



of fifty lakhs of rupees could be easily secured. No sooner did Ala Singh hear of the Shah's march than he quietly slipped away. However, he soon secured the support of Najib-ud-Daulah and, through his mediation, appeared before the Shah at Sirhind, paid the sum of six lakhs and twenty-five thousand rupees—Rs. 1,25,000 for permission to appear before him with his hair (the symbol of his religious faith) in tact, and 5,00,000 as tribute—and promised to remit a certain amount of revenue for the future. The Shah was pleased to accept this amount and spared his territories. Ala Singh was, however, detained in his camp for some time and was, later on, released on the recommendation of Shah Wali Khan. After a few days' halt at Sirhind, the Shah left on the 15th of February, 1762, and arrived at Lahore on the 3rd of March. Zain Khan was once again left as the governor of Sirhind and Sa'adat Khan was appointed to the Jullundur Doab.¹²

While at Sirhind, the Shah had called the leading Ruhila Afghans and Indian nobles to his presence. Only Najib-ud-Daulah responded to his summons and remained with him up to the first week of April. The Shah was highly pleased with the loyalty of Najib and publicly remarked, "This is the only man worth the name among the Indian Afghans. I have shown many favours to that race, but not one of them, not even Shuja-ud-Daulah, has come to my side." Najib-ud-Daulah returned to Delhi on April 15.¹³

AMRITSAR BLOWN WITH GUN-POWDER

The Shah now turned his attention to the Sikhs. He had carried with him to Lahore fifty carts of the severed heads of the Sikhs and a large number of captives. He thought he

12. Ali-ud-Din, *Ibrat Namah*, 268; Karam Singh, *Ala Singh*, 222; Tahmas Namah, 111b; *Tazkirah-i-Khandan-i-Phulkian*, 17; Bute Shah, *Tarikh-i-Panjab*, i. 627.

According to the last two authorities, the amount paid by Sardar Ala Singh was four lakhs of rupees. Kanhaiya Lal, in his *Tarikh-i-Panjab*, 85, gives the amount as seven lakhs.

13. In the first week of Shaban, probably on the 7th of March 1762, the Shah and Shah Wali Khan wrote to Sa'dulla Khan Ruhila.—*Murasalat-i-Ahmad Shah Durrani*, No. 37, 38.



could thus frighten the Sikhs into submission and silence. A day before the Baisakhi festival, April 10, 1762, he appeared at Amritsar with a large force and ordered the Sikh temple, called the Har Mandir, to be blown up with gun-powder, the allied *bungahs*, or buildings, to be razed to the ground and the sacred tank to be desecrated with the blood and bones of men and cows and filled up with rubbish and debris of the demolished edifices. While the Har Mandir was being blown up, a flying brick-and-lime piece hit him on the nose and wounded him.¹⁴

RELATIONS WITH THE MARATHAS

Before his departure for Afghanistan in March, 1761, the Shah, had deputed his agent Yaqub Ali Khan to go with the Maratha agent Hingne to the Peshwa at Poona for the conclusion of a treaty of peace with him. But after the departure of the Shah, Yaqub Ali Khan became helpless in the hands of the Wazir-designate Ghazi-ud-Din Imad-ul-Mulk, who was himself a puppet in the hands of Suraj Mall Jat of Bharatpur. The mutual jealousies and rivalries of Ghazi-ud-Din, Suraj Mall, Najib-ud-Daulah, the *Ganga-par* (trans-Ganges) Ruhilas, Shuja-ud-Daulah and the Marathas had then added to the confusion of Indian politics which were further complicated by the death of Peshwa Balaji Rao (June 23, 1761).

The new Peshwa Madhav Rao, the second son of Balaji Rao, was only a raw youth of 17 when he received his investiture on July 20, 1761. His hands were full with the affairs of southern India, and he could personally take no active interest in the politics of northern India. The Shah, on the other hand, was anxious to come to terms with the Marathas to be able to establish his dominion in the Panjab unmolested. Having dealt a blow to the Sikhs, he invited the Maratha *vakils* Bapuji Mahadev Hingne and Purshotam Hingne, to

14. Ali-ud-Din, *Ibrat Namah*, 270; *Umda-tu-Tawarikh*, i. 155; *Ahwal-i-Najib-ud-Daulah*, 56b-57a; Khushwaqt Rai, *Tarikh-i-Sikhan*, 78; Ganesh Das, *Chahar Gulshan-i-Panjab*, 171; *Firqa-i-Sikhan*, 39; Forster, *Journey from Bengal to England*, 278; *Gulistan-i-Rahmat*, 149; Mufti Ghulam Sarwar, *Tarikh-i-Makhzan-i-Panjab*, 198, 471; *Tarikh-i-Kapurthala*, 180.