

# Repression In 2 Sub-Divisions Caused 78 Deaths And 230 Wounded

## MAHASABHA COLLECTS SHOCKING FACTS ABOUT MIDNAPORE EVENTS

9,044 Were Arrested, 274 Raped, 1,117 Illegally Confined, 1,615 Tortured & 1,080 Houses Burnt

CALCUTTA, Nov. 29 (A.P.I.). Seventy-eight persons were killed by firing during "official oppression" in Tamluk and Contai Sub-Divisions between August 1942 and January, 1943, according to the report of the Bengal Provincial Hindu Mahasabha on Midnapore events during that period. Two hundred and thirty were wounded.

There were 274 cases of rape, attempted rape or assault on women. Arrests numbered 9,044. Figures given for Tamluk state that there were 1,117 cases of illegal confinement, and 1,615 cases of physical torture.

The damage by burning of houses, looting and demolition in both areas is given at Rs. 8,79,000. In Contai sub-division the number of house-holders whose houses were burnt by the military and police is alleged to be 1,080.

On some occasions after the cyclone, the report says, "military people surrounded an entire village, forcibly removed the men folk under arms and detained them, while some of them entered the houses of these people, committed outrages on a mass scale, destroyed the belong-

ings and decamped with cash and other valuables."

Midnapore was one of the main issues on which Dr. Shyamada Prasad Mookerjee, now President of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, resigned his Ministership in Bengal, continues the report.

"The first reaction of the Government to the cyclone was an attempt to suppress the gravity of the disaster, and the all-powerful Defence of India Rules were used for the purpose. The effect, if not the very object of the censoring of news, was to prevent or at least delay relief to the distressed."

The report alleges that "the District Magistrate submitted in writing a report to Government that relief whether organised by Government or by private agency, should be withheld for a month and thereby people taught a permanent lesson. He also acted literally according to this policy."

When three of the Bengal Ministers (Dr. Shyamada Prasad Mookerjee, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjee, and the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca) visited the area they found the relief measures adopted by the local offices utterly in-

adequate, while bonafide private relief workers from Calcutta were arrested and imprisoned under the Defence of India Rules."

"The officers continued their repression unabated and burnt five houses

in one village, Babupur, in union No. 1, under Satabata police station, in Tamluk, on the very date of the typhoon, and carried on a policy of reprisal with the same vigour till as late as the middle of January, 1943."



## Bombay Saved From Catastrophe

Sea Proves Shock Absorber; Upheaval Causes Loss Of Many Lives

A major calamity which might have fallen on Bombay was providentially averted by the wrath of nature being diverted to the sea and its foreshore on the evening of the city's annals.

Fifteen persons were washed away when a huge tidal wave, the like of which, according to eye-witnesses, has not been experienced in living memory, hit Bombay's seashore at 8-15 on Wednesday morning. Of these two were saved, three were picked up dead and the fate of the remaining ten is unknown.

Four women and one man, all fisherfolk, were overtaken while fishing in knee-deep water at the mouth of the Versova creek, at the northern end of Juhu, and were washed away within the twinkling of the eye.

Fishermen in the vicinity tried to save the victim by launching their boats, but with great difficulty they could save only one woman. The dead bodies of three women were picked up later. The man could not be traced.

Exactly at the same moment, an entire Muslim family, consisting of one Rahimulla, his wife, three children and two servants, who were away while returning from Hajj Al "darga" at Mahlakani.

They had gone to the darga the previous night and were returning home when the tragedy occurred. Only one servant reached the shore to narrate the incident. He reported that three other men, proceeding towards the mosque, had been also swept away.

"Fakirs" at the mosque, and also fishermen at Juhu say that the phenomenon was strange and unusual. A huge mass of water rose and rolled with such rapidity and force that there was very little time to know what was happening. The upheaval lasted barely a couple of minutes. The wave then receded.

In Danda and Juhu, a number of small boats were torn off their moorings.

The wave, in a minor form was noticed in some parts of Bombay harbour but no serious damage reported.

**METEOROLOGIST'S VIEWS**  
A meteorologist suggested that the sudden tidal waves could possibly be due to the rocking of the sea surface by one of the after-shocks of Wednesday morning's earthquake which was of area, intensity and had



Rao Bahadur N. Shivra, President of the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation, who has been unanimously elected Mayor of Madras Municipal Corporation.

its epicentre about 240 miles from Bombay.

According to Dr. H. J. Taylor of Wilson College, the earthquake occurring under the sea would probably affect the level of the seabed and, if that were sufficiently widespread, it would certainly result in something of a nature of a tidal wave.

Dr. Taylor said that, if the earthquake and the reported tidal wave occurred at or about the same time, it seemed probable indeed, that they were connectable events. It would be very difficult to suggest any other explanation for a sudden tidal wave of that kind.

**ANOTHER BODY FOUND**  
One body of a member of Rahimullah's family four of whom were swept off by yesterday's tidal wave was washed ashore yesterday evening. The deceased is a Muslim female aged about 35. She was however not identified till this afternoon.

## 4 More 'Quake Shocks Recorded At Colaba

BOMBAY Nov. 29 (A.P.I.). Four earthquake shocks of slight intensity, apparently being after-shocks of the very great earthquake of November 28, were recorded by the seismograph at the Colaba Observatory.

The respective times of the shocks recorded according to the Indian standard time at the Colaba Observatory were as follows:

November 28: 08/50 hours and 16/21 hours.  
November 29: 0/44 hours and 5/04 hours.

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