

# 1940

## March

- 23 THE Twenty-seventh Annual Session of the All-India Muslim League is held at Lahore under the presidentship of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. The "Lahore Resolution", later known as "Pakistan Resolution", is presented by Moulvi Abul Qasim Fazlul Haq, Premier of Bengal. The resolution demands that the Muslim-majority areas in North-Western and Eastern zones of India should be grouped to constitute independent states in which the constituent units should be autonomous and sovereign.

## April

- 10 A "White Paper" on Indian affairs is published by the British Government which holds out the assurance that in preparing the future constitution for India, the British Government will definitely accommodate the point of view of the Indian people.

## August

- 8 With regard to the future constitution of India, Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow gives a statement known as "August Offer" which proposes to enlarge the Governor General's Council so as to include a certain number of representatives of the political parties. In the statement, a War Advisory Committee is also proposed. Assurances are given that full weight will be given to the opinion of the minorities and the War representative bodies within the country will be given a chance to prepare a constitution. The Indian National Congress rejects the offer. The All-India Muslim League considers the proposals as a step forward towards their goal. However, the British Government includes three Muslim representatives in the National Defence Council without consulting the All-India Muslim League. This leads to the rejection of the "August Offer" by the All-India Muslim League also.

# 1941

## April

- 12-15 The Twenty-eighth Annual Session of the All-India Muslim League is held at Madras and a resolution is adopted criticising the Civil Disobedience Movement started by the Congress. This movement is aimed at forcing the British Government to accept the Congress demands regarding the future constitution of India. The Congress wants that power should be transferred to them so that the Muslim nation should become mere subjects of Hindu Raj.

# 1942

## March

- 23 Sir Stafford Cripps arrives in New Delhi for talks with the Indian leaders on the future constitution of India. He stays in India for two weeks and discusses the draft proposals for framing the future constitution of India. The proposals of the Cripps Mission are rejected by the Congress saying that it is a postdated cheque on a bank that is fast crashing. The All-India Muslim League also rejects the proposals as there is no provision for amendments. The All-India Muslim League stands for separate independent states and demands the formation of two constituent assemblies instead of one.

## April

- 3-6 The Twenty-ninth Annual Session of the All-India Muslim League is held at Allahabad. The Quaid-i-Azam tells the audience that the proposals of the Cripps Mission envisage an Indian Union and the All-India Muslim League is not going to accept anything less than Pakistan.

## May

- 2 The All-India Congress Committee in its resolution demands that the Congress should accept the All-India Muslim League claim for separation as a "lesser evil" and should invite the All-India Muslim League for consultations so that an agreement could be reached for the formation of a National Government to meet the emergency. The resolution rejected by a majority vote of the All-India Congress Committee.

The All-India Congress Committee in a counter resolution, which is passed, says that it cannot agree to any proposal which aims at disintegrating India by giving liberty to any territorial unit to secede from the Indian Union or Federation.

## August

- 8 The Indian National Congress decides to start "Quit India Movement" and demands that the British should immediately withdraw from India. Mr. Gandhi advises his people to "do or die" to achieve their aim. This movement is termed as an "open rebellion" against the British Government in India. As a result of the Movement, 940 people are killed within a period of four months and state property worth about rupees one crore and thirty-five lakhs is destroyed. In response to the Congress demand of "Quit India", the League demands "Divide and Quit". The League remains aloof from the Movement since it is aimed as much against the Muslims as it is against the British.
- 16-20 The All-India Muslim League demands that the right of self-determination should be guaranteed to the Indian Muslims and the British Government should give effect to Pakistan scheme keeping in view the basic principles laid down in the Lahore Resolution passed in March, 1940.

## 1943

### April

- 24-26 The Thirtieth Annual Session of the All-India Muslim League is held at Delhi on 24-26 April, 1943, under the chairmanship of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. At the end of his presidential address he says that the time has come to take up the constructive programme to build up the nation so that it could march on the path of its goal of Pakistan.

### December

- 24-26 The Thirty-first Annual Session of the All-India Muslim League is held at Karachi under the chairmanship of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. In his presidential address the Quaid says that the Muslims of India have amply proved not only to India but to the whole world that they are a nation. The Quaid-i-Azam expresses his determination that he will not rest unless he gets the territory that belongs to the Muslim nation. He advises the Indian Muslims to resist any constitutional scheme which stands for a united India.
- 27 A Committee of Action is formed by All-India Muslim League with the following members :
- (i) Mr. Mohammad Ismail Khan (Chairman) (ii) Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Convener) (iii) Mr. G. M. Syed (iv) Hajl Sattar Essack Sail (v) Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Khan Mamdot (vi) Qazi Mohammad Isa (vii) Khwaja Nazimuddin (viii) Chaudhry Khaliq-uz-Zaman (ix) Mr. Mumtaz Daultana (x) Mr. I.I. Chundrigar

It aims to prepare and organize the Muslims all over India to meet all contingencies and resist the imposition of an All-India federation or any other constitution for one united India and prepare the Muslims for the coming struggle for the achievement of Pakistan. A three-member Parliamentary Board is also appointed which includes Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Ch. Khaliq-uz-Zaman and Mr. Hussain Imam

## 1944

### April

- 8 Mr. C. Rajagopalacharia, former Congress Premier of Madras, presents his draft formula for a political settlement between the Congress and the All-India Muslim League. The formula states that the Muslim League should co-operate with the Congress in its efforts to achieve independence for India. It provides that soon after the War, a commission should be constituted which will indicate the Muslim-majority areas. The people of these areas will decide whether they want a separate state or not. For ascertaining the desire of the people, arrangements will be made for a referendum and the political parties will be given a chance to propagate their point of view. In case of division, agreements will be concluded on matters like defence, finance, communications etc. The formula states that the transfer of population will be on voluntary basis.

### September

- 9 On the basis of C. Rajagopalacharia formula, Gandhi-Jinnah talks are held at Bombay to resolve the differences between the Congress and the All-India Muslim League on the issue of Pakistan. Mr. Gandhi is opposed to the two-nation theory which forms the basis of the Pakistan demand and he refuses the Muslims the right of self-determination. Talks fail.

## 1945

### January

Through the Liaquat-Desai Pact, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and Bhulabhai Desai agree that the League and the Congress will join in forming an interim Government at the Centre with the following composition :

- (a) An equal number of persons nominated by the Congress and the League in the Central Executive (the persons nominated need not be members of the Central Legislature)
- (b) Representatives of minorities in particular the Scheduled Castes and

the Sikhs.

(c) The Commander-in-Chief.

The Government will function within the framework of the Government of India Act, 1935. It is also agreed that if such an interim Government is formed, its first step will be to release the Working Committee members of the Congress. The two leaders also agree to try to get the withdrawal of Section 93 in the provinces and to form coalition governments.

## June

14 The Wavell Plan is announced. It is "not an attempt to obtain or impose a constitutional settlement." It proposes that the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, would consult the Indian leaders in the formation of a new Executive Council. The Viceroy says that the proposed new Council would represent the main communities and would include equal number of Hindus and Muslims. He also says that the portfolio of External Affairs so far held by the Viceroy, would also be placed in the charge of an Indian member of the Council. The formation of this Interim Government is in no way to prejudice the final constitutional settlement. The new Executive Council would have the following three functions :—

(i) prosecute the war against Japan with the utmost energy till Japan is utterly defeated.

(ii) carry on the Government of British India, with all the manifold tasks of post-war development in front of it, until a new permanent constitution is agreed upon and comes into force; and

(iii) consider when the members of the government think it possible the means by which such an agreement is achieved.

25 The Viceroy, Lord Wavell, calls a conference at Simla, the First Simla Conference, where the formation of an Executive Council is discussed. The Congress claims that it represents all the communities in India and as such it can nominate Muslims as the members of the new Council. The All-India Muslim League does not accept the claim of the Congress and states that only the All-India Muslim League has the right to nominate Muslim members in the Executive Council.

The All-India Muslim League is pledged to the formation of a separate homeland for the Indian Muslims, whereas Wavell Plan envisages a united India. When the question of representation of various religious groups on the Executive Council comes under discussion, a deadlock occurs. The All-India Muslim League claims that no other political party has the right to nominate Muslim members for the Executive Council. The Congress is opposed to this claim. The Unionist Party in the Punjab is also pressing for representation on the Executive Council. Lord Wavell requests the two

parties to send him a list giving the names of the members of their parties who could be included in the proposed Executive Council. The Congress immediately submits a list of its members which also includes the names of two Muslims. The All-India Muslim League does not submit the list and insists that the Muslim members of the proposed Executive Council should be chosen from the All-India Muslim League. On 14 July, 1945, Viceroy, Lord Wavell, announces that the Simla Conference has failed and that the efforts to bring Hindus and Muslims together have proved fruitless.

## **July**

- 20 Prime Minister Clement Attlee, with the support of Labour Party, comes to power in the United Kingdom.

## **August**

- 21 Viceroy, Lord Wavell, announces that General Elections in India will be held during winter (1945-46).

## **September**

- 19 In his broadcast announcement, the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, says that the British Government intends to convene a meeting of the constitution-making body as soon as possible. He says that he will hold discussions with the representatives of the Legislative Assemblies and the Indian States. He also says that first, he would hold elections so that the will of the Indian electorate may be known. The Constituent Assembly that is to find the constitution for the new India would be elected by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies through proportional representation.

## **December**

- 2 The second general elections in India are held. The Congress, the All-India Muslim League and several other parties participate in the elections. The All-India Muslim League captures all the thirty seats reserved for Muslims in the Central Legislative Assembly.

# 1946

## February

- 22 Out of 495 seats reserved for Muslims in the provincial legislatures, Muslim League captures 440 seats. The break-up 'is as follows :

Province	Muslim Seats	Muslim League seats
Punjab	86	79
Bengal	119	113
Assam	34	31
Sindh	35	35
U.P.	66	55
N.W.F.P.	38	17
Bombay	30	30
Madras	29	29
C.P.	14	13
Orissa	04	04
Bihar	14	34

## March

- 24 The Cabinet Mission, headed by Lord Pethick Lawrence, Secretary of State, arrives in New Delhi. The other two members of the Mission are Sir Stafford Cripps and Mr. A. V. Alexander. The Mission's aim is to help India to "attain her freedom as speedily and fully as possible."

## April

A convention of the elected Muslim members of the central and provincial legislatures is held at Delhi under the chairmanship of the Quaid-i-Azam. A resolution proposed by Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, *inter alia* says".... the Muslim nation will never participate in any single constitution for a united India and will never participate in any single constitution-making machinery set up for the purpose...." It demands that the Muslim majority zones in the north-east and north-west should be constituted into a sovereign state and two separate constitution-making bodies should be set up for Pakistan zones and the rest of Hindustan. It also says that the acceptance of the Muslim League demand for Pakistan and its implementation without delay are the *sine qua non* for the Muslim League co-operation and participation in the formation of an interim Government at the Centre.

## May

- 16 The Cabinet Mission Plan recommends that there should be a Union of India consisting of the British India and the Indian States, dealing with the subjects of foreign affairs, defence and communications. All subjects

other than the Union subjects and all residuary powers shall rest in provinces. Provinces shall be free to form groups with Executives and Legislatures and each group can determine the provincial subjects to be taken in common. It is also recommended that the Union and the groups should contain a provision whereby any province can, by a majority vote of its Legislative Assembly, call for a reconsideration of the terms of the constitution after an initial period of ten years. The Plan recommends that a constitution-making machinery will be set up to frame the new constitution. This body will be elected by the members of the Provincial Legislatures and after a preliminary meeting, the provincial representatives will divide up into three groups. Group B would comprise the northwestern Muslim majority provinces of the Punjab, Sindh and N.W.F.P., Group C the north-eastern Pakistan zone (comprising Bengal and Assam), and Group A the Hindu majority provinces.

- 25 The Cabinet Mission declares that grouping forms an integral part of the Cabinet Mission Plan. This is meant to allay Muslim fears aroused by the Congress assertions to the contrary.

## **June**

- 8 The Muslim League accepts Cabinet Mission Plan.
- 16 The British Government desires that while the constitution-making plan proceeds, an Interim Government, having the support of major political parties, may be formed at the Centre. In consultation with the members of the Cabinet Mission, the Viceroy announces the formation of a 14-member Executive Council. The Quaid-i-Azam objects to it as the Interim Government has been formed without calling a list from the Muslim League. Moreover, parity between the Congress and the Muslim League, which was agreed to at Simla, has been abandoned and a fourteenth member belonging to Parsi community has been included in the Interim Government. According to the Quaid-i-Azam, these modifications adversely affect the proportion of the Muslims in the Interim Government. The Quaid-i-Azam also objects to the inclusion of his name in the Interim Government as he has made it clear to the Viceroy that as long as he is the President of the All-India Muslim League, he would not accept any office. The Congress has accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan only so far as proposals for the formation of the Constituent Assembly are concerned. It contends that the Constituent Assembly when formed, will be a sovereign body and can, therefore, alter the scheme of the Cabinet Mission. The Congress refuses to take part in the Interim government and the Viceroy decides not to form the Interim Government without the participation of the Congress.
- 29 The Cabinet Mission goes back to London but Lord Wavell continues his efforts to form an Interim Government with the help of Congress leaders.

## July

- 29 The Muslim League withdraws its acceptance of the Cabinet Mission Plan and decides to resort to Direct Action to achieve Pakistan.

## August

- 8 The Viceroy invites the Congress to form the Interim Government, and it accepts.
- 16 Direct Action Day is observed throughout India. Public meetings are held and the day goes peacefully everywhere except in Calcutta where riots break out. As many as 4,750 persons are reportedly killed and 15,000 injured.

## September

- 2 The Interim Government is formed by the Congress members. The All India Muslim League feels that political power should not be left entirely into the hands of the Hindus because it will be fatal for the Muslims. Therefore, the Muslim League decides to join the Executive Council and the League Councillors are sworn in on 26th October, 1946.

They are :—

(i) Mr, Liaquat Ali Khan (ii) Mr. I.I. Chundrigar (iii) Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar (iv) Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan (v) Mr. Jogindar Nath Mandal (Scheduled Caste)

The total number of members of the Council is fourteen.

## December

- 2 To obtain the participation and co-operation of all parties in the Constituent Assembly, the British Government invites four Indian leaders to London including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. M.A. Jinnah, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and Sardar Baldev Singh. Viceroy Lord Wavell is also present at the Conference which continues for four days.

# 1947

## March

- 24 The year 1947 is a landmark in the history of the Indo-Pakistan Sub-continent. In this year Pakistan emerged on the world map and with it also came the regeneration and revival of the Muslim Nation in Pakistan. The appointment of Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British Viceroy, set the ball rolling. Immediately after the swearing-in ceremony, Lord Louis Mountbatten announced :

*"This is not a normal viceroyalty on which I am embarking. His Majesty's Government are resolved to transfer power by June 1948, and, since new constitutional agreements must be made, and many complicated questions of administration resolved, all of which will take time to put into effect, this means that a solution must be reached within the next few months"*

## May

- 28 Lord Mountbatten had the "rounding up" conference in London with the British Cabinet's India Sub-Committee giving the final shape to the Plan for the transfer of power to the people of the Indo-Pakistan Sub-continent.
- 30 Lord Mountbatten arrived back in New Delhi, and announced that he would communicate to the leaders of the Sub-continent the procedure to give effect to the British Government's decision to withdraw from India.

## June

- 2 The Conference of the leaders of the Sub-continent Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad All Jinnah, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar on behalf of the Muslim League; Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel and Mr. J.B. Kripalani on behalf of the Congress, and Sardar Baldev Singh on behalf of the Sikh community—called by Lord Mountbatten to communicate the British Government's Plan for the transfer of power to the people of the Sub-continent, begins. The Viceroy gives a full account of discussions, both in India and in England, which led to the formulation of His Majesty's Plan. Copies of the announcement are then handed over to the leaders. The Conference adjourns until the following day (June 3) to enable the respective working committees to consider the Plan.
- 3 The seven Muslim League, Congress and Sikh leaders meet Lord

Mountbatten, at 10 a.m., and formally communicate their acceptance of the Plan on the partition of the subcontinent into 'Pakistan' and 'India'.

The Plan is broadcast by All-India Radio at 7:10 p.m. Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, broadcasting on the Plan the same evening says : "It is clear that the Plan does not meet, in some important respects, our point of view, and we cannot say or feel that we are satisfied or that we are with some of the matters dealt with by the Plan. It is for us now to consider whether the Plan, as presented to us by His Majesty's Government, should be accepted by us as a compromise or a settlement. On this point I do not wish to prejudge the decision of the Council of the All-India Muslim League which has been summoned to meet on Monday, June 9 ; and the final decision can only be taken by the Council according to our constitution, precedents and practice"

- 4 The Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League meets and discusses the Plan for the transfer of power.
- 5 The Viceroy invites seven leaders—the Quaid-i-Azam, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mr. J. B. Kripalani and Sardar Baldev Singh—and discusses with them the setting up of a Partition Committee.
- 7 The seven leaders, after two days' continued discussion with Lord Mountbatten, prepare a rough blue-print of the new states of Pakistan and India for the Muslim League Council and the All-India Congress Committee respectively for their formal ratification of the Plan to be put into immediate operation.
- 10 The Council of Muslim League meets in New Delhi and passes a resolution accepting the June 3 Plan 'as a compromise'.
- 12 The Partition Committee meets and discusses the terms of reference of the various Expert Sub-Committees to be set up for working out the details of Partition and also of the Boundary Commission which will be appointed immediately after the decision of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies of Bengal and the Punjab on the issue of Partition.
- 18 The three party leaders of the Punjab Provincial Assembly, Khan Iftikhar Husain Khan of Mamdot (Muslim League), Lala Bhim Sen Sachar (Congress) and Sardar Swarn Singh (Sikh) convey to the Punjab Governor their decision and the agreed formula embodying the procedural details in connection with the Punjab partition scheme.
- 19 The Muslim League High Command selects Karachi to be the Capital of the Pakistan Government.
- 20 Bengal Assembly members decide that the Province should be partitioned.
- 23 The Punjab Assembly decides upon the partition of the Punjab.

- 26 The Bengal Separation Council meets to deliberate upon the partition of Bengal. Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy and Khwaja Nazimuddin represent the Muslim League, and Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar and Mr. Dhirendranarayan Mukherjee the Congress.
- 29 Balochistan decides to join Pakistan.
- 30 The meeting of the Partition Committee takes place. The personnel of the two Boundary Commissions to demarcate the boundaries of the two parts of Bengal and the Punjab are announced.

## July

- 4 The Indian Independence Bill is presented in the British House of Commons. Under the provisions of this Bill legal sanction is accorded to the names 'PAKISTAN' and 'INDIA' by which the two new "Dominions" to be carved out of the Indo-Pakistan Sub-continent.
- 9 Sir Cyril Radcliffe takes office as Chairman of the two Boundary Commissions of the Punjab and Bengal.
- 10 Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah is recommended as the first Governor-General of Pakistan by the British Prime Minister Mr. Clement Attlee.
- 13 Sylhet decides by vote to join Pakistan.
- 15 The first special train carrying a number of Pakistan Government officials leaves New Delhi for Karachi.
- The Indian Independence Bill is given its final reading by the British House of Commons without division.
- 16 The House of Lords also passes the Indian Independence Bill.
- 18 The first Pakistan special train arrives in Karachi, the Capital of Pakistan, from New Delhi.
- The Indian Independence Bill receives the Royal assent.
- 20 The North West Frontier Province decides by vote to join Pakistan.
- 25 Lord Mountbatten, while addressing a conference of Rulers and States Ministers in New Delhi in the matter of accession of States to appropriate Dominions in respect of defence, external affairs and communications, tells the Chamber of Princes that there are certain geographical compulsions which cannot be ignored. He advises them to take into account considerations such as the geographical location of their States, economic and strategic factors, and the wishes of their people in arriving at a decision whether to accede to India or to Pakistan.

26 Pakistan Constituent Assembly is formed.

## **August**

3 Mr. Gandhi meets the Maharaja of Kashmir.

4 Special Military Command (Punjab Boundary Force) is set up covering the 12 disturbed districts of Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Ferozpur, Montgomery (Sahiwal), Lyallpur (Faisalabad), Sheikhpura, Gujranwala and Sialkot. The disturbances which started in the Punjab right from early March and continued during the succeeding months, get accentuated.

8 The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan approves the design of Pakistan's National Flag.

9 The first outrage is committed on Pakistan special train running between Delhi and Karachi. The railway line is blown up 15 miles west of Bhatinda and as a result of the explosion 3 bogies are smashed and overturned, and 3 other derailed; 4 persons are reported to have been killed and 20 injured.

10 Muslim refugees start pouring into Lahore from East Punjab, particularly from the disturbed areas in Amritsar District.

13 News of organised rioting comes from Amritsar.