



track, the driver of the train blew the whistle time and again but they did not budge as if they had not heard the whistle at all. The train slowed down suddenly and came to a screeching halt, but not before it had run over eleven of the squatters. The worst mauled were Bhai Pratap Singh and Bhai Karam Singh. When sangat ran to extricate the badly injured, Bhai Partap Singh from underneath the train, he told the

Sangat, "Serve the hungry Singhs in the train first. You can take care of us afterwards." The train halted for one and a half hours. The Sikhs served the Singhs in the train whole-heartedly and then turned to the injured. Bhai Karam Singh, thirty year old son of Bhai Bhagwan Dass Mahant of Kesgarh Sahib died after a few hours. On the next day Bhai Partap Singh, twenty-four years of age, son of S. Sarup Singh of Akal Garh, Gujranwala attained martyrdom. Before attaining martyrdom he recited "*Kabira sant Muye kiya Roviye jo apne greh jaye rovo saakat bapre jo hato haat bikaye*" and instructed his 18 years old wife to never cry over his death otherwise his sacrifice will be wasted. During the Govt. investigation, when the train-driver was asked the reason for stopping the train, he replied, "When the train hit the Sikhs on the track, vacuum lever dropped out of my hand and the train stopped. I did not apply the brakes." Dead bodies of the shaheed's were taken to Rawalpindi where they were cremated on 1st November 1922. They were hailed as martyrs and, until 1947, a three day religious fair used to be held in their memory at Punja Sahib

Baba Budha Ji

Baba Budha Ji was born on 23 Oct.1506 at Kathu Nangal (Amritsar) to Bhai Sugha and Bibi Gauran. At very early age, sheer providence brought him in touch with Sri Guru Nanak dev Ji and instantly he became his devotee and dedicated his entire life to Guru's mission. He had the privilege of enjoying the company and blessings of first six Gurus. Though his original name was Bura, Guru nank Dev ji called him "Budha" (The Awakened One).Guru Arjan dev ji bestowed upon him the honour of being the first Head Priest of the Harimandir Sahib (Golden Temple)

GURPURABS & PROGRAMME October 2015

Parkash Guru Ram Das Ji (Sunday Prog. 11 Oct.)	09-10-2015
Joti Jot Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji (Sunday Prog. 25 Oct.)	20-10-2015
Gurgaddi Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji (Sunday Prog. 25 Oct.)	20-10-2015
Gurgaddi Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sunday Prog. 25 Oct.)	20-10-2015
Joti Jot Guru Gobind Sahib Sahib Ji (Sunday Prog. 25 Oct.)	21-10-2015
Youth Programme (First Friday of the month 0630-0800 pm)	05-10-2015

On first Friday of every month **Youth Program** held at Gurdwara Sahib from 6-8pm

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Nit Chardi Kala

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Guru Ramdas Sahib Ji was born (*Parkash*) on 9th Oct. 1534, in a simple God-fearing Sodhi family at Chunna Mandi, Lahore. He was also known as Jetha, which in Punjabi means the eldest. He became an orphan at the age of seven. As he grew up, he reached Goindwal and served Guru Amardas Ji with such devotion that Guru Amardas Ji married his daughter to him. Guru Ji made him go through several tests and being convinced, installed him as the fourth Guru. Guru Ramdas Ji laid the foundation stone (picture above) of the holy city of Amritsar on 13th June 1577.

SIKH GURUDWARA PERTH, 10 Cheltenham Street Bennett Springs WA

The forgotten hero – Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia (22 Oct.)

Adapted from an article by By Sumant Dhamija



In 1762 Ahmad Shah, in what was yet another in a stream of unending invasions of India, had inflicted a crushing blow to the Sikhs in what is known as Wada Ghallugara (The Great Holocaust) when 25,000 Sikhs including women and children had been slaughtered at Kup, about 250 kms northwest of Delhi. Sardar Charhat Singh Sukerchakia, Sardar Hari Singh and Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia led their forces with skill and courage. Jassa Singh sustained sixty-four wounds on his body, but he survived. Ahmad Shah had then marched to the Golden Temple at Amritsar, blew it up with gunpowder and then to add insult to injury, proceeded to fill the holy tank with the carcasses of dead cows. The time for vengeance would come. When later in October, Ahmad Shah was at Lahore and realized that the Sikhs were gathered in strength for their annual meeting on Diwali, the 17th October at Amritsar and decided to

deal a final death blow. A full solar eclipse was in progress. Ahmad Shah was confident and had a large army of well-trained battle hardened Afghans. The Sikh army, already filled with a murderous hate, realizing that their quest for freedom and sovereignty would be shattered with defeat, fought with a primeval ferociousness. Shouting Bole So Nihal – Sat Sri Akal, their battle cry, they charged the Afghans. George Forrester (1783) recounts this engagement... *“ the Sicque(Sikh) nation amounting to 60,000 cavalry, had formed a junction at the ruins of Amritsar, where they resolved to... pledge their national existence...the Sicques roused by the fury of a desperate revenge, in sight also of the ground sacred to (them), whose monuments were destroyed by the enemy they were to combat, displayed during a bloody contest, which lasted from morning until night, an enthusiastic and fierce courage, which ultimately forced Ahmad Shah to draw off his army and retire with precipitation to Lahore.”* Whilst Jassa Singh's victory was not complete or comprehensive, yet it shattered the myth of Abdali's invincibility. In April 1761, Abdali was returning triumphant having destroyed Maratha power at the third battle of Panipat. His booty included 2200 Hindu women to be sold into slavery in the bazars of Afganistan. The Sikhs were at their bi-annual meeting at Amritsar when the relatives of the women pleaded for succor. Jassa Singh left immediately with a volunteer force, caught up with the Afghans at the River Sutlej near Goindwal, rescued the women and had them gallantly escorted to their families. This action which required great audacity, swift and faultless execution and a complete indifference to danger, made him a household name in north India. Later in 1764, Jassa Singh, commanding the Khalsa armies conquered Sarhind, the richest province of the empire. Jassa Singh's share of the cash spoils amounted to 9 lac rupees. He donated this entire amount to the rebuilding of the Harimandir Sahib which is as it stands today! This great act of generosity, endeared him forever to his religious minded people. Jassa Singh was born on 3 may 1718 in village Ahlo near Lahore. At this time Punjab was completely in ruins – oppression was at its height, the movement for freedom having been crushed with the horrific execution of Banda Bahadur and his followers. Jassa's father died when he was 5 years old and he together with his mother spent the next 7 years in Delhi with Mata Sundari, Guru Gobind's widow where he imbibed the lessons of the Gurus. making Guru Gobind's mission his own. Mataji asked Nawab Kapur Singh to look after young and enthusiastic Jassa Singh and be his mentor. His first job being to feed the horses. Who knew one day he would be king! The young and enthusiastic Jassa soon made a mark for himself. In 1748 he lead the Dal Khalsa (Sikh army) to capture Amritsar from Salabat Khan whom he killed. On the Baisakhi meeting that followed-on 29 March 1748, Jassa Singh was declared *Sultan ul Quam* and made commander-in-chief of the Dal Khalsa now divided into 11

groupings or misls from the previous 65. These would act in unison and were subject to Gurumatas, (resolutions) taken at Amritsar, which were binding on all. In 1753, before his death, Kapur Singh, his mentor, proclaimed Jassa Singh the head of the panth, giving him Guru Gobind Singh's mace to reinforce his leadership of the community. Jassa Singh's conquering career really took off after this event. In 1764 he defeated Zain Khan and conquered Sarhind. From this period on Abdali was on the defensive and during his return after his invasion in 1764/5, his authority was confined to his own camp! Lahore was occupied by the Dal Khalsa and the Gobind Shahi coins were struck in 1765 as the formal declaration of their sovereign status. (JS Grewal; Sikh ideology, polity and social order;1996:100-101). Punjab was now free after over 700 years. Jassa Singh did not stop here- Sikh conquests continued, culminating in the conquest of Delhi on 11 March, 1783. Jassa Singh, to prove a point, sat on the throne of Hindustan! Whilst he left shortly afterwards, he ensured, through Sardar Baghel Singh, the building of the historical Gurdwaras of Delhi. At the time of his death, the combined armies of the Dal Khalsa (Sikh army) totaled approximately 200,000 men with 60-70,000 horse available at any given time. Sikh rule extended from Lahore, Multan to Jammu, Kashmir, the Kangra hills to the environs of Delhi. Their influence extended even further-to the Ganga Doab, Rajasthan and Agra. Abdali invaded again in 1769 but could go no further than the River Sutlej. It had taken Jassa Singh and his misl leaders over two decades of fighting and diplomatic maneuvers. The Mughals had been suppressed; the Afghans repulsed and North India now belonged to her people. Jassa Singh was charismatic. His physical presence inspired awe- he was tall, broad shouldered and muscular with penetrating dark eyes. His proficiency in the use of arms was legendary, his unusually long arms giving him an edge as a swordsman. He was known to challenge opposing generals in a one-to-one contest in his booming voice, this display of confidence being a great morale booster to his troops. His personality, moral superiority, diplomatic skills and military strategy made the chiefs and the Dal Khalsa look up to him as their supreme and revered leader. **Jassa Singh died on 22nd Oct. 1783.** As a rare gesture for his services to the community, he was cremated within the precincts of Harimandir Sahib (Golden temple). – near Burj Baba Atal Sahib, where his samadh exists to this day. But whilst the shrine dedicated to him lies almost forgotten, his legacy remains, inspiring warriors to fight for freedom, justice, equality and legitimate sovereignty.

Saka Punja Sahib (30 Oct. 1922)

In 1922, during the “Guru kaa Baagh” morcha a great incident occurred at Siri Punja Sahib in Hasan-Abdaal, Pakistan. The Sikhs arrested during the Akali Morcha of Guru ka Bagh, were being taken to the jails of Attock and Kamalpur. The Rawalpindi sangat found out that the trains taking the prisoners of morcha were going through the Punja Sahib (Hasan Abdal) railway station. Sangat decided to serve langar to the passing Sikh prisoners. The British government found out that the sangat was going to serve langar to the Sikh prisoners, decided not to stop the train at the Punja Sahib railway station. When the sangat found out that the station master had received orders not to stop the train at the railway station, they decided to stop the train at any cost. Jathedar Bhai Partaap Singh ji, fearlessly said that an ardaas has been performed to provide langar to the Sikh prisoners of the morcha and as such Guru Sahib would himself stop the train at the Railway Station. On morning of 30th October sangat arrived early at the railway station with freshly prepared langer for the sikh prisoners. At ten o'clock, as the rumbling sound of the approaching train was heard, two of the Sikhs, Bhai Pratap Singh and Bhai Karam Singh who were leading the sangat went forward and sat cross legged in the middle of the track. Several others, men and women, followed suit. Seeing the Sikhs on the