

On 24th *Zilhijja* (1st April 1837), however, the Nawāb managed to escape to Sehore, where he borrowed money and raised a force with which he seized the districts of Dorāha, Devipura and Jaharkhera, and soon after obtained Ashta fort to which the *kilādār* admitted him

A force was at once sent against Ashta under the minister Rājā Khushwakt Rai, who was accompanied by Lāla Baijnāth, as representative on behalf of the Political Agent. A fight took place on the Punbās river near the village of Kōtra in which some 300 persons were killed and wounded. The Nawāb was forced to retire into the fort which was besieged. The besiegers, however, suffered severely from the rain and especially from a severe flood on the Punbās on 23rd August 1837 which swamped their own camp. Matters were becoming serious when at length the Political Agent, Launcelot Wilkinson, acting under orders from the Governor General, sent Munshī Benī Prasād to Ashta to request Rājā Khushwakt Rai to withdraw his troops. He accordingly returned to Bhopāl on September 10th, 1837.

The Nawāb then went to Sehore. A few days later the Political Agent arrived at Bhopāl with the Bhopāl Contingent and encamped at Wazīr's Garden. He informed the Begam that the Governor General's instructions were that she should make over the administration in accordance with the original agreement and that suitable allowances would be made for her.

The Begam then consented to retire, receiving a life grant of five lakhs (Bhopāl coin) per annum. In 1877, on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, she was decorated with the order of the Imperial Cross. She died in 1881 at the age of 82 leaving personal property worth five lakhs, which she bequeathed to her grand-daughter Shāh Jahān.

On 1st *Ramzān* 1253 A.H. (30th November 1837) Nawāb Jahāngīr was duly invested with powers. Relations between the Nawāb and his Begam remained strained, however, and she and her mother retired to Islāmnagar where a daughter was born to Sikandar Begam on 6th *Jamādi-ul-Awal* 1254 (29th July 1838), and named Shāh Jahān Begam.

Jahāngīr  
Muhammad  
Khān  
(1837-44).

The Nawāb took considerable interest in his State and initiated many improvements, one of which was the removal of the army from the heart of the town to the Jahāngīrābād quarters across the lake. He was also fond of literary studies and a great patron of men of learning. He died on 28th *Zikāt* 1260 (9th December 1844) at 27 years of age and was buried in the Nūr\_Bāgh.