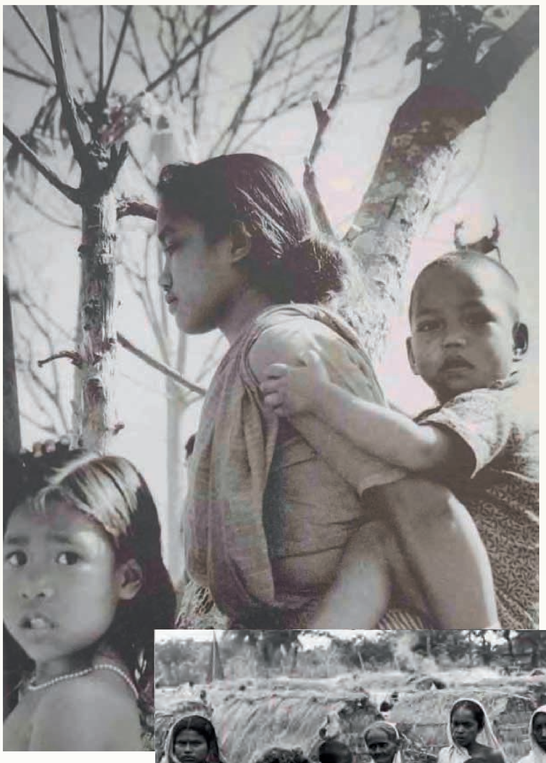



Refugees on the Move

A classical image of the ordinary citizen had probably understood what the 'fuss' was all about. In this case, it is difficult to say whether this family was moving East to West or West to East in Bengal

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Refugees on the Move



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First attacks in the Ramganj police station area

One of the first attacks was launched on the Hindu-owned businesses of a bazaar in the Ramganj police station area. Soon, the fanatic mob raided the houses of eminent Hindus of the area, Surendra Nath Basu and Rajendra Lal Roychowdhury who was the president of the Noakhali Bar Association and a prominent Hindu Mahasabha leader. Roychowdhury was hacked to death by the Muslim hooligans and his severed head was gifted to Sarwar. His two daughters were abducted and presented to Sarwar's loyalists as 'war booty'. Freedom fighter Lalmohan Sen, who had fought the British in 1930 and spent 16 years in jail, was also not spared either. He was slaughtered by the marauding mobs and his house in Sandweep was razed down. It is worth noting that Sen had become a communist and joined the Communist Party of India in his later life, but even his communist identity couldn't save him from the Islamist wrath; in their eyes, Roy was just a Hindu. Numerous Hindu houses were set ablaze using petrol. The use of petrol in remote areas like Sandweep where motor cars were hardly seen proved these attacks were premeditated. Here, a gallery will be displayed with rare newspaper cuttings and letters from The Great Calcutta Killings and Noakhali Riots.

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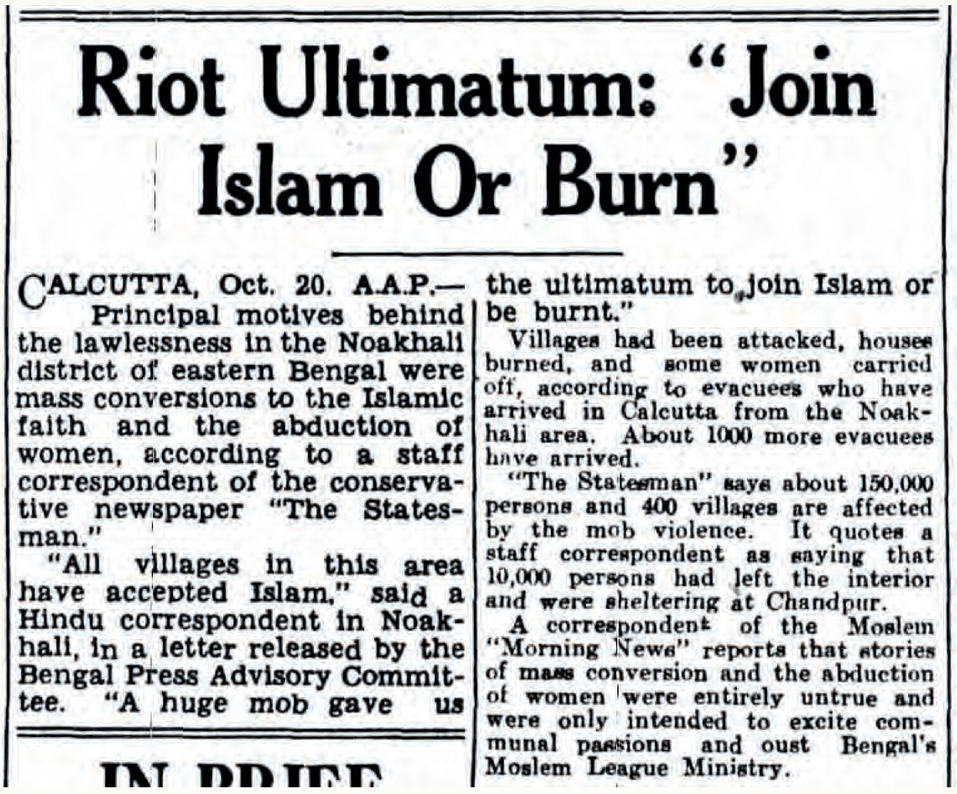


Riot Ultimatum: "Join Islam Or Burn"

CALCUTTA, Oct. 20. A.A.P.— Principal motives behind the lawlessness in the Noakhali district of eastern Bengal were mass conversions to the Islamic faith and the abduction of women, according to a staff correspondent of the conservative newspaper "The Statesman."

"All villages in this area have accepted Islam," said a Hindu correspondent in Noakhali, in a letter released by the Bengal Press Advisory Committee. "A huge mob gave us the ultimatum to join Islam or be burnt."

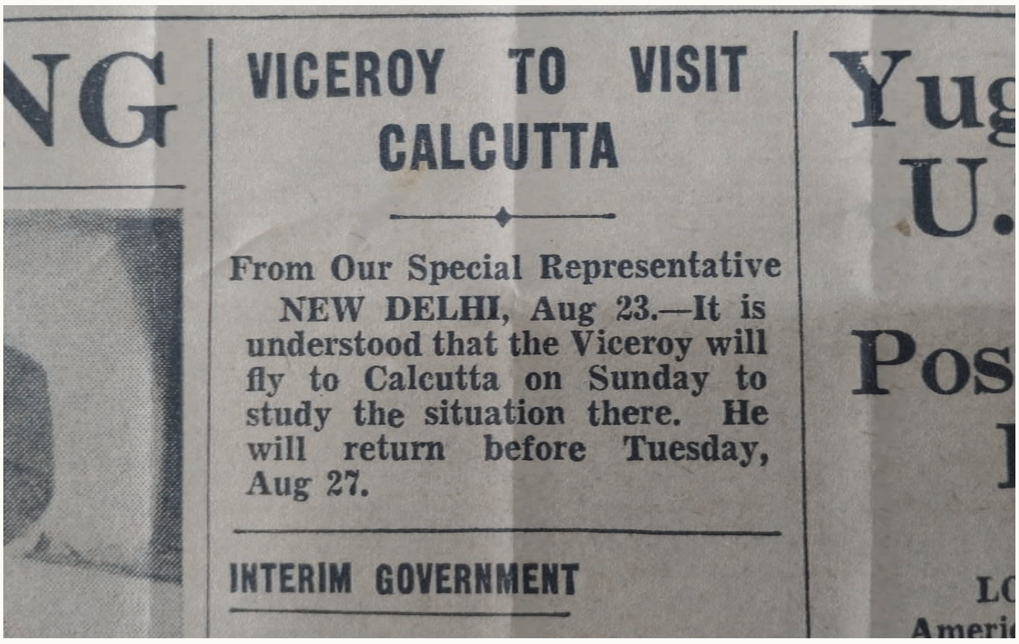
Villages had been attacked, houses burned, and some women carried off, according to evacuees who have arrived in Calcutta from the Noakhali area. About 1000 more evacuees have arrived.

"The Statesman" says about 150,000 persons and 400 villages are affected by the mob violence. It quotes a staff correspondent as saying that 10,000 persons had left the interior and were sheltering at Chandpur.

A correspondent of the Moslem "Morning News" reports that stories of mass conversion and the abduction of women were entirely untrue and were only intended to excite communal passions and oust Bengal's Moslem League Ministry.

IN BRIEF

"In an area of about 200 sq miles the inhabitants surrounded by riotous mobs, are being massacred, their houses being burnt, their womenfolk being forcibly carried away and thousands being subjected to forcible conversion. Thousands of hooligans attacked the villages, compelled them (Hindus) to slaughter their cattle and eat. All places of worship in affected villages have been desecrated. The District Magistrate and the Police Superintendent of Noakhali took no step to prevent it," reported **The Statesman on October 16, 1946.**



VICEROY TO VISIT CALCUTTA

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Aug 23.—It is understood that the Viceroy will fly to Calcutta on Sunday to study the situation there. He will return before Tuesday, Aug 27.

INTERIM GOVERNMENT

Viceroy to visit Calcutta

From our special representative NEW DELHI, Aug 23, - “It is understood that the viceroy will fly to Calcutta on Sunday to study the situation there. He will return before Tuesday, Aug 27.”

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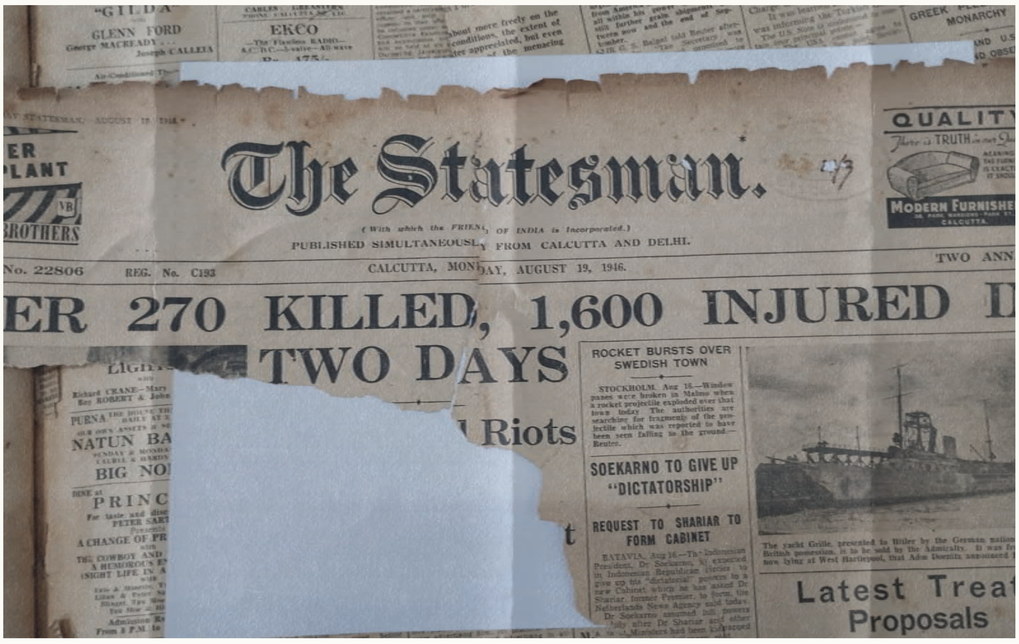

270 killed, 1600 injured in two days

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THE MONDAY STA

COMMUNAL RIOTS IN CALCUTTA

(Continued from Page 1.)

dawn rioting again flared up, Narkeldanga, Harrison Road, Mechuabazar Street, Manicktolla, and Cossipore being the most severely affected.

NEW MARKET RANSACKED

Life in the city was again paralysed. The New Market, in the heart of the shopping and amusement centre, was attacked and many shops were ransacked. Three large fires broke out in North and Central Calcutta.

Shortly after midday on Saturday the first news came through that the military had been called out in support of the police and that Sec 144 had been proclaimed. As the day wore on it was learned that military operations had been succes

COMPANY NO

Re 1-8 per line Minimum

FORD & MACDONAI

In the Matter of the Indi and in the Matter of Debe dated 10th of March, o hundred and

Notice is hereby given the Debenture Holders of Limited will be held Office of the Company, pore, on Saturday, the 3 9 a.m.

Communal Riots in Calcutta

Life in the city was again paralysed. The new market, in the heart of the shopping and amusement centre, was attacked and many shops were ransacked. Three large fires broke out in North and Central Calcutta.

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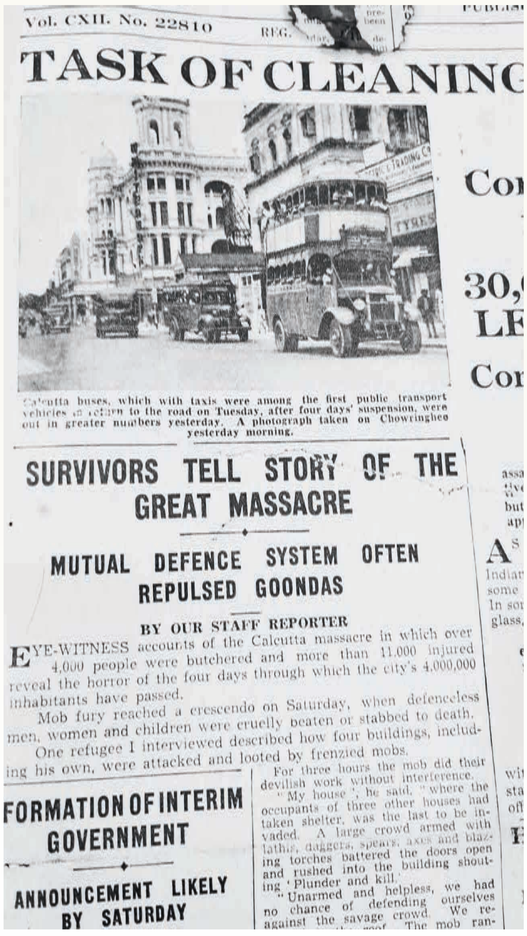

Vol. CXII. No. 22810 REG.

TASK OF CLEANING

Calcutta buses, which with taxis were among the first public transport vehicles to return to the road on Tuesday, after four days' suspension, were out in greater numbers yesterday. A photograph taken on Chowringhee yesterday morning.

SURVIVORS TELL STORY OF THE GREAT MASSACRE

MUTUAL DEFENCE SYSTEM OFTEN REPULSED GOONDAS

BY OUR STAFF REPORTER

EYE-WITNESS accounts of the Calcutta massacre in which over 4,000 people were butchered and more than 11,000 injured reveal the horror of the four days through which the city's 4,000,000 inhabitants have passed.

Mob fury reached a crescendo on Saturday, when defenceless men, women and children were cruelly beaten or stabbed to death.

One refugee I interviewed described how four buildings, including his own, were attacked and looted by frenzied mobs.

For three hours the mob did their devilish work without interference.

"My house", he said, "where the occupants of three other houses had taken shelter, was the last to be invaded. A large crowd armed with lathis, daggers, spears, axes and blazing torches battered the doors open and rushed into the building shouting 'Plunder and kill.'

"Unarmed and helpless, we had no chance of defending ourselves against the savage crowd. We re-

FORMATION OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT LIKELY BY SATURDAY

Mutual defence system often repulsed goondas

Eye witness accounts of the Culcutta massacre in which over 4000 people were butchered and more then 11,000 injured reveal the horror of the four days through which the city's 4,000,000 inhabitants have passed away.

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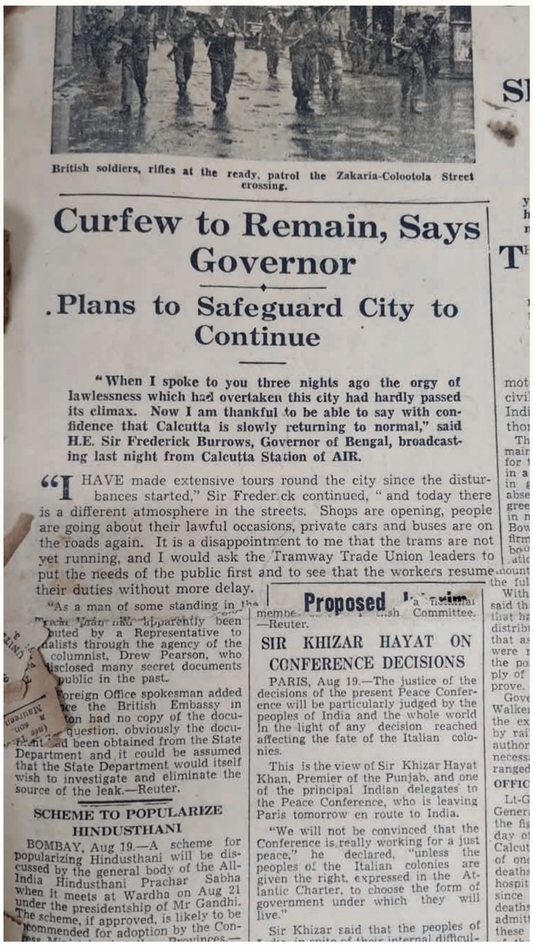

British soldiers, rifles at the ready, patrol the Zakaria-Colootola Street crossing.

Curfew to Remain, Says Governor

.Plans to Safeguard City to Continue

"When I spoke to you three nights ago the orgy of lawlessness which had overtaken this city had hardly passed its climax. Now I am thankful to be able to say with confidence that Calcutta is slowly returning to normal," said H.E. Sir Frederick Burrows, Governor of Bengal, broadcasting last night from Calcutta Station of AIR.

"I HAVE made extensive tours round the city since the disturbances started," Sir Frederick continued, " and today there is a different atmosphere in the streets. Shops are opening, people are going about their lawful occasions, private cars and buses are on the roads again. It is a disappointment to me that the trams are not yet running, and I would ask the Tramway Trade Union leaders to put the needs of the public first and to see that the workers resume their duties without more delay.

"As a man of some standing in the [illegible] apparently been buted by a Representative to dalists through the agency of the columnist, Drew Pearson, who disclosed many secret documents public in the past.

Foreign Office spokesman added ce the British Embassy in ton had no copy of the docu- question, obviously the docu- had been obtained from the State Department and it could be assumed that the State Department would itself wish to investigate and eliminate the source of the leak.—Reuter.

SCHEME TO POPULARIZE HINDUSTHANI

BOMBAY, Aug 19.—A scheme for popularizing Hindusthani will be discussed by the general body of the All-India Hindusthani Prachar Sabha when it meets at Wardha on Aug 21 under the presidentship of Mr Gandhi. The scheme, if approved, is likely to be recommended for adoption by the Con-

Proposed [illegible]

memb[illegible] ish Committee. —Reuter.

SIR KHIZAR HAYAT ON CONFERENCE DECISIONS

PARIS, Aug 19.—The justice of the decisions of the present Peace Conference will be particularly judged by the peoples of India and the whole world in the light of any decision reached affecting the fate of the Italian colonies.

This is the view of Sir Khizar Hayat Khan, Premier of the Punjab, and one of the principal Indian delegates to the Peace Conference, who is leaving Paris tomorrow en route to India.

"We will not be convinced that the Conference is really working for a just peace," he declared, "unless the peoples of the Italian colonies are given the right, expressed in the Atlantic Charter, to choose the form of government under which they will live."

Sir Khizar said that the peoples of

Curfew to remain, says Governor.

"When I spoke to you three nights ago the orgy of lawlessness which had overtaken this city had hardly passed its climax. Now I am thankful to be able to say with confidence that Calcutta is slowly returning to normal," said H.E Sir Frederik Burrows, Governor of Bengal, broadcasting last night from Calcutta Station of AIR

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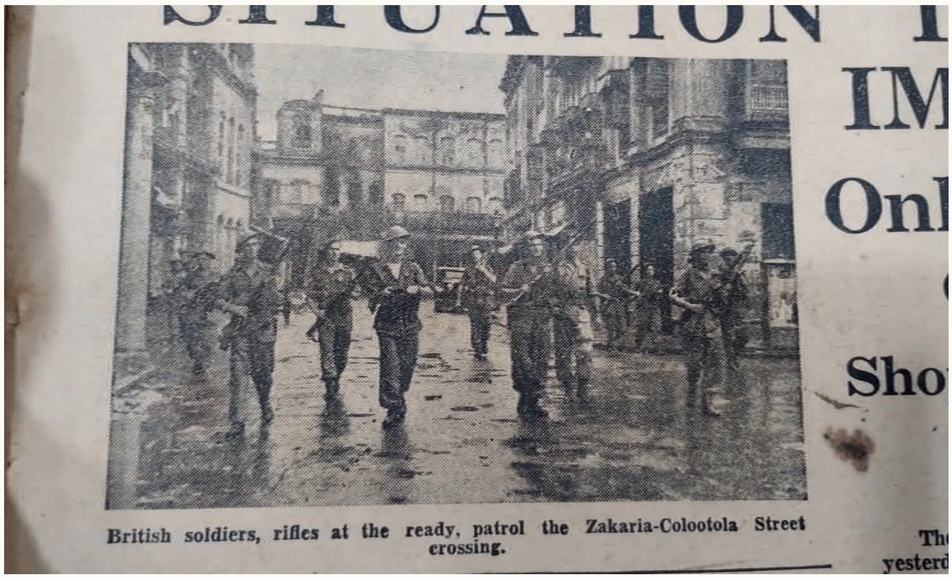
Government of India

PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY


British soldiers, rifles at the ready, patrol the Zakaria-Colootola Street crossing.

The Masterminds of the Communal Riots

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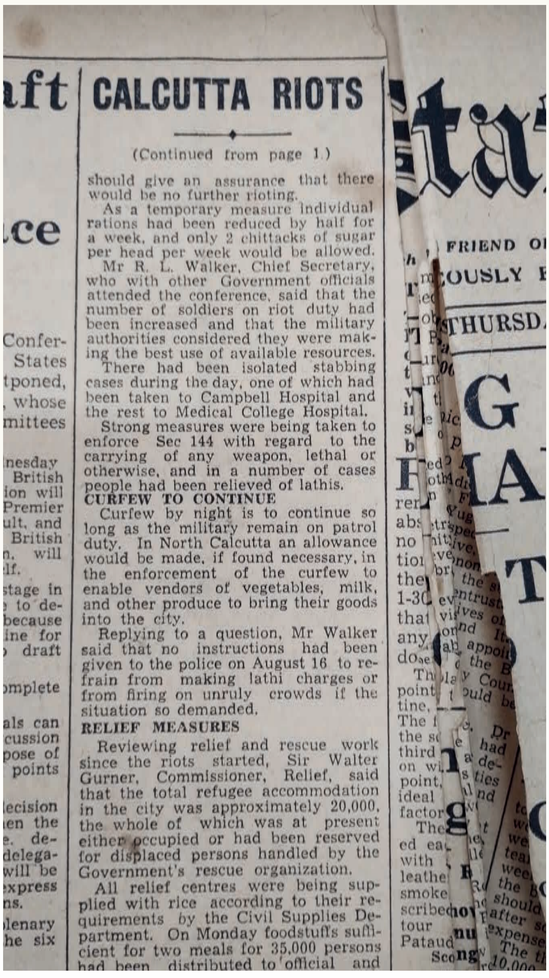
REMEMBRANCE DAY



CALCUTTA RIOTS

(Continued from page 1.)

should give an assurance that there would be no further rioting.

As a temporary measure individual rations had been reduced by half for a week, and only 2 chittacks of sugar per head per week would be allowed.

Mr R. L. Walker, Chief Secretary, who with other Government officials attended the conference, said that the number of soldiers on riot duty had been increased and that the military authorities considered they were making the best use of available resources.

There had been isolated stabbing cases during the day, one of which had been taken to Campbell Hospital and the rest to Medical College Hospital.

Strong measures were being taken to enforce Sec 144 with regard to the carrying of any weapon, lethal or otherwise, and in a number of cases people had been relieved of lathis.

CURFEW TO CONTINUE

Curfew by night is to continue so long as the military remain on patrol duty. In North Calcutta an allowance would be made, if found necessary, in the enforcement of the curfew to enable vendors of vegetables, milk, and other produce to bring their goods into the city.

Replying to a question, Mr Walker said that no instructions had been given to the police on August 16 to refrain from making lathi charges or from firing on unruly crowds if the situation so demanded.

RELIEF MEASURES

Reviewing relief and rescue work since the riots started, Sir Walter Gurner, Commissioner, Relief, said that the total refugee accommodation in the city was approximately 20,000, the whole of which was at present either occupied or had been reserved for displaced persons handled by the Government's rescue organization.

All relief centres were being supplied with rice according to their requirements by the Civil Supplies Department. On Monday foodstuffs sufficient for two meals for 35,000 persons had been distributed to official and

Calcutta Riots

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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



A British military picket on riot duty in a street in Eastern Calcutta, Barbed wire entanglements and sandbags have been provided for their defence against attack by hooligans. - Statesman

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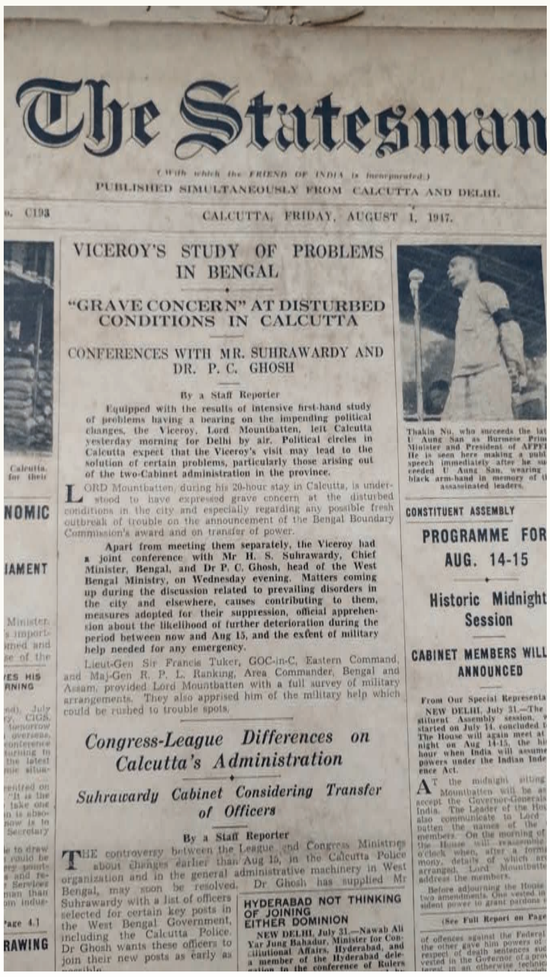
REMEMBRANCE DAY



The Statesman

(With which the FRIEND OF INDIA is incorporated.)

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM CALCUTTA AND DELHI.

CALCUTTA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1947.

VICEROY'S STUDY OF PROBLEMS IN BENGAL

"GRAVE CONCERN" AT DISTURBED CONDITIONS IN CALCUTTA

CONFERENCES WITH MR. SUHRAWARDY AND DR. P. C. GHOSH

By a Staff Reporter

Equipped with the results of intensive first-hand study of problems having a bearing on the impending political changes, the Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, left Calcutta yesterday morning for Delhi by air. Political circles in Calcutta expect that the Viceroy's visit may lead to the solution of certain problems, particularly those arising out of the two-Cabinet administration in the province.

LORD Mountbatten, during his 20-hour stay in Calcutta, is understood to have expressed grave concern at the disturbed conditions in the city and especially regarding any possible fresh outbreak of trouble on the announcement of the Bengal Boundary Commission's award and on transfer of power.

Apart from meeting them separately, the Viceroy had a joint conference with Mr H. S. Suhrawardy, Chief Minister, Bengal, and Dr P. C. Ghosh, head of the West Bengal Ministry, on Wednesday evening. Matters coming up during the discussion related to prevailing disorders in the city and elsewhere, causes contributing to them, measures adopted for their suppression, official apprehension about the likelihood of further deterioration during the period between now and Aug 15, and the exfent of military help needed for any emergency.

Lieut-Gen Sir Francis Tuker, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, and Maj-Gen R. P. L. Ranking, Area Commander, Bengal and Assam, provided Lord Mountbatten with a full survey of military arrangements. They also apprised him of the military help which could be rushed to trouble spots.

Congress-League Differences on Calcutta's Administration

Suhrawardy Cabinet Considering Transfer of Officers

By a Staff Reporter

THE controversy between the League and Congress Ministries about changes earlier than Aug 15, in the Calcutta Police organization and in the general administrative machinery in West Bengal, may soon be resolved. Dr Ghosh has supplied Mr Suhrawardy with a list of officers selected for certain key posts in the West Bengal Government, including the Calcutta Police. Dr Ghosh wants these officers to join their new posts as early as

HYDERABAD NOT THINKING OF JOINING EITHER DOMINION

NEW DELHI, July 31.—Nawab Ali Yar Jung Bahadur, Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Hyderabad, and a member of the Hyderabad dele-

Thakin Nu, who succeeds the lat U Aung San as Burmese Prim Minister and President of AFPF He is seen here making a publ speech immediately after he su ceeded U Aung San, wearing black arm-band in memory of t assassinated leaders.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PROGRAMME FOR AUG. 14-15

Historic Midnight Session

CABINET MEMBERS WILL ANNOUNCED

From Our Special Representa

NEW DELHI, July 31.—The stituent Assembly session, started on July 14, concluded The House will again meet at night on Aug 14-15, the hi hour when India will assum powers under the Indian Inde ence Act.

AT the midnight sitting Mountbatten will be a accept the Governor-General India. The Leader of the Ho also communicate to Lord batten the names of the members. On the morning of the House will reassemble o'clock when, after a form mony, details of which are arranged, Lord Mountbatte address the members.

Before adjourning the House two amendments. One vested th sident power to grant pardons

(See Full Report on Page

of offences against the Federal the other gave him powers of respect of death sentences sus vested in the Governor of a pro

Viceroy's study of problems in Bengal

Lord Mountbatten, during his 20 hour stay in Culcutta, is understood to have expressed grave concern at the distrubed conditions in the city and especially regarding any possible fresh outbreaks of trouble on the announcement of the Bengal Boundary Commission's award and on transfer of power.

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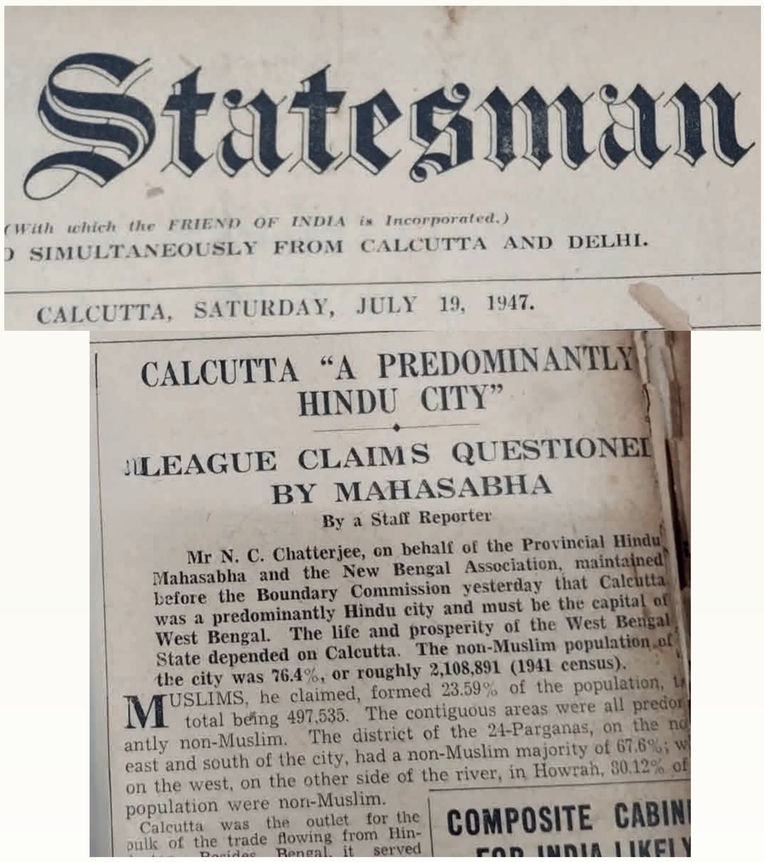
PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Statesman

(With which the FRIEND OF INDIA is Incorporated.)
SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM CALCUTTA AND DELHI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1947.

CALCUTTA "A PREDOMINANTLY HINDU CITY"

LEAGUE CLAIMS QUESTIONED BY MAHASABHA

By a Staff Reporter

Mr N. C. Chatterjee, on behalf of the Provincial Hindu Mahasabha and the New Bengal Association, maintained before the Boundary Commission yesterday that Calcutta was a predominantly Hindu city and must be the capital of West Bengal. The life and prosperity of the West Bengal State depended on Calcutta. The non-Muslim population of the city was 76.4%, or roughly 2,108,891 (1941 census).

MUSLIMS, he claimed, formed 23.59% of the population, t total being 497,535. The contiguous areas were all predor antly non-Muslim. The district of the 24-Parganas, on the no east and south of the city, had a non-Muslim majority of 67.6%; w on the west, on the other side of the river, in Howrah, 30.12% of population were non-Muslim.

Calcutta was the outlet for the bulk of the trade flowing from Hin-

COMPOSITE CABIN

Calcutta "A Predominantly Hindu City"

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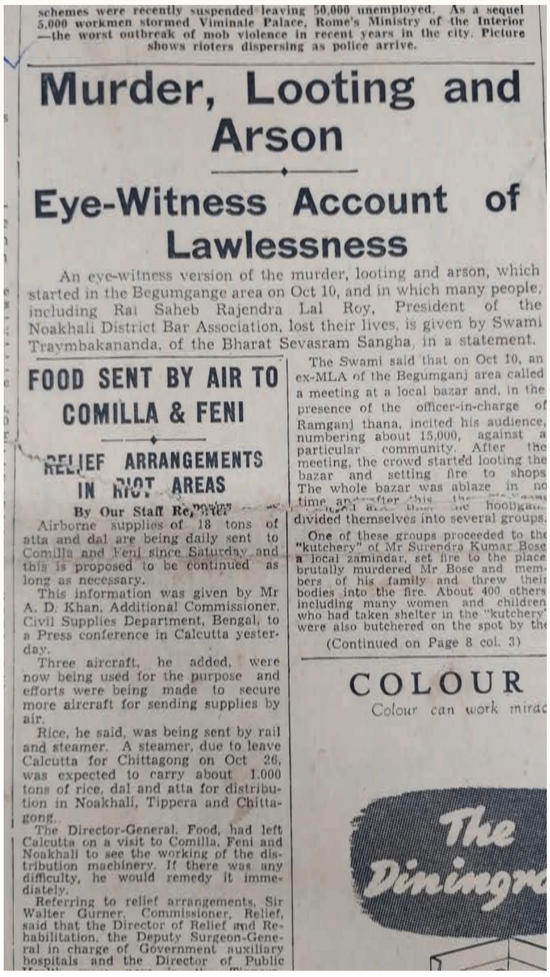
PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



schemes were recently suspended leaving 50,000 unemployed. As a sequel 5,000 workmen stormed Viminale Palace, Rome's Ministry of the Interior —the worst outbreak of mob violence in recent years in the city. Picture shows rioters dispersing as police arrive.

Murder, Looting and Arson

Eye-Witness Account of Lawlessness

An eye-witness version of the murder, looting and arson, which started in the Begumgange area on Oct 10, and in which many people, including Rai Saheb Rajendra Lal Roy, President of the Noakhali District Bar Association, lost their lives, is given by Swami Traymbakananda, of the Bharat Sevasram Sangha, in a statement.

FOOD SENT BY AIR TO COMILLA & FENI

RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS IN RIOT AREAS

By Our Staff Reporter

Airborne supplies of 18 tons of atta and dal are being daily sent to Comilla and Feni since Saturday and this is proposed to be continued as long as necessary.

This information was given by Mr A. D. Khan, Additional Commissioner, Civil Supplies Department, Bengal, to a Press conference in Calcutta yesterday.

Three aircraft, he added, were now being used for the purpose and efforts were being made to secure more aircraft for sending supplies by air.

Rice, he said, was being sent by rail and steamer. A steamer, due to leave Calcutta for Chittagong on Oct 26, was expected to carry about 1,000 tons of rice, dal and atta for distribution in Noakhali, Tippera and Chittagong.

The Director-General, Food, had left Calcutta on a visit to Comilla, Feni and Noakhali to see the working of the distribution machinery. If there was any difficulty, he would remedy it immediately.

Referring to relief arrangements, Sir Walter Gurner, Commissioner, Relief, said that the Director of Relief and Rehabilitation, the Deputy Surgeon-General in charge of Government auxiliary hospitals and the Director of Public

The Swami said that on Oct 10, an ex-MLA of the Begumganj area called a meeting at a local bazar and, in the presence of the officer-in-charge of Ramganj thana, incited his audience, numbering about 15,000, against a particular community. After the meeting, the crowd started looting the bazar and setting fire to shops. The whole bazar was ablaze in no time and after this the hooligans divided themselves into several groups.

One of these groups proceeded to the "kutchery" of Mr Surendra Kumar Bose a local zamindar, set fire to the place brutally murdered Mr Bose and members of his family and threw their bodies into the fire. About 400 others including many women and children who had taken shelter in the "kutchery" were also butchered on the spot by the

(Continued on Page 8 col. 3)

COLOUR
Colour can work mirac
The Dinajpur

Eye Witness Account of Begumganje

An eye witness version of the murder, looting and arson, which started in the Begumganje area on Oct 10, and in which many people, including Rai Saheb Rajendra Lal Roy, President of the Noakhali District Bar Association, lost their lives, is given by Swami Traymbakananda, of the Bharat Sevasram Sangha, in a statement.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, CALCUTTA, OCTOBER 20, 1946

THE Victor Oil CO. LTD. 11, CLIVE STREET, CALCUTTA FOR ALL LUBRICATING OILS AND VEGETABLE OILS

The Sunday Statesman

(With which THE ENGLISHMAN is Incorporated.)
PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM CALCUTTA AND DELHI

Vol. XII. No. 655 REG. No. C193 CALCUTTA, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1946.

MOB RULE IN NOAKHALI DISTRICT

Governor Flies Over Riot Areas

Aerial Reconnaissances Daily

Special Train Stands By To Carry Troops

Military Posted In Affected Areas

ABOUT 400 REPORTED KILLED

Governor And Premier Meet Local Officials

FROM OUR STAFF REPORTER

Mr Bevin, British Foreign Minister, speaking at the Paris Peace Conference. M Molotov is seen behind him as President.

"Exaggerated" Press

USA's RE WITH

Continue Depl

BYRNES O FOREI

WASHINGTON, Oct

Mr Byrnes, in a broad from the Paris Conferen over "the continued, if USA and Russia.

"THE two States can willing to yield speech lasting 30 minutes, ed to the question of Amer "The USA is unwilling to be said. "It is equally unw ask it of another State."

Referring to the bitter at M Molotov and M. Vyshinsky closing stages of the Peace Co My Byrnes commented. "I less than frank if I did not e

Condition of Noakhali

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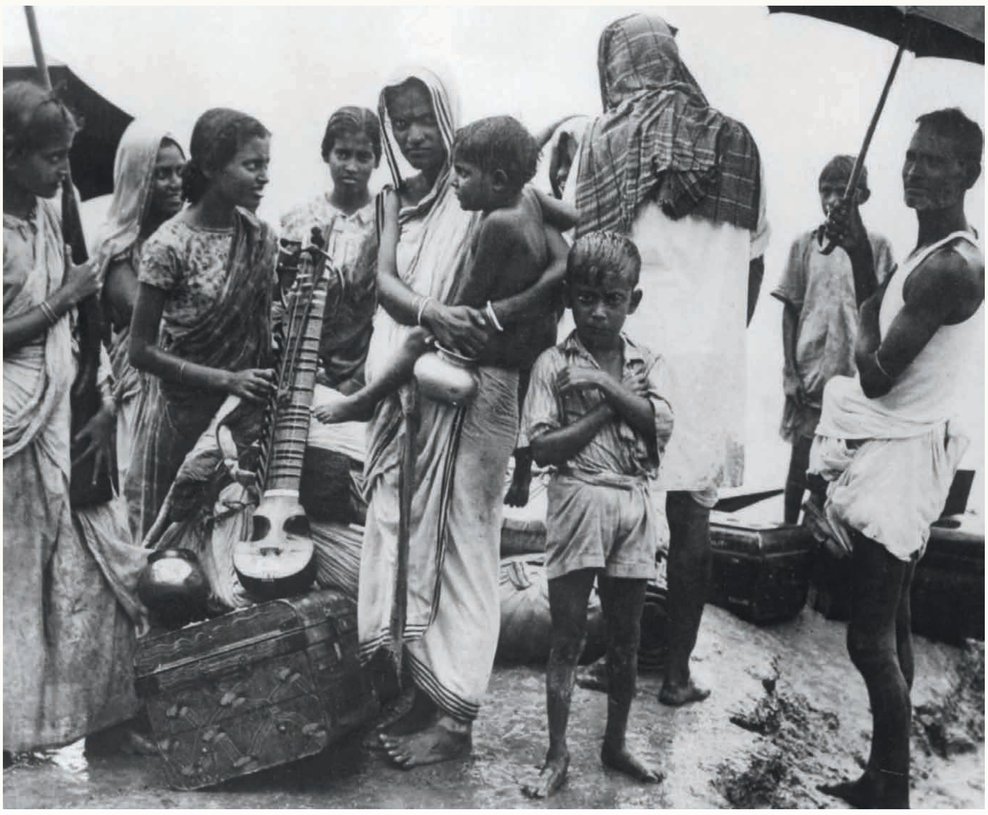
PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



In Bengal too, where the waterways played an important role in the daily lives of the people, migration involved extensive use of boats.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



TROOPS BEAT OFF MOB ATTACK ON VILLAGE NEAR DELHI

MISCREANTS SNIPE FROM HOUSES IN DARYAGANJ, ESCAPE

STRAY STABBING CASES IN BABAR ROAD AREA

(By Our Special Correspondent)

NEW DELHI, Saturday.—There was recurrence of trouble in the Daryaganj area this evening when some Muslim rioters entrenched themselves behind a house and a mosque in the Fair Bazar area and began firing on passersby.

One person was killed and two were injured. The police and the military took immediate action and overcame opposition and occupied the house. The rioters beat a hasty retreat through a back-lane. A military picket has been stationed in the area.

The police today carried out a number of searches to recover arms and ammunition illegally held. A Muslim house on Barakhamba Road and another on Kasling Road were searched this morning by the police aided by the military. Some weapons are reported to have been recovered, and in one Muslim house a number of gazs were found against licencrs issued by the N.-W.F.P. Government.

A shot was fired in the occupants of 6 Kasling Road today but the identity of the community is not known. This house has been occupied by a refugee family from Lahore. The bullet hit the window glass pane. The police is investi-

FIGHTING THE SHADOW

Boundary Awards Unreasonable

INDIA GOVT. TO SEEK MODIFICATION

PATEL VISITS RIOT AREAS

PREMIER VISITS CENTRAL CONTROL ROOM

MOUNTBATTEN VISITS TOWN HALL

Exchange Of Property

These kafilas were particularly vulnerable to attack by mobs. The people walked without shelter, sanitation, food, or water. Thousands especially the elderly and children perished from exhaustion, starvation, and disease.

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Government of India

PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



What was so special in the land of our share,
for which you took away everything from us.

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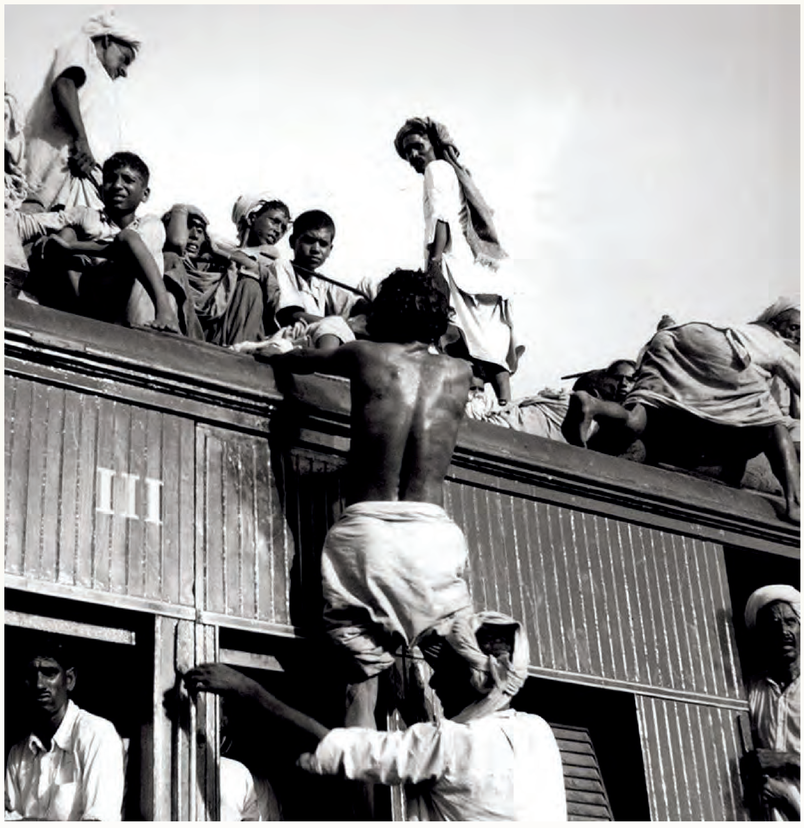

Fighting for life

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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



The burden of uncertainities

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



This train's picture packed with passengers shows the story of the crowd that migrated from Bengal and settled in Calcutta.
(Photo: The Statesman, 1947)

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



The pain from your weight is not much
when compared to these cruelties and violence

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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Traditions, rights, inheritance and kinship...
all left behind in the whiff of air

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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Struggling to catch the last train in the hope of a new beginning

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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Who is who's uncle or any relative...?
It's just a matter of two pieces of bread and a cup of water

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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Heritage, legacies
and ornaments used
to be life,
only remained body
covers and
uncertain life.



There must have
been a lot of pain in
those helpless eyes...

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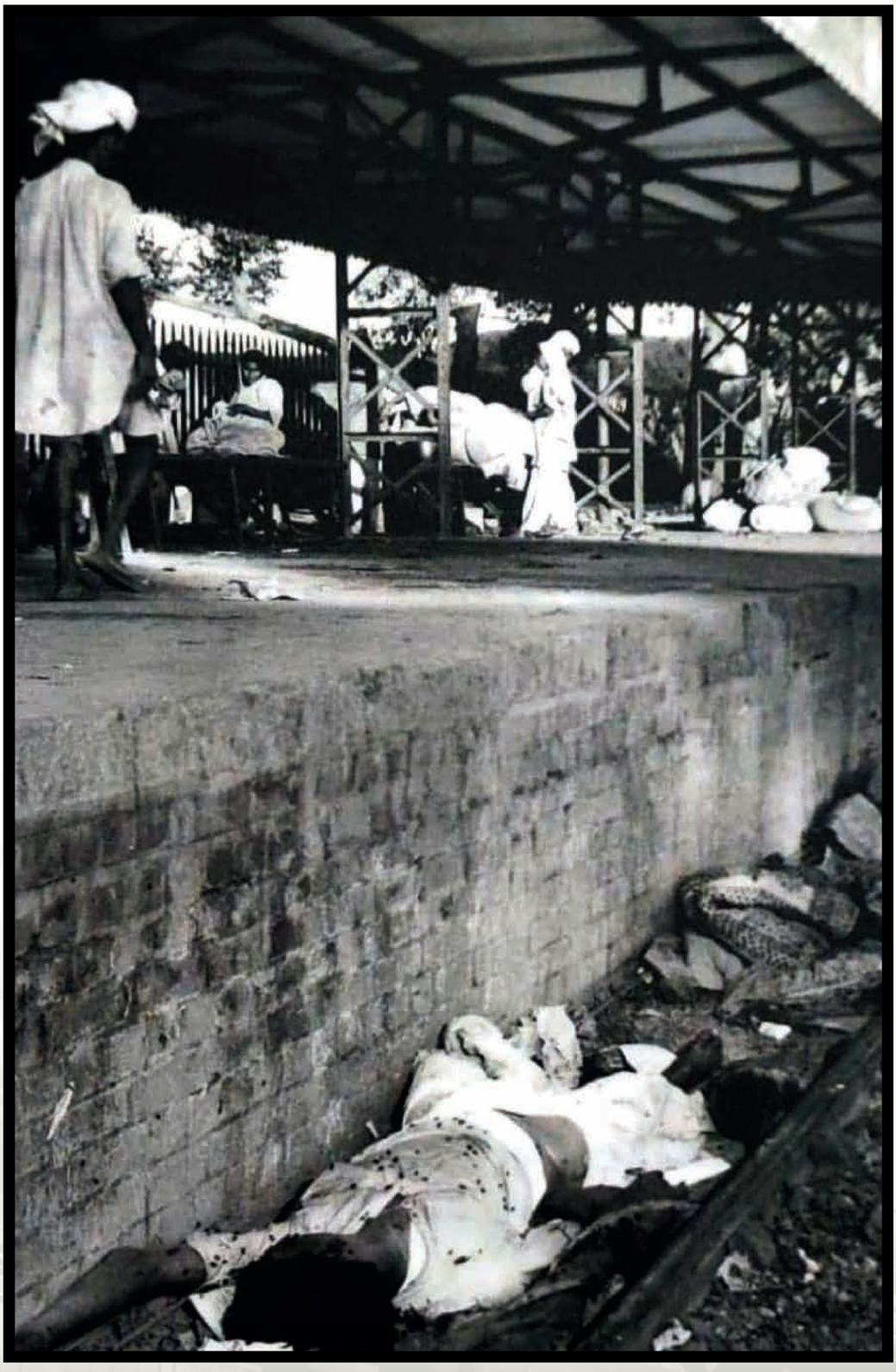
PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY

We dreamt success seeing the rails, same tracks snatched the very dreams.



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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Refugees struggle for space on the trains

The railways were used extensively by people moving between India and Pakistan at the time of Partition. Rail transport was undertaken by consultation between India and Pakistan, and 5-6 trains would move every day from either side. There are many horror stories of trains reaching their final destinations full of dead bodies and injured persons.



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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Water... knows no Hindu and Muslim

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



Once such a crowd of unknown people was seen only in the fairs, today anyone who offers bread and shelter has become a relative.

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY



FAITH IN GOVERNMENT ESSENTIAL FOR PEACE

GANDHIJI ASKS PEOPLE NOT TO TAKE LAW INTO OWN HANDS

People should leave the Government free to administrate law and not take it into their own hands, said Mahatma Gandhi in his post-prayer speech on Saturday.

NO EVACUATION OF EUROPEANS FROM DELHI

GANDHIJI'S VISITORS

People should leave the Government free to administrate law and not take it into their own hands, said Mahatma Gandhi in his post-prayer speech on Saturday

– The Hindustan Times Weekly
(Sunday, 14 September, 1947)

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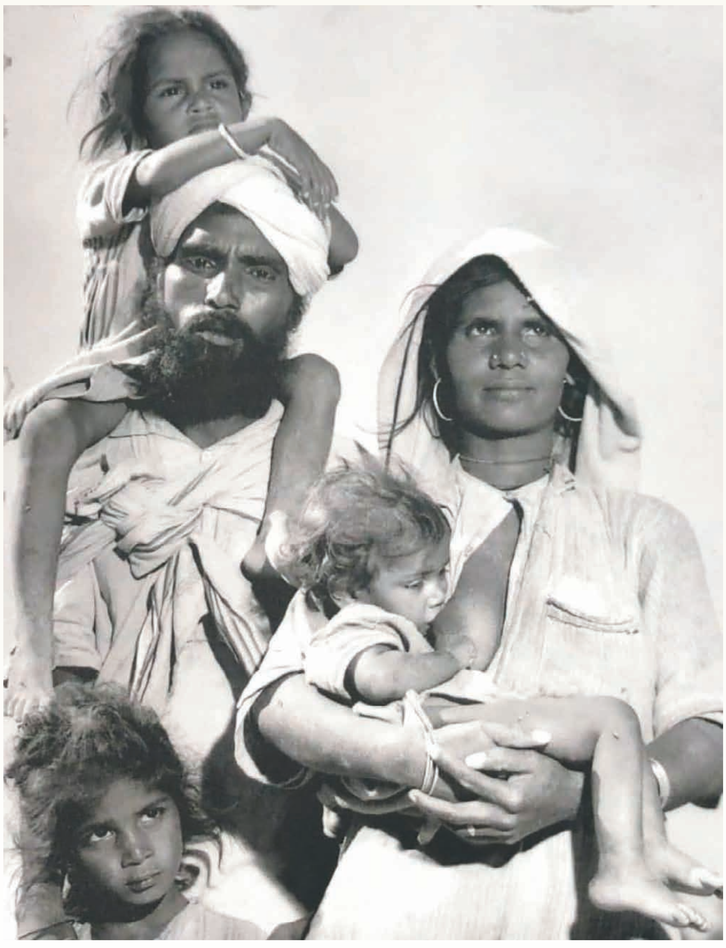
PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HOPE



Come let's create a new world across the border.

Let's make a fresh start……

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PARTITION HORRORS
REMEMBRANCE DAY

"Salutations to the millions of Indians who lost their lives in the horrors of Partition and suffered the pain of displacement!"

