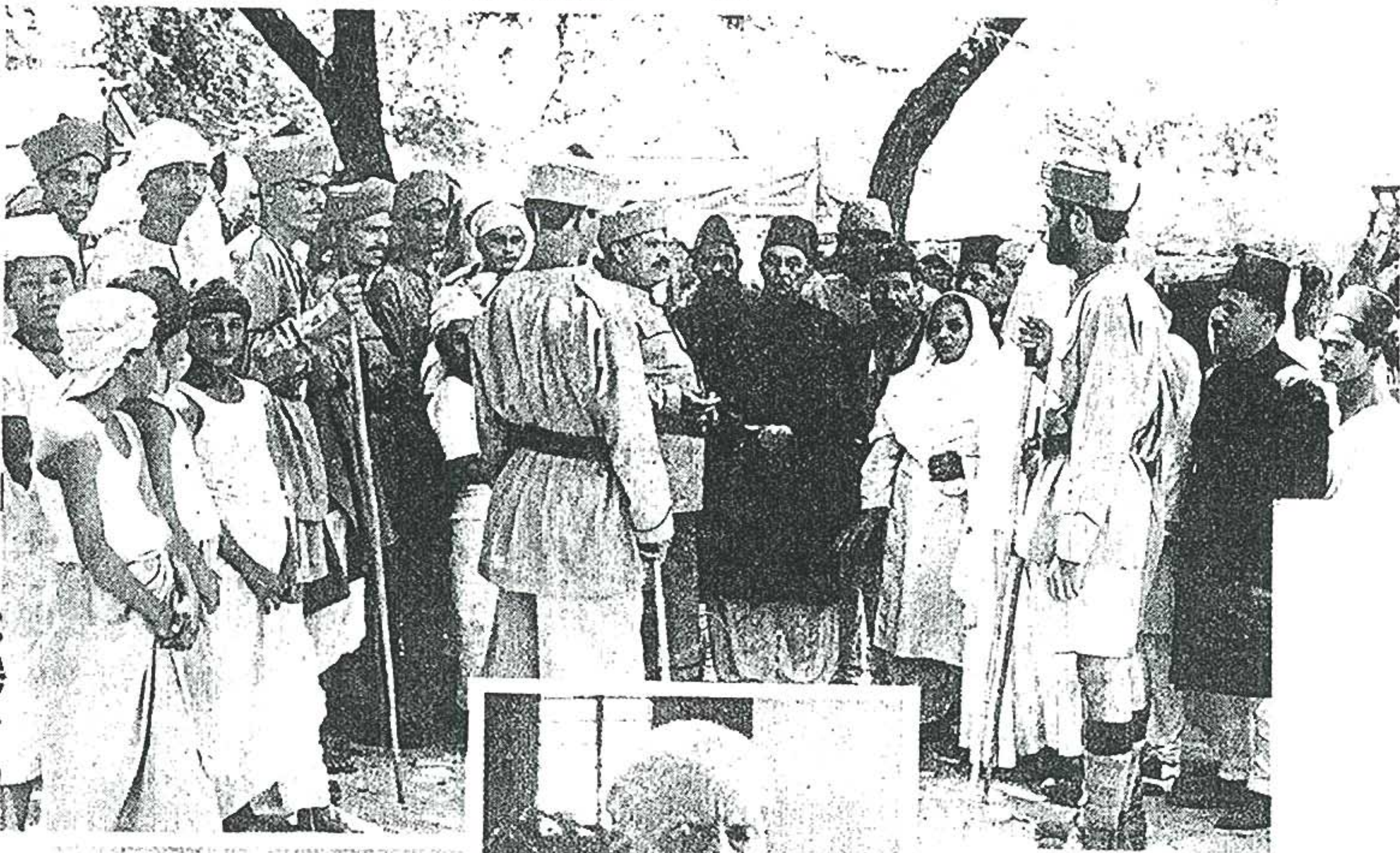


THE MAKING OF

Zinnah



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MAKING

The Week

It's a pity that we, as a nation, have become exceedingly sceptic, since whatever comes before us for the purpose of being perused or analysed — be it an individual's efforts to reach an enviable stature or nation's stride towards a collective accomplishment — we do it with a jaundiced eye. Perhaps, one of the

causes of this very attitude (that instantly hits the mind) is our unpredictable and zig-zag socio-political history, particularly taking the last half a century into cognizance.

Despite all the fuss that was created about the making of the film 'Jinnah' one aspect would be difficult

as the cinematic form of expression is concerned, any such venture that would shed light on the Quaid and his life.

Instead of acknowledging and encouraging the effort (whatever its motivational elements may be) people from different walks of-life



not to admit to, that it's befitting to indulge in a venture whose epicentre is the leader of a nation, when the nation celebrates the golden jubilee of its

began repudiating the ideas and condemning the constituting elements of the project, resorting to various abominable ways and means, aiming, at least, at



inception; and even more befitting it becomes, when one comes to know that there has never been, so far

the dysfunctioning of the film's progress. One such instance was a case filed by an army major, in the month



of March, stating the objections that:

(a) Mr. Christopher Lee, who's playing the role of Jinnah, is not fit for the purpose;

(b) Mr Shashi Kapoor, who's working as the narrator of the story, should not be a part of the film, as he is an Indian, Hindu, and has an anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan attitude;

(c) the film might distort the historical facts;

(d) the authenticity of the script is doubtful;

(e) Mr Christopher Lee

(g) Mr. Lee and Kapoor should be immediately arrested etc..

But after a number of hearings, the petition was dismissed by the divisional bench of the High Court, headed by, Mamoon Kazi and judge Majida Rizvi.

In spite of these psychological battles, the biggest impediment seemed to be the sparsity of the funds for film. The film project had a contract with Pakistan Television Corporation, under which PTV had agreed to invest 60

an MOU was signed by the govt. of Pakistan (Irshad Ahmed Haqqani) and Akbar S. Ahmed stating that the government of Pakistan would support the film, morally; and it did extend full support.

emerged.

Yet, the problem did not last for a prorogued period, as people and organisations of various kinds came to the rescue of the project. One such organisation is the



Jinnah society, founded recently with the intent of supporting every Jinnah related work; therefore the film fell at the top of its priority list. The society is headed by Mr. Liaquat Merchant, who happens to be the grand nephew of the Quaid.

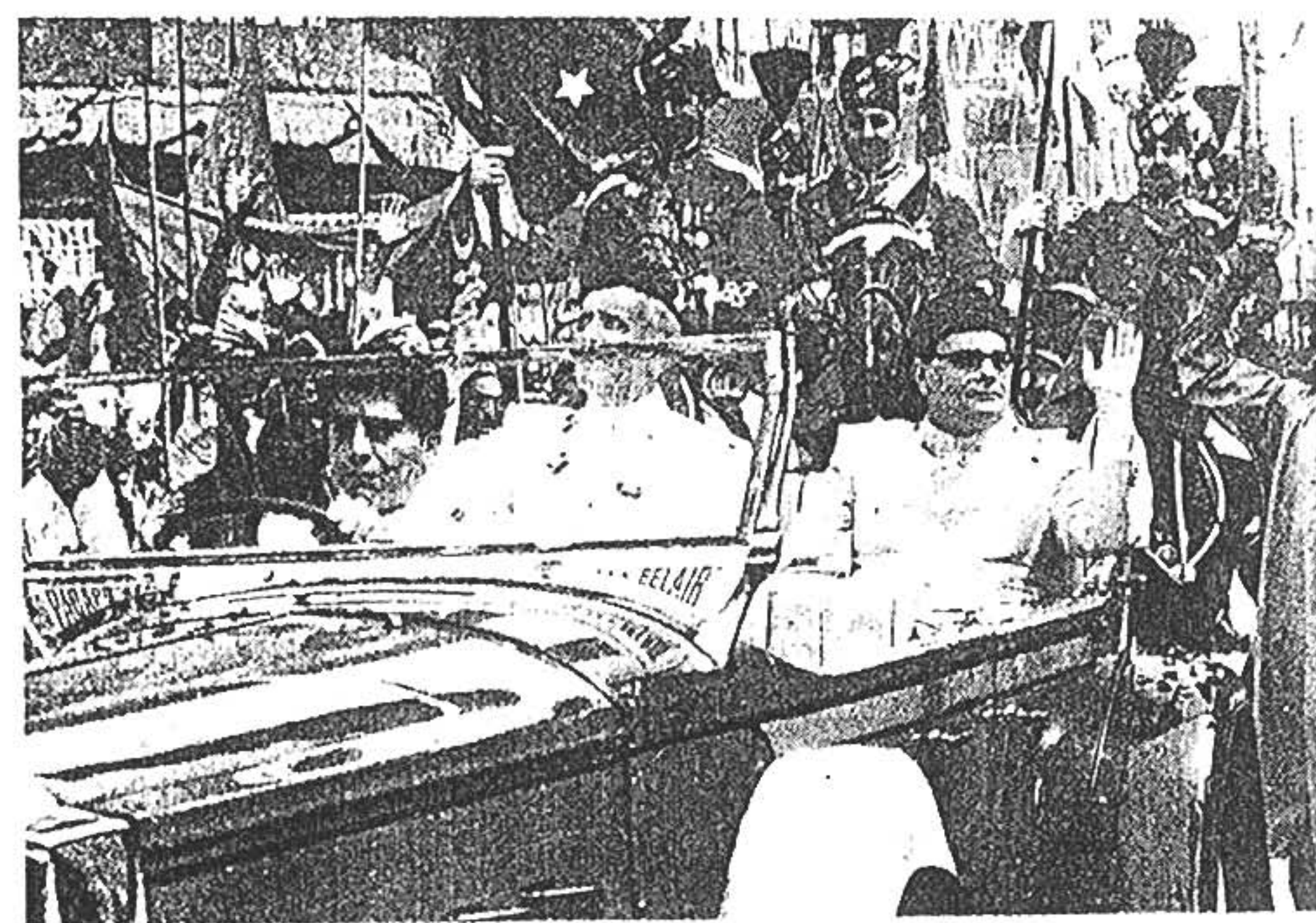
The first fund raising function in this regard was arranged at Liaquat Merchant's place, in which illuminaries of the city as



does not resemble Quaid-e-Azam, M. Ali Jinnah;

(f) if the film's made, it'd bring bad name to the country;

million rupees, signed by Mr Aijaz Aslam, the then MD and Akbar S. Ahmed, MD Quaid Project Limited and the writer of the film. Also,

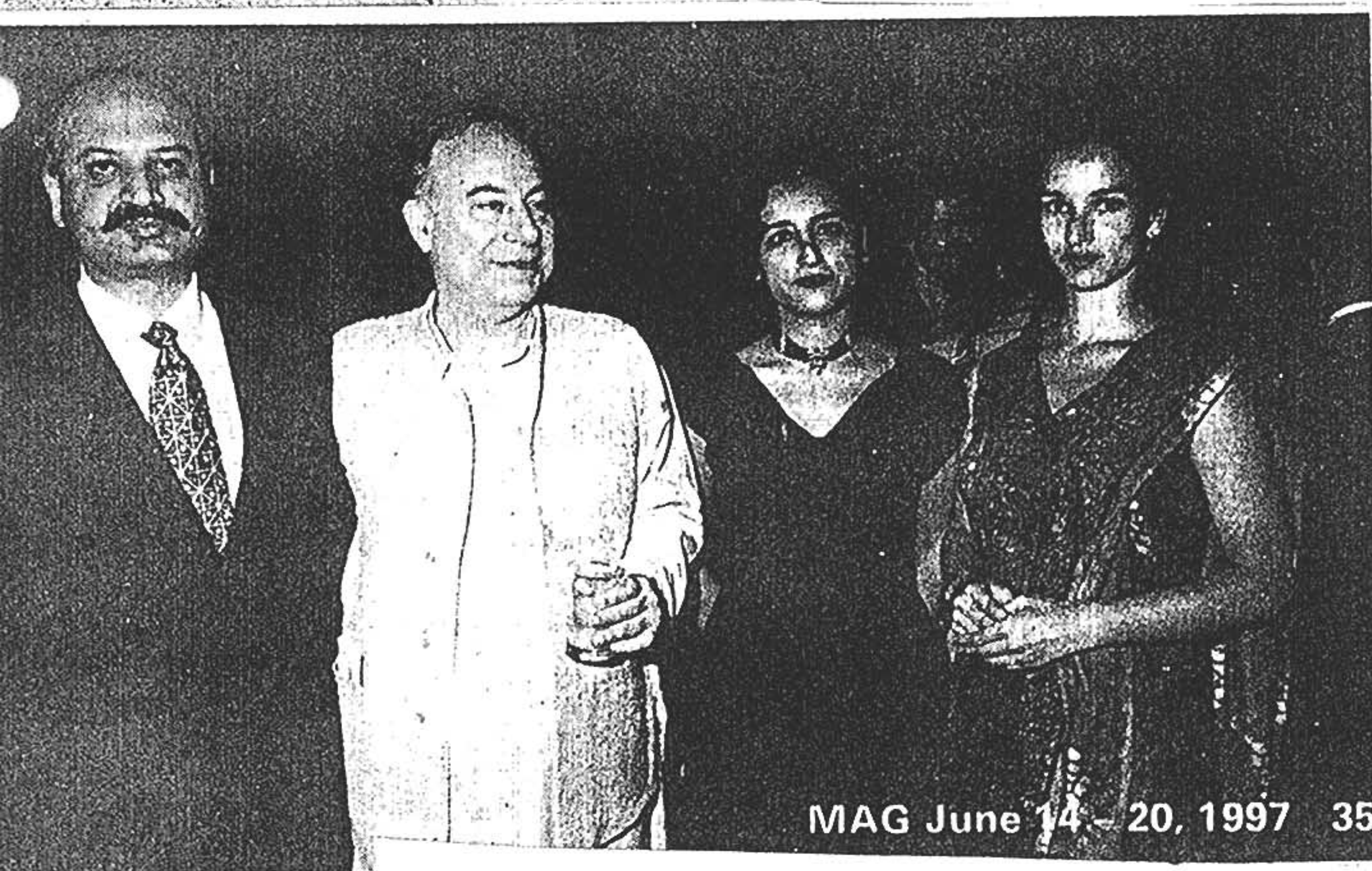
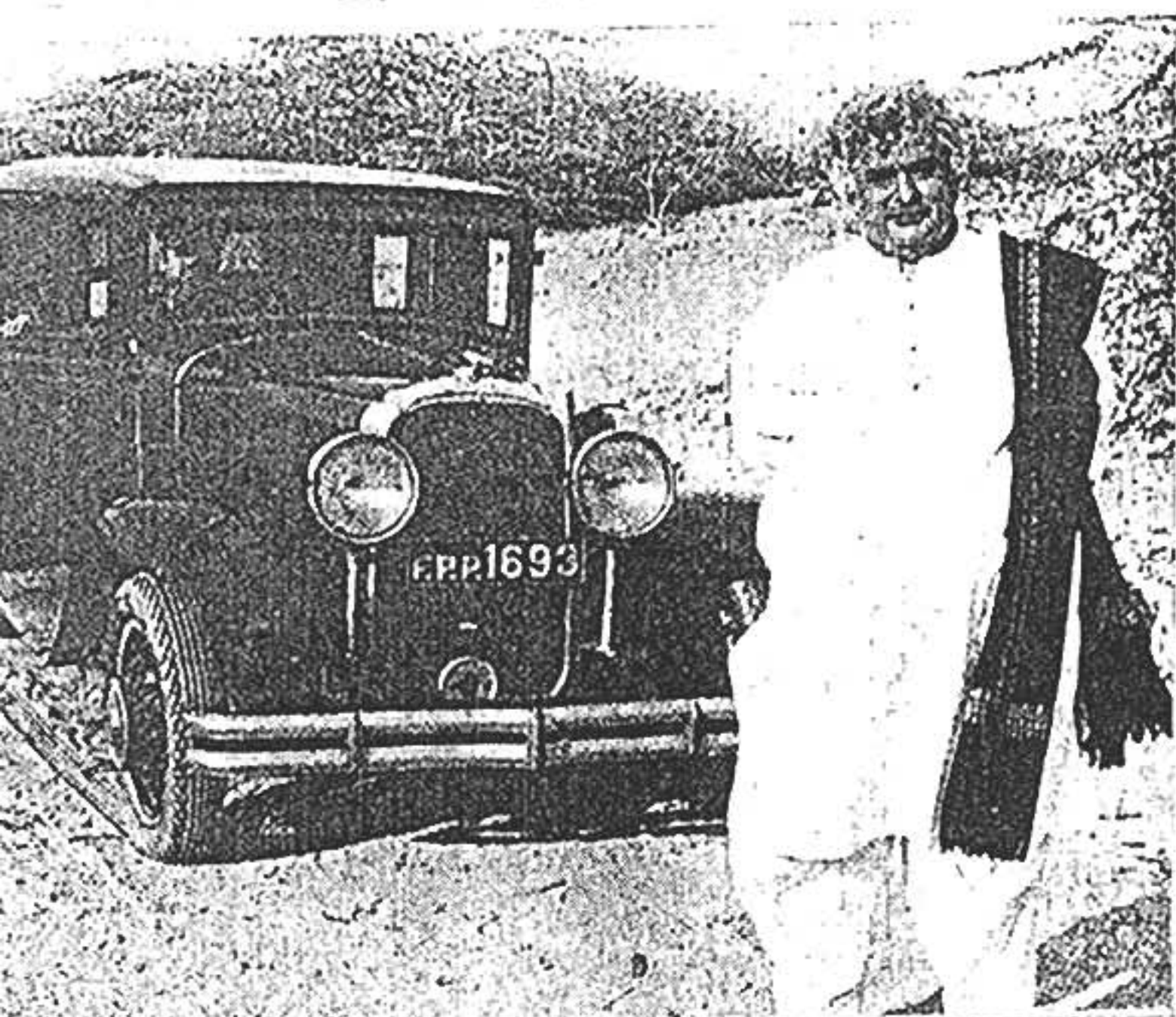


But, ruefully, PTV backed out and did not invest anything. Hence the project suffered from severe financial constraints and problems of big proportions

well as the entire cast of the film participated and helped gather reasonable amount of money.

Another function was organised by Y.P.O which

has at least 40 members in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Jinnah Society. The programme raised 70,000 dollars which were then invested in the film project. One more fund raiser was



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held by the Jinnah Society, gathering 3 million rupees, and it is believed that the capitol will partly be invested in film and partly by way of contributing to the society, which in turn lends support to the film venture again.

Mr. Jamil Hamdani, a

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Jinnah

prominent banker, also arranged a bash and collected reasonable amount of money.

Talking to MAG Mr Liaquat Merchant said that all the members associated with the project 'Jinnah' worked in a most dedicated, disciplined and determined manner; and if the project had failed, it's quite unlikely that any other endeavour would succeed. Therefore, this must achieve success. And the significance of the project gets enhanced even more

when one considers that it is the golden jubilee year of Pakistan.

Mr Merchant also apprised that the makers of 'Jinnah' have also made a documentary, to be shown on BBC, in which Miss Dina Wadia has also been interviewed.

Bearing in mind the importance of the 50th year of our independence, it's hoped that the film 'Jinnah' will live up to its expectations, and whoever has put in efforts, in whatever form, will be content with the results.

SALMAN