



### **THE FALL OF MULTAN (1818)**

*Nawab Muzaffar Khan Sodazai had been ruling over Multan which was situated between two of the Punjab's important rivers Sutlej and Ravi, since 1779. Maharaja Ranjit Singh made military incursions into Multan for four times between 1802 and 1813, but the mountain like fort made of mud, sand and bricks, which rose in the middle of the town, had prevented him every time to establish his sovereignty in Multan*

*In 1818, Ranjit Singh was hell bent upon conquering Multan. Fort of Multan was surrounded by a large deep moat, preventing cannons being brought close to fort. Therefore Maharaja chose summer when there was less water in the moat as the best time to attack. Sixteen years old Prince Kharak Singh participated as one of the commanders along with Misr Dewan Chand and 20,000 men. The artillery under the command of Illahi Baksh and big Bhangi gun 'Zamzama' played a major role in reducing the fort. Muzaffar Khan and his two sons died fighting inside the fort. Conquest of Multan by Maharaja Ranjit Singh ended Afghan influence in the Punjab.*