

Kashmir Sentinel

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Pressure for dialogue builds on India

America disowns Sharif, backs military junta

Diplomatic Correspondent

The US once again lived up to its reputation as a country, which has no concern for the professed political principles, when it comes to the ruthless pursuit of its imperial interests. It played subterfuge with the civilian head, Nawaz Sharif and destabilised him.

Sharif's US deals

Faced with the imminent danger of a coup against him, the former Pakistan Prime Minister had despatched his brother Shahbaz. ISI chief Lt Gen Ziauddin Butt and Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz to the US. The deal clinched between Nawaz Sharif and US was that Sharif would sign CTBT, make peace with India for settlement of Kashmir problem (as per America's plans) and take action against religious extremists associated with Bin Laden. In return US assured Sharif immunity against the coup and gave go ahead signal for appointment of Lt Gen Ziauddin as new Army Chief. In US Gen Zia had testified before Senate Intelligence Committee on the Taliban and publicly blamed the rabidly fundamentalist organisations for fomenting sectarian violence in Pakistan. Zia was even sent by Sharif to Afghanistan. He asked Mulla Omar, the Taliban chief to rein in the religious extremists. Sharif government was also planning to delink army from Taliban and closing down the Taliban training centres.

Musharraf-Sharif Row

Since March 1999 Gen Musharraf had been planning to dislodge Sharif government. Though he had used Nawaz Sharif earlier for promotion of his interests. The former premier had appointed him as COAS over the head of two senior generals. Admiral Fasih Bokhari was forced to submit his resignation, when Musharraf was made chief of Joint Command out of turn.

But Gen Musharraf had been challenging Sharif's authority brazenly. He used his position

as the supreme authority of Water and Power Development Authority, WPDA, to harass and blackmail Sharif. After he was confirmed as Chief of Joint Command, Gen Musharraf began replacing Sharif loyalists in intelligence services. He sent his own army officers to man vital positions.

Sharif still hoped rapprochement with Musharraf. At his behest Lt Gen Tariq Parvez was forcibly retired and Lt Gen Saleem Haider, Corps Commander, Mangla was transferred. Musharraf had alleged that Gen Haider had leaked out information about the Corps Commander conference to the political leadership. Musharraf refused to relent. Sharif is reported to have asked for his resignation at least four times since July last.

The preparations for the coup began on September 18 when Corps Commander met to chalk out the strategy. On Sept 24, the plan was put in final place and Lt Gen Aziz was made the coordinating link. Lack of US approval initially made Musharraf to put the plan on hold.

Karamat's Role

Even as the US was warning generals against staging the coup, it got in touch with the former Army Chief known for his proximity to Americans, Gen Karamat. He was asked to rein in Gen Musharraf. Americans asked Karamat to seek commitment from Gen Musharraf on handling Osama Bin Laden. Musharraf was also asked to remove some Punjabi ethnic generals known for anti-American views. After Musharraf agreed on Osama issue, the deal was struck in Sri Lanka in the presence of John Rofling, presently the advisor to US Ambassador in Delhi on nuclear issues. The compromise struck was that Osama Bin Laden would be allowed secret passage to a third unnamed country. Subsequently Musharraf was given go ahead signal for the coup. Even as early as Sept 19, the former Army Chief Gen Aslam Beg had

said that US was trying to dislodge Sharif govt and replace it with new leadership.

US Backs Musharraf

Contrary to the general impression that US influence in Pak army is minimal, facts speak otherwise. During Kargil withdrawal it was US which reigned in Musharraf. Islamised Army Officers though do not hold US

press and opposition political parties. Both US assistant secretary of state, Karl Inderfurth and the US ambassador to Pakistan, Milam went on to blame Sharif, equally with the army for the Kargil misadventure. The official US view sees the new military Junta as the only answer to nuclear armed Pakistan's dire travails.

example that our sanctions policy can hurt our national interests". He added that prior to 1990 Pressler sanctions--all senior Pak army officials had done a stint in training institutions in the US under the International Military Education and Training (IMET) Programme. This according to him had played a major role in maintaining the pro-western orientation of the Pak armed forces.

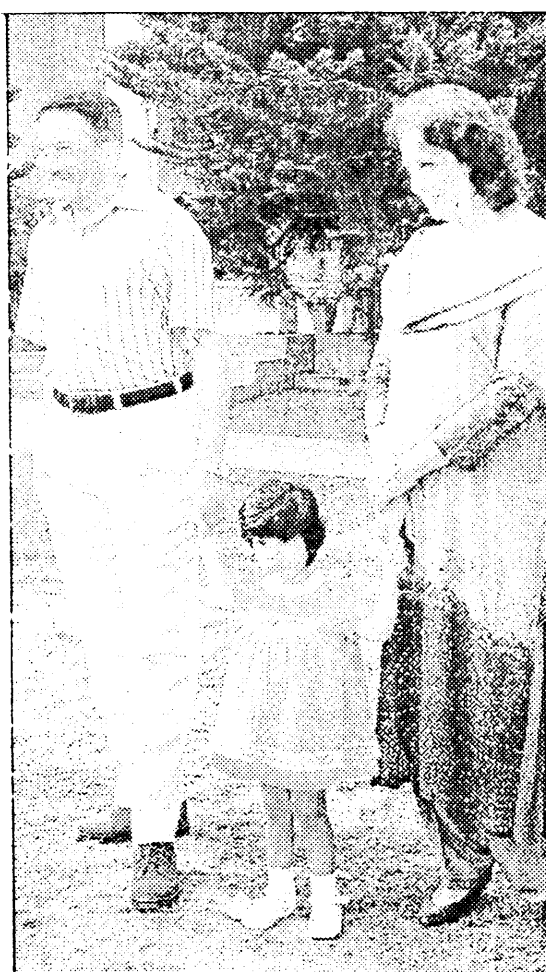
Director centre for Strategic and International Studies, Teresita Schaffer urged the US to remain "in close touch with Pakistan including a serious military-to-military policy dialogue".

Selig Harrison, a Century Foundation fellow, who has been among the pioneers in tracing Musharraf's long-standing links with several Islamic fundamentalist groups has also urged for early disbursement of the aid to Pakistan. He argues that the people of Pakistan should not be the victims of political events beyond their control.

Senator Sam Brownback, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on Near East and South Asian Affairs in a recent hearing on the Pakistan coup made the astounding claim that the Pressler Amendment had driven Pakistan "to greater reliance on a nuclear deterrent". He asserted that Pressler "had the effect of lessening our influence over the Pakistan military, which, whether we like it or not, is where the real power resides in Pakistan". Brownback also claimed that the ill-conceived incursion in the Kargil sector was the result of the US disengagement from Pakistan military training, making it necessary to have Pakistani soldiers training in Islamic institutions.

US Ambassador to Pakistan, William B Milam wrapped up his meeting with Gen Musharraf saying, "I am confident that Gen Musharraf is a moderate man who is acting out of patriotic motivation and feels that his

(Contd. on page 11)



Playing to the Western Gallery: Dictator Musharraf in civilian cloak.

in awe as earlier, understand that without US support the army cannot retain its hold. In fact back channel linkages between Pak army and Pentagon-CIA have always remained.

From the very beginning the US reaction to the coup has been favouring the generals. The State department refused to describe the events in Pakistan as a military coup on the ground that legal experts were still examining the issue in all its implications. Instead of condemning the coup, only the next day US officials blamed Sharif for crackdown on

US officials also sound apologetic about their "mistakes" in the past. Inderfurth remarks, "what we need is greater and not less involvement with Pakistan. It is a country where our national interests are engaged. Clearly the impact of almost a decade of sanctions has restricted our level of engagement, including valuable contacts with the Pakistan military". He said this before Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee hearing.

A senior State department official said, "here is yet another

LETTERS

True Homage

Dear Sir,

For the last ten years we have been observing 14th of Sept as "Kashmiri Pandit Balidan Diwas"—the Martyr's day. On this very day in 1989, a tall nationalist leader of Kashmir—Mr Tika Lal Talpoo, fell to the bullets of the terrorists. Since that day we have seen our community people of all ages i.e. senior citizens, young and middle aged men women, children and even infants being brutally martyred by the sessionists and extremists in the Valley of Kashmir as well in Jammu region. There is not a single profession, which they did spare—judges, lawyers, doctors, nurses, businessmen, govt. employees and the rest. The total of our martyrs may well be above five thousand. This number I am highlighting today to correct an observation made recently in one of the TV interviews by a secular nationalist leader of our state. I quote "a few of Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in the Valley during the period of militancy there".

I cannot even forget our unfortunate brothers who died in the unnatural circumstances due to the community diaspora in the various parts of our country because of disease, stress, accidents, harsh climate, poverty etc.

My respectful and grateful salutations to those of our brave soldiers of the Indian Army who fell defending the frontiers of our country in general and Kargil in particular. They made the supreme sacrifices today for securing our future.

After all, why were so many of our community people done to death? Is it that they laid down their life because in the eye of their killer they all were only "Battas" and nothing else? Is it that their only crime was that they represented India and Indian ethos in Kashmir? or that, in the eyes of their killers they were the only hurdles in the complete Islamisation of Kashmir.

We as the community have the responsibility to continue to uphold the values they represented. I do not want, to repeat the rhetoric or the long slogans, which we hear, while observing this day as a ritual like any other such days. This day for me is a day of reminder and introspection. I do ask myself certain question, which I want to share with my community.

i) Are we all really so sad today at what has happened to us as we were ten years back?

ii) Has the pain of displacement mellowed down due to the lapse of time and all us are busy

in our business as usual?

iii) Have, as a community, we become as complacent about our survival rights-social and political etc today as we were in Kashmir?

iv) Are we all following truly the community agenda or is it that we are all bothered with our own personal agendas?

v) Am I interested in myself as "I" and my ego or the "I" as a part of the community?

vi) Am I following the diktats of my own conscience or am following his masters agenda.

vii) Why is it that we do not find our people in large numbers at our social or political meetings?

viii) And finally, is it that it is the feeling of helplessness and dejection which has engulfed us all and we have gone into a deep slumber to be woken up again by same supernatural power?

Truly, I feel, if I can answer these questions frankly and see some role for myself in keeping the flock of our community together, social fabric intact, cultural heritage preserved and struggle for political rights of my community, that will be my true homage to our martyrs.

--Dr. Shakti Bhan

Convenor, Daughters of Vitasta

Thanks Mr Sharief

Sir,

Through this open letter I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude for the great favour you have done to my country by first embracing my PM and then stabbing him in this back.

I, like you, am a Punjabi, but unlike you have suffered twice in my life at the hands of rabid Muslim militants. I was studying in Lahore when partition occurred and was driven away from there on pain of death. In my old age, I was living in Srinagar where bigoted Jematis in the name of Jihad, looted my property, burnt my home and threw me out of the Valley.

During the half century, the period between these two episodes, I have helplessly watched the placid unconcern of my country men towards the perpetual threat which Pakistan poses against us. So much so some so-called, self proclaimed, intellectuals had even started selling the idea—"why not get out of the Kashmir mess" The southern Indian had started looking a distant problem.

Now by one masterly stroke you have changed it all. You have done what Hindu fundamentalists couldn't do. You have woken us up to the reality that your country has the ambition of conquering not only Kashmir in the name of Islam but be the sword arm of Muslim militants who want to conquer

the whole world.

Thanks over again and keep it up. Drugs, gun running, mercenaries, alms begging from Arabs, oligarchy of a handful of Punjabi families, plundering of coffers of your country and stashing it abroad, dominance of aristocratic army in the affairs of the state.

Your treacherous act may not have done your country any good, but it has brought India together over again.

--Mr S.D. Khanna

New Delhi

Sir,

In the Kashmir Sentinel of Aug 99 on the opinion page Sameer Koul has written about the raw courage and deep commitment of our soldiers in winning back Kargil-our land" he has called it. All through the war Mr Vajpayee has been telling the soldiers. That they are fighting for their motherland. Farooq Abdullah has gone to the battle field and exhorted the soldiers to throw the invaders out of the land which belongs to the country.

Four hundred youngmen have dropped dead there. Several thousands have seeped that soil with their blood. But now that the war is over, they have no right to till that land. What sort of hypocrisy is this? If the leadership of our nation is sincere and mean what they say, then give the soldiers land to till

in those areas. Also give them arms and ammunition to defend their lands. If this is done, all the problems regarding intelligence, infiltration and subversion can be solved. And let us not be bogged down about the issue of Arti 370 and whatever.

The soldier has been told, it is his land—he should be allowed to live there. Otherwise he has a right to refuse to fight for the land where he cannot live.

--Mr S.D. Khanna

Hauz Khaus, New Delhi

*Please send
Articles,
Shot Stories,
Write-ups and
other Kashmir
related
material on
Social,
Political, &
Cultural
issues etc.
duly typed.*

--Editorial Board

THOSE WHO LEFT US

Kashmir Sentinel and Panun Kashmir Foundation mourn their sad demise and pray for the peace to the departed souls.

1. Sh. Brij Nath Gagroo S/o Lt. Sh Nand Lal Gagroo, R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar; presently at SBI Lane Janipur, Jammu. 17/10/99
2. Sh. Surinder Jee Bhan S/o late Sh N.N. Bhan; presently at Faridabad. 17/10/99
3. Sh. Omkar Nath Talashi S/o late Nanak Chand Talashi, R/o Wulrhama, Anantnag; presently at Kunjwani Bye-Pass Gangyal, Jammu. 18/10/99.
4. Sh. Maharaj Krishan Misri S/o Lt. Sh. Raghu Nath Misri, R/o Channapora, Srinagar; presently at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. 19/10/99
5. Sh. Madan Lal Khah S/o Lt Sh Jia Lal Khah, R/o Qaziya Zainakadal, Srinagar; presently at Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. 19/10/99
6. Sh. Mohan Lal Raina S/o Lt. Sh. Shiv Nath Raina, R/o Kallar Udhampur. 20/10/99
7. Smt. Somawati Razdan W/o Lt Sh PN Razdan, R/o Sona Masjid Fathekadal, Srinagar; presently at Vasundhara Enclave Delhi. 20/10/99
8. Smt. Poshkuji Kaul W/o Lt. Sh. Gopal Kaul, R/o Bana Mohalla Srinagar; presently at Railway Colony, Jammu. 21/10/99
9. Smt. Arandati W/o Lt Sh Lambodhar Karihaloo, R/o Habba Kadal, Srinagar; presently at Sarbi Kulu (HP). 22/10/99
10. Master Sumit Handoo S/o Sh J.K. Handoo, R/o Subash Nagar, Jammu. 22/10/99
11. Sh. Rattan Lal Kaul S/o Lt. Sh. Govind Koul, R/o Mattan Kashmir; presently at Paloura Jammu. 23/10/99
12. Smt. Shubawati Zutshi W/o Lt. Sh. Ved Lal Zutshi, R/o Raj Gath Baramulla; presently at Udeywala Talab Tillo, Jammu. 23/10/99
13. Smt. Khema Shori W/o Sh Prem Nath Raina, R/o Zainder Mohalla, Srinagar; presently at displaced camp Nagrota. 23/10/99
14. Sh. Triloki Nath Zadoo (Kaw), R/o Gund-Ahalmar, Srinagar; presently at Delhi. 25/10/99
15. Smt. Tarawati Daftari W/o Lt. Sh. Dina Nath Daftari, R/o Sathu Barbarshah; presently at Trikuta Nagar Ext. Jammu. 25/10/99
16. Smt. Sheelawati W/o Lt. Sh. Parmanand Ji Sidha, R/o Mattan Kashmir; presently at Ceramics Complex Kathua, Jammu. 28/10/99
17. Sh. Iqbal Nath Chowdhary S/o Lt. Sh. Nila Kanth Chowdhary, R/o Karan Nagar, Srinagar; presently at Subash Nagar, Jammu. 29/10/99.
18. Sh. Chooni Lal Bhat S/o Sh Saroop Nath Bhat, R/o Fathepore, Anantnag; presently at Adarsh Colony, Udhampur. 29/10/99
19. Sh. Shamboo Nath Turki S/o Sh Ram Chand Turki, R/o Bagi Jogi Lanker Rainwari, Srinagar; presently at Durga Nagar, Jammu. 20/10/99

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Track-II diplomacy unfolds

Kashmir: Realignment of Separatist Forces Begins

Diplomatic Correspondent

That serious proposals at Track-II level are being discussed for solution to Kashmir problem is no more a secret. Kashmir separatist think tanks are utilising every opening to force India to dilute its sovereignty over Kashmir. At one level effort is being made to foment and extend subversion. While at the other plane the separatist diplomacy is trying to hoodwink the ruling elite in India by feigning opposition to Hurriyat and its non approval of terrorist violence. These think tanks are pleading that autonomy is a better bet for India. Crocodile tears are also being shed on displaced Pandits' plight to "wash off" the communal sin of the separatist campaign.

The regular jaunts of people like Farooq Kathwari, Nazir Geelani, Majid Trambu, Khurshid Drabu to J&K have not gone amiss by close observers of Kashmir scene. The sudden metamorphosis of Farooq Kathwari from a die hard Pakistani of yester years to an "autonomist" has also intrigued Kashmir experts. As the American diplomacy became pro-active on Kashmir, two new groups emerged-Council for Independent Kashmir at separatist level and Kashmir Study Group, KSG at US State Department level. In both these groups Farooq Kathwari, a NRI Kashmiri billionaire was the important character.

Members of the Council for Independent Kashmir have been maintaining regular contacts with leaders of pro-India political parties in Kashmir," experts and sections of overseas Pandits. These Pandits have been engaged in subverting the agenda of the displaced Kashmiris. They have also been fomenting dissensions and destabilising the leadership of popular Pandits' organisations to sell the line acceptable to the separatist think tanks by creating dummy leaders.

Kashmir Study Group, a think tank with advisory role to the State department had sometime back released a "new map of Kashmir", which created ripples in India. The strong criticism it invited has obviously forced KSG to embark on a damage-limiting exercise. In its report release on October 19, it makes three significant departures. One, it dismisses the claim of the Hurriyat Conference of being a representative organisation of the people of J&K. The report says Hurriyat is basically an organisation of the Muslims whose efforts to attract Hindus is just window-dressing. It adds that political leaders of the Hurriyat Conference were at



European Diplomats talking to journalists in Jammu.

best as corrupt and self-serving and at worst little better than terrorists.

Secondly, KSG report claims that there was much more support than appeared on the surface in both Indian and Pakistan on making the Line of Control (LoC) the International border. Such an outcome, it said, was implicit in the Simla Agreement. The report also broadens "the people of Kashmir", includes the Pandits, Buddhists of Ladakh. The report also suggests that leaders of Pandits, Buddhists and Hurriyat should be party to settling the dispute.

Thirdly, the report says that in Pakistan, the official position was "self-determination" for Kashmiris, but the team sensed that higher officials regarded the demand for plebiscite in Kashmir as a dead issue.

Council for Independent Kashmir is locked in a bitter power struggle with Hurriyat. It has been able to get American support for it and is trying to project itself as a moderate serious group committed to resolution of Kashmir tangle through a political approach. Hague "Peace" conference called by it had a two-fold aim-to challenge the supremacy of Hurriyat and secondly to gain international legitimacy for it as a moderate organisation seriously committed to political approach.

In Kashmir valley, Council for Independent Kashmir operates through Azam Inquilabi's Quami Mushawarati, Council, QMC. The QMC conglomerate includes JKLF (Amanullah Group), Mahaz-i-Azadi, National Liberation Front, Haqeqat Pasand Party, breakaway faction of People's League owing allegiance to late S Hamid, Ummat-e-Islami, Political Conference and Kashmir-USA think tank Council for Independent Kashmir, besides other separatist factions. Recently the close associate of Azam Inquilabi, Mr Fazal Haq Qureishi, who heads People's Democratic Front walked away from QMC to join

APHC.

In an extraordinary development Awami National Conference led by the former Chief Minister, GM Shah joined QMC on October 18. Addressing a joint press conference Shah and Inquilabi pledged to work for achieving the goal of total "independence of Kashmir from both India and Pakistan".

Welcoming Shah, Inquilabi said that it would "add to the importance and relevance of the forum". He added that "Shah has been among those leaders who joined the Plebiscite Front. Despite his tryst with power politics for a few years his (Shah's) pro freedom feelings and sentiments did not fade. He felt that the only way to safeguard the cultural identity of Kashmir and pave way for independence was to groom the younger generation for a revolutionary role in the resistance movement of Kashmir".

Mr GM Shah had also joined the Muslim United Front in 1986 and boycotted the recently held elections in J&K. Recently Shah's overtures to NC and Central BJP for accommodation were spurned. Left with little options, this master opportunist with no social base joined this separatist band wagon. In the fast changing developments, Shah assessed that joining the separate conglomerate could be a future investment for him and his progeny.

Upbeat on Shah's joining, QMC leader Inquilabi spelled out the agenda in a three-page statement released to the press. The agenda demands that "India and Pakistan should withdraw its forces from J&K to allow people to determine their future." He also appealed to the militants and security forces to "observe a cease-fire now". Describing independence of J&K as its ultimate objective, Inquilabi says this "objective can be achieved through a gradual process and programmes for which we should work with perseverance"

Inquilabi also unveiled a two-phased plan for the solution of the Kashmir dispute. In the first phase, the plan envisages reunion of the disturbed areas, which as per the Council includes PoK and areas of J&K, removal of "foreign" forces, which will be followed by elections under UN auspices.

The second phase aims at starting negotiations with India and Pakistan for future dispensation of the "disputed" peace zone of J&K State. "After 15 years of Independence, people should be given the right whether they favour some sort of administrative relationship with India and Pakistan."

About US backing of this new outfit, Inquilabi gives a backhanded compliment by praising the Kashmir policy of US and other Western countries and asks them to pressurise both India and Pakistan to adopt a pragmatic approach and shun the rigid attitude.

Whatever may be the ultimate objectives of QMC, political realignment of forces is taking place in Kashmir. QMC is trying to project itself as a serious alternative to Hurriyat at the level of separatist leadership and to National Conference at the level of power-politics. It has been trying to woo all sorts of elements in National Conference, Hurriyat and other extremist groupings. Sources say, QMC may be participating in power politics game sooner than later and make autonomy bandwagon as the bargaining chip in the road to power.

At least three top leaders in Hurriyat are already endorsing QMC line. What Inquilabi says is more revealing. He stated, "we have friends in the Hurriyat. Some of them have been our teachers. Even the Mirwaiz recently said that Pakistan's policy on Azad Kashmir is not clear".

The fundamentalist fringe of the separatist camp e.g. Ghulam Nabi Fai and Ayub Thokur is also coming closer to QMC.

Ayub Thokur, who coordi-

nated the separatist activities from Rabita-ul-Islam headquarters in Saudi Arabia has come out with a five page document for extending the separatist agenda. He has asked Hurriyat leaders to restructure Hurriyat Conference and has suggested the new nomenclature "Freedom Party" for it. Thokur has opposed the separate existence and identity of the different political groups in the conglomerate. In an apparent reference to Jamaat Islami, Thokur asks parties with religious orientation to divest themselves of their political agenda and instead concentrate only on religious work.

Thokur's document unravels the hidden agenda of the non-Hurriyat separatists. He promotes the idea of setting up a parallel government in J&K and the opening of its missions in world capitals. The countries mentioned are US, UK, Russia, France, China, Belgium, Germany, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan and New Delhi.

CBI starts probe

KS Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 14: Even as the inquiry report of Kot Bhalwal jail break involving escape of Irfan and others is still awaited, CBI started probe into the subsequent jail break attempt of the militants from the same jail in June 99. The jail break attempt was foiled at the time when the militants were close to escape through a tunnel dug by them. The investigation team is headed by CBI DySP Mr Ohra.

Meanwhile, in yet another attempt, 5 foreigners escaped from Ramgarh police post killing an SPO and injuring one another. Police claimed that the escapees were not militants and were being deported after completing their sentence. However, it is a mystery that if these people were innocent deported why they made their escape in such a way.

Army foils terrorist plan

KS Correspondent

Indian Army has foiled the terrorist gameplan of setting up "liberated areas" in Kupwara and Poonch sectors by launching a special 'search and destroy' operation to blast militant hideouts. These operations were launched in north and south of the Pir Panjal ranges dividing the Kashmir valley. Additional troops have been moved in for these specialised counter-insurgency operations.

The responsibility of CI operations in the Valley and Jammu region has been restored to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of 15 and 16 Corps. Both the Corps commanders have been reverted as Security Advisors to the State Government. For these operations two special forces have been raised. "Kilo Force" (K for Kashmir) is tackling insurgency in north Kashmir.

It will replace 8 Mountain Division. The latter had been moved from the Valley to Drass for evicting the intruders during the Kargil war. The K-Force, it is said has people specially trained in counter insurgency warfare and capable of launching effective seek and destroy operations. The other "seek and

destroy" operations. The other "seek and destroy force" Romeo force is tackling the insurgency in Rajouri-Poonch sector.

The new strategy adopted by the government comes in the wake of massive influx of foreign mercenaries in the aftermath of Kargil. While official sources put the number at two thousand, unofficial sources estimated that around 2500 militants entered Baramulla and Kupwara alone. A mercenary leader claims that there were at least three thousand militants in Kupwara district alone. 90% of these are foreign mercenaries affiliated to Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami (HJI), Lashkar-e-Toiba, Al Badr, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Hizbul Mujahideen. Most of them are in the age group of 17-23 years. These mercenaries, operate under a "unified command" and roam about in groups of 20 to 30. The mercenaries, as per intelligence reports, have dug-in on the upper reaches of Kupwara and Baramulla.

Reports add that Pakistan intended to create Kargil-type intrusions in Gurez, Kupwara, Uri and Poonch. Kupwara because of its strategic location was found to be ideal and naturally large number of battle-hardened mercenaries were pushed.

Thickest concentration of mercenaries in Kupwara is in the four belts of Rajwa (Zachadar-Bungus Valley), Ramhal, Kandi and Lolab. These are thick forest belts and were virtually "out of bound," areas for the security forces. A number of training camps have been set up for Kashmiri recruits here. Plenty of Shoulder-fired stinger missiles, mortar guns, rocket launchers, UMGS, sophisticated Kenwood and ICom radio sets are believed to be in the terrorist arsenal in this belt.

Reports from Kupwara say that these heavily-armed mercenaries have been making daytime movement, conducting identification parades, checking identity cards of passengers, raising concrete bunkers in dense forests and taking essential commodities from the main markets to their hideouts by paying heavily for rations. At some places mercenaries had camouflaged with burning lanterns as if they were civilian patrols. Later on they launched attacks on the army camps.

It was in Kupwara that ISI pushed special suicide squads to strike at vital military, paramilitary and intelligence formations. Nearly twenty personnel of security forces have been killed in

these attacks. Over five hundred potential targets belonging to political parties, police and renegade groups have fled.

Informed sources say that alongside enlarging 'free run' territories, ISI was planning to set up a "Government-in-Exile".

In this Division-level operation the Indian Army has achieved notable successes. It is one of the biggest operations of its kind and covers Kandi, Lolab forests, Kalaroos, Dever and Bandipore forests. Two additional brigades were recently moved into Kupwara. Army has pressed helicopters to strafe mercenary infested forests in Ramhal, Rajawar and Nowgam. Mercenaries had been using many natural caves in the mountainous ranges and forests of the belt for safe shelter.

Early snowfall and army pressure has forced some of the mercenaries to migrate. Nearly hundred mercenaries are reported to have exfiltrated into PoK. About 12 migrating mercenaries were killed on October 15, while trying to cross LoC from Kupwara sector.

Security forces have been able to smash some of the three to seven year old hideouts located in the high mountain ranges. The casualties on the

mercenary side have been heavy due to airtaxing. Dozens of militants have been killed. In early October in one week alone twenty one mercenaries were killed in Machil sector.

According to Defence Ministry sources, as many as 368 militants have been killed in operation Shakti (Kupwara) and operation Vijay (Pir Panjal ranges). 64 terrorists have been arrested. 53 hideouts have been smashed and more than 490 weapons seized. In September alone, the security forces killed 145 militants, the highest so far in any one month in three years. In October so far 100 terrorists have been killed and 170 weapons recovered. The escalation of militancy has also resulted in high casualties among security forces. This year 382 army personnel have been killed till September 30, while between 1998-99 the number of casualties was 969.

The total number of militants killed in J&K till September 30 is 762. In Jammu region the number of militants killed is 347, while in 1998 it was 358. In Poonch sector the casualties among militants in September have been 26, while on the army side it has been eleven.

Kashmir: What is the Solution

By K.L. Moza

I was murdered, I was butchered, I was cut into pieces, I was forcibly converted to their faith. I have been thrown out of my Valley lock stock and barrel. I am languishing in tattered tents and one room ovens guarded by poisonous reptiles, far away from the city like an outcaste. It is worse than Jewish Ghettos, worse than concentration camps. I am suffering in such subhuman conditions, in torrential rain, in scorching heat with mercury touching 45 degrees enveloped by dust storms and gazing expectantly with Hungry looks towards my Panun Kashmir. I am dreaming of the day when I shall be back to my home where I was tortured several times for the last 1400 years. I am surviving on this slender thread of hope. I was there then. I existed. I did not perish. I still exist though in Exile for the last ten years.

Zul Qadir Khan chained me as a slave with my 50000 brethren to be sold in far off markets but enroute we perished in a blizzard. Sikander Butshikan converted my brethren. Those who resisted were killed. Others who could, fled. Just eleven families remained and withstood the tyranny.

The bodies of those killed

were thrown in Dal Lake and an island was formed there which is nicknamed as *Bata Mazar* (Graveyard of Pandits). In the Islamic tradition, I was stoned to death as a "Kafir" at a place which is still called as Kanikoot (Stone Crusher).

I was attacked in a peaceful and a picturesque place just short of Pahalgam which is still called-Batakoot (Crushing place of Pandits). My mothers, sisters, daughters cried for help but I stood watching as a wounded helpless witness. I was there when six maunds of Sacred Brahminical thread (Jenu) were collected, from the bonded necks of my brethren and burnt during the rule of Sultan Sikandar. I was there when Haider Shah got our noses and ears chopped off which was followed by loot, rape and arson. That was 1470-72.

I survived inspite of massacre of Zul Qadir Khan. I survived poverty, starvation, disease and mental torture. Even during the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh, I was attacked on 13th July 1931 under the guise of freedom movement.

I am either one amongst the lost tribe of jews or one amongst ancient Aryan settlements, which had settled on the banks of Saraswati. But I am now rootless.

I fled alongwith thousands others, on foot, and on horse backs through dense and dark forests, crossing 9000 to 14000 feet high peaks of Pir Panjal. Enroute to the plains, many died of hunger. Most of them detoured to Bhaderwah and Kishtwar from Batawath (Pandit Route) which has got metamorphosed into Batote. Some settled there while some dragged on and found refuge in Allahabad, Varanasi, Delhi (at Sitaram Bazar), Lucknow (in Kashmiri Mohalla) and even as far as in Assam to save themselves.

VIEW POINT

The condition is no different between 1320 and 1948 onwards. On a Navreh (New Year) function held at the constitution club (now called Vithal Bhai F... house) in the year 1950, late KN Katju, the then Home Minister of India, said, "Then we fled on foot or on horse backs and now we use vehicular transport. Conditions have not changed". Late Jawahar Lal Nehru, late Smt Rameshori and late Dr Sidh Nath Kaul, all were present.

What is the solution?

Panun Kashmir, (A separate piece of land within Kashmir for

Kashmiri Pandits). None will be evacuated not even, our Kashmiri Muslims brethren who can coexist with us. It should be centrally administered. Our boys and girls be given compulsory arms training for two years to meet the challenge of the terrorists and the mercenaries. We should have a University of our own, separate Medical and an Engineering College. Initial expenditure will be Rs 1000 (one thousand). Crore. All other details can be worked out.

Jammu Leh and Kargil should be separate states or else centrally administered states.

Let there be plebiscite in Kashmir whether they want India, Pakistan or Independent Kashmir. If this is done, people of occupied Kashmir-Bunji-Gilgit-Chilas and Sakardu etc should be included. They are totally fed up with Pakistan but their condition has not come into focus. Mafia is in full control. No elections have been held there. Majority of people living there are living below poverty line.

This may save us from future torture, forcible conversions and inhuman existence.

● *Sh. K.L. Moza is a retired Central Govt. Employee who has been a well known Trade Union leader of national stature.*

European diplomat lobby for American line

KS correspondent

Recently a six-member team of Ambassadors and Diplomats of European countries Union visited J&K to "assess" the ground situation. The team included members from Canada, Italy, Finland, Sweden and Germany.

The team met a cross section of people and senior government officials. Among displaced Kashmiris it has been pre-instructed to avoid "inconvenient groups" challenging its purpose of visit.

The discussions which the team had with different people left one convinced that the group had come to lobby support for the American plans on Kashmir. The group also gave the impression that it considered displaced Kashmiris' role as obstructionist to the American plans. It underplayed the sufferings of the displaced.

These diplomats favoured greater autonomy to the Kashmir valley and the territory occupied by Pakistan to be followed by dilution or deescalation of tension along LoC. Subsequently a free passage was to be guaranteed to the people living in Kashmir and PoK. When at a meeting with a couple of intel-

(Contd. on page 10)

ISI recruiting Hindus and UP Muslim youth

KS Correspondent

Recent moves by ISI point towards a strategy where this notorious outfit is trying to extend tentacles of subversion to West Bengal, North-East and UP. ISI has established a strong nexus with separatist organisations of north east, underworld dons of Mumbai, the smugglers of Nepal. The drug mafia in Pakistan is a key element in this strategy.

About the extension of this subversion, the recent report of RAW, country's external intelligence agency, on threat perception mentions among other things: "The list of the suspected targets of militant groups is growing. It is not just in J&K but also in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat where the communal couldron can be stirred".

The Gujarat police has already put under watch 150 Kutch villagers working either as criminals or border smugglers. They are being suspected in infiltration and cross movement of contraband goods. In Rajkot large number of madrassas have come up with clandestine funds. In-

creasing fundamentalist and anti-national activities has been noticed in these madrassas. In the last seven years the number of these madrassas has gone up twenty-fold.

Intelligence reports say that ISI is training a group of Muslim youth from UP. It is apparently part of the larger gameplan under which Pakistan proposes to spread violence in UP and Bihar besides other states. Saharnpur, Aligarh, Moradabad, Gorkhpur, Lucknow etc are emerging as centres with increased ISI activity. Reports say large quantities of arms have been dumped in these areas. It is through this network that Kashmir separatist manage to infiltrate and exfiltrate from Nepal.

The sensational arrest of one Manzoor Ahmed, a resident of Moradabad by Army in Poonch recently revealed the contours of ISI game-plan to destabilise northern India. Army recovered large quantities of arms and ammunition from him. During interrogation he disclosed that more than 120 boys from UP were under going training in

subversion in PoK. Intelligence reports reveal that ISI agents are funding madrassas run by Deoband school of thoughts to motivate young boys of the area to launch Jihad against India. Most of these youth are in the age-group of 15-18. Police also seized 1200 books containing rabid fundamentalist propaganda. These books meant for indoctrination of Muslim youth in schools and colleges, had been published in Moradabad. After indoctrination these youngsters are sent in groups via Nepal to Pakistan.

Luring of Hindu youth in Jammu came to surface when BSF arrested one Raj Kumar of Satwari recently. He was nabbed while crossing the border. This jobless youth had allegedly been enticed by smugglers in Punjab. Besides courier job, Kumar was also asked to smuggle narcotics from RS Pura border and on return act as guide for militants by helping them cross and to plan safe hideouts. This is a new strategy as terrorist operators feel security forces will not suspect their movement and hence their incriminating material will land in safe hands.

Ministers, bureaucrats protect militants-Chaman

KS Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 16: Union Minister of State Civil Aviation, Prof Chaman Lal Gupta today alleged that some ministers of NC govt and bureaucrats are protecting the militants and anti-national elements.

Mr Gupta, who was given a rousing welcome on his visit to Jammu after being inducted in the Union Ministry, said to reporters that "it is difficult rather impossible to contain militancy unless the black sheeps are flushed out from the administration" and alleged that even some NC ministers and bureaucrats are protecting militants. He stressed the need of involving local people to fight militancy and said that

VDC's will be further strengthened.

Mr Gupta said that local BJP unit was opposed to induction of Umar Farooq in the ministry but the national leadership has bigger perspective of national interest. He said that as BJP activists are followers of late Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, therefore there was no question of compromise on national ideology. He further asserted to continue the struggle for total integration of the state with India. Mr Gupta described "State Autonomy Report" as an instrument of NC to befooled the masses and blackmail centre. He asserted that BJP will oppose any attempt to revert to pre-1952 position for the state.

Liberate PoK-JKNFI

KS Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 26: The Jammu and Kashmir National Front International (JKNFI) organised a convention to celebrate the historical event of accession of J&K with India. Many eminent personalities including Prof TN Shalla, MP Vaid Vishnu Dutt, BJP State President DK Kotwal and Prant Pracharak RSS Indresh Kumar spoke on the occasion. The resolution passed demanded abrogation of Article 370 and implementation of parliamentary resolution to liberate PoK.

Cops arrested for militant nexus

KS Correspondent

ANANTNAG, Oct 19: Amidst allegations of militants having planted their elements in police force, 9 policemen have been arrested for alleged involvement in militancy related incidents. The arrested SPO's were at guard duty residence of NC activist Sikander, a militant turned politician, at village Yaripora. The SPOs reportedly hid a service weapon to supply it to militants and said that they were attacked by militants and the weapon was snatched. But, subsequent interrogation proved it a tailored theory to give it a militancy angle. The weapon has been recovered now.

Secretariat again attacked

KS Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 28: The security forces were again caught off guard when militants launched yet another grenade attack on Civil Secretariat Srinagar in broad day light. Three government employees were killed and 18 others injured in the attack.

Allotments of plots to legislators

KS Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 18: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court today rejected plea of State government to vacate the stay on construction of the houses on the plots allotted to farmer and present MLA's and MLCs. The plea was rejected by the justice Arun Kumar Goel.

77 policemen killed

KS Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 21: Inspector General of Police Jammu range Mr RR Raju claimed that J&K police is now actively participating in anti-militancy operations and has achieved major successes. After paying tributes to police martyrs on 'Police Commemoration Day' he said that 77 policemen from J&K laid their lives from Sep 1998 to August ending.

The court in earlier ruling had stopped the construction on these allotted plots and directed Jammu Development Authority (JDA) to enforce the directions. It may be recalled that these plots were sanctioned by the Farooq government in favour of MLA's and MLC's in 1989 but their allotment was subsequently rejected by the Governor Jaganmohan in 1990.



Arrested accused in the secretariat blasts.

Secretariat blasts accused nabbed

KS Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 22: Police today claimed to have solved the mystery of grenade blasts on Civil Secretariat on Sept 29 after SOG Budgam arrested 4 Harkat-ul-Mujahideen militants involved in the attack.

Giving details, IGP Kash-

mir Zone Mr Gopal Sharma, said that the arrested militants have confessed their crime and revealed the modus operandi in the sensational attack. The van used in the attack belonged to an advocate while the weapon was kept in custody of Abdul Ahad Parray

at Safed Masjid. One of the militants arrested is Shakeel Gandroo who describes himself as Harkats' group commander. He is a employee of state Fire Services department presently posted at Fire Station Syed Hamidpora Nawab Bazar.

KASHMIR SENTINEL

November 1st — 15th, 1999

Talk Trap

America has reactivated its diplomacy. It is putting pressure on the NDA government for a dialogue with the revanchist leadership that has taken over in Islamabad. Why are Americans so desperate about this dialogue? After all, the bogey of South Asia as a nuclear flashpoint is their creation.

US has made its own contribution in the deterioration of the security environment in South Asia and in uneasy relationship between India and Pakistan. Over the years it patronised Pakistan Army for pursuit of its imperial interests. It has huge stakes in the flourishing of the nexus between narcotics and cross-border terrorism. With the civilian buffer gone, this rogue army will be more ruthless in pursuit of its professed aims. Gen Musharraf is on record having said "the acquisition of Kashmir by Pakistan can wait. What is more important is to keep the Indian army bleeding in Kashmir...even if the Kashmir issue is resolved, there cannot be normal relations..." Why should such a leadership be interested in a serious dialogue with India? Is not uncle sam trying to bail out these paranoid generals?

India has rightly insisted that the end of cross-border terrorism and de-escalation along LoC must precede the dialogue. Time has come when America has to do some soul searching about its own role in South Asia. It has ignored Indian sensibilities on cross-border terrorism and has been peddling those solutions on Kashmir, which have the potentiality of pushing the country to the brink of a civil war. By linking every foreign policy move in the subcontinent with nuclear issue and Kashmir, Americans are fanning the flames of terrorism and sending wrong signals to the Pak military leadership.

Besides American concern over Pan Islamic terrorism appears to be only US-centric. That is why it censures rogue leaders and not rogue ideologies or rogue states. It is imperative that Indians ask US to do some introspection.

Kashmir Sentinel

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Coups in Pakistan - Genesis

P.K. Kothari

The standoff between Gen. Musharraf and Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the deposed Pakistani premier, ended with Musharraf overthrowing Sharif in a coup. It was after eleven years that army has again taken direct control of the government. Though during these years the civilian regimes were in power, yet the army kept them on a tight leash through abuse of the extra-constitutional powers of the President and the judiciary.

Nawaz Sharif had realized that no civilian regime could function if the troika that hindered the democratic functioning of the government was not handled and stripped of its extra-powers. He denuded the Presidential office of its extra-authority and removed the Chief Justice of the Pakistan's Supreme Court. His last and the real target was the army.

KARAMAT'S REMOVAL

In October 1998, the former army chief Gen. Jehangir Karamat had mooted the idea of a National Security Council, which could allow the army a direct role in running the national affairs. Karamat was of the view that "Pakistan could not afford Political unrest or the destabilizing effect of polarization, vendettas and insecurity driven expedient policies". He had also said that the need of the hour was total focus on economy, external links with China, Iran, Afghanistan, India, US and the internal situation,

specially Sindh, the sectarian aspect and finally the fears of the smaller provinces. This proposal evoked mixed reactions from political leaders, but Sharif asked Gen. Karamat to resign. Another reason for asking resignation was that Karamat had refused to clear the Kargil intrusion.

The army resented this action but it was not prepared to back Karamat. It perceived him as a relatively secular, professional and a modern General. Ideological establishment of the army did not trust Karamat. In fact, in a series of unsigned editorials, Pakistan army's mouth piece, *Hilal*, had run a vicious campaign against Karamat lampooning him for his pro-west, India-friendly and moderate views. With little support from the army hard-core, Karamat was left with little options. So, he quit and joined Track-II diplomacy circuit.

Benazir also interfered with the army, but never went beyond rhetoric. She had once advised the army to give up the old "outdated notion that it was a guardian not merely of the territorial but also the ideological frontiers of Pakistan". For committing this "sin", she was dismissed by the President Ishaq Khan at the instance of Gen. Aslam Beg. Nawaz Sharif had removed one brilliant army chief and two naval chiefs. He had brought his family retainer, Lt. Gen. Zia-uddin as ISI chief. This despite the fact that he had no combat experience and belonged to the engineering corps.

Sharif began interfering with army more directly. He cultivated nearly two dozen Generals in the army. Sharif used Kargil humiliation to the hilt to cut Gen. Musharraf and army to size. Through the "revelations" of Niaz Naik, he tried to pit army against the US.

It seems that the army decided to fight back for its institutional image and interests.

slice of this pie came in conflict with brass who were bulk of the problem.

What set off the army prompted the military and hard-liners the decision to move to close training centres directly impinging



(Gen Pervez Musharraf with the Pakistan President, Mr. Rafiq Tarar, at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad.)

The army accused Sharif of undermining the cohesion of Corps Commander and the Army Chief.

NARCOTIC SPOILS

Army had been having a running duel with the Sharif regime. It was opposed to the Lahore peace process and the Kargil withdrawal. Another arena of conflict between the two was over the spoils of the narcotics trade. After the Afghan war, the narcotics industry had been worth 20 billion US dollars. Sharif wanted a bigger

support base. conflict which recently was a stabilize Sharif blamed

Gen. Musharraf's ambitions. In the Pakistani Customs car in the NW carrying a huge and ammunition led to the sure that the army for some disgruntled in the Pakistan wanted to overtake

Pakistan : Shias under

Sentinel Bureau

Shias in Pakistan have become vulnerable in the ongoing sectarian strife. In PoK the Taliban militiamen, who are being resettled under a sinister plan, have let loose a reign of terror against the Shia community of Northern Areas. Immediately after the Kargil misadventure by Pakistan, people in Northern Areas, had protested against their menfolk being used as the cannon fodder. Serving in the Northern Light Infantry, their bodies had been left to rot in the mountains of Drass and Kargil. Riots took place in August. On July 27, there was a massive bomb blast near Dansam in Northern Areas. Anti establishment protests were also reported from Kharmang, Shingo and Satpara in early August. The local Shias demanded that the Mujahideen be removed from Skardu. The Commissioner and DIG, Police, Chitral rushed to affected areas and an additional 10 platoons of para-military forces were sent to defuse the

situation. To neutralise the growing resentment of the locals, the Pakistan government has now offered a constitutional package to Northern Areas. This includes a legislative assembly, a high court, and a university. Besides this Northern Light Infantry has now been bestowed the status of a regular infantry battalion.

In the mainland Pakistan Shias are being targeted by a Sunni fundamentalist militant outfit, Sipah-i-Sahaba. The campaign started with the gunning down of a top Shia religious leader Khurshid Anwar, an advocate, his young daughter and his guard by Sipah Sahiba militants, in Dera Ismail Khan on September 28. His wife and another guard were critically injured in the attack. Just before the killings, Maulana Azam Tariq, a leader of Sipah Sahiba from Punjab was released, after being tried by the court on charges of involvement in murder of Shiite Muslims. Reacting to the killings, Allama Rashid Turabi, leader of Shiite Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan alleged that

Sipah Sahiba militants were responsible for killings and said "they want to eliminate the Shia community".

On October 1, another nine people belonging to Shia sect

On October 1, IGP of Police, Shiite Muslim by Sipah activists as he came out to go to office. In

Shiite body warns of Algeria-like war

A leading Shiite organisation has warned of civil war situation in Pakistan if attacks against are not stopped immediately and has ordered members of the community to defend themselves.

The warning came from the head of the front-organisation Tahreek-e-Jafria Pakistan (TJP) Naqvi yesterday even as three more Shia Muslim down near Saragodha in Punjab by unidentified

Naqvi accused the militant Sunni organisation Shahaba Pakistan (BSP) of carrying out the killings of Muslims across Pakistan while rejecting the early contention that Indian Intelligence Agency RAW in the spurt of sectarian violence.

were gunned down, when unidentified assailants opened indiscriminate firing in a mosque. As per police, four unidentified persons with automatic weapons entered Masjid Hur Imam Bargah in Golden Town District East Karachi. They sprayed bullets at the people performing their morning prayers.

in the southern Muzaffargarh. Shiite Tehreek-e-Jafria Pakistan (TJP) were unidentified gunmen

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government and install Gen.
Musharaff as head of an Islamic
state.

SHARIF LEGACY

Sharif enjoyed a brute parliamentary majority, but frittered away this advantage. He started witch-hunting even those who could have been his possible allies in the fight against the army. Sharif terrorized the political class, made bureaucracy a handmaiden and reduced legislators to an obsequi-

sive state fraud, sectarian strife and total economic chaos is the legacy that Sharif has left behind. Pakistan's foreign debt stands at 32 billion US dollars and the foreign exchange reserves are just 1.46 billion dollars. 30% of the budget is consumed by the defence, another 36% goes for debt servicing, while government establishments gobble up 30%; just 4% is left for development and welfare.

MUSHARAFF'S ROLE

Pakistanis as citizens of a 'failed state' today look to General Musharaff for deliverance. If army fails, the mood in the street, as the veteran commentator, I.A. Rehman notes it, is that a chance be then given to Mullah Raj. The alienation of the people is total.

Even such conscience keepers of Pakistan Najam Sethi and Ayaz Amir have endorsed the coup. Sethi cynically writes, "The political record of the last decade of 'democracy' is dismal. Benazir Bhutto blundered from pillar to post during 1988-90. Sharif plundered Pakistan (1990-93) as if there was no tomorrow. ... Clearly another round of elections, without sweeping the decks will not do. The same crooks will return to power and exact a terrible revenge all over again."

The noted analyst, Ayaz Amir says, "The army's hand was forced. If it had not done what it did, it would have stood condemned before the bar of

(Contd. on page 11)



Ziauddin: goodbye to all that

ous flock. How Sharif delegitimised his own regime is aptly summed up by Beena Sarwar, a renowned columnist of *The News on Sunday*, Lahore. She writes, "... he had dismantled all constitutional mechanisms that could check his office, taken one undemocratic step after another, and alienated all sections of society. ... It was fine, apparently, for Sharif to mess with every other institution - the press, non-governmental organisations, judiciary, political opponents. The army obviously was a different story. ... He virtually forced the Chief's hand."

Corruption through mas-



Rafiq Tarrar,

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7, a senior offi- a TV channel-2 Mohammed Rizvi ie day three doc- opkeeper, were

killed in Karachi. The police failed to arrest a single culprit. All the deceased belonged to the Shia community.

The anti-Shia violence claimed more than 30 lives. Shia leaders belonging to Shoora Wahdat-e-Islami and Tehrik-e-Jafaria accused Chief Minister of Punjab Shahbaz Sharif of releasing terrorists and fanatics from jails. "Just to collect political support". The recent spate of violence against Shias was a result of the same action, they alleged.

Meanwhile, Shia leaders served an ultimatum to the Pakistan government to immediately stop the anti-Shia violence.

There is a widespread belief that the ongoing violence against Shias is being engineered by Pakistani security agencies in an attempt to dislodge the Nawaz Sharif government. To cover up its complicity, the agencies tried to implicate RAW. As this had few takers in Pakistan, on Oct 6 Pakistan lodged a strong protest to Taliban over the involvement

of youth trained in Afghan camps in the recent spate of sectarian violence in the country. It has also demanded that the Taliban hand over some of Pakistan's most wanted terrorists believed to be living in camps inside Afghanistan. Several of the most wanted sectarian terrorists like Riaz Basra escaped to Afghanistan early this year following a police crack-down back home.

Reacting to the sectarian violence the leading English daily, Dawn commented: "The problem in Pakistan is that religious bigotry and fanaticism have acquired militant overtones. Virulent hatred towards members of different sects is not only preached but glorified. Not surprisingly, those who distinguish themselves in acts of sectarian violence are revered as holy warriors and extolled as examples to be emulated. Thus an entire culture of religiously-inspired militancy has evolved which threatens the peace and security of the country."

Wrath of militant Islam

By Ash Narain Roy

It is not just governments in Algeria and Egypt which are battling powerful Islamic movements. The spectre of Islamic extremism is haunting practically every Islamic regime from North Africa to Central Asia. Ironically, even the regimes which have been blamed for spawning fanaticism and orthodoxy in public conduct are fighting to suppress their own fundamentalist movements.

Just as reverberations from the Iranian revolution of 1979 continue to unsettle the Mmiddle East, the continuing Algerian crisis is threatening the stability of nearly every country in North Africa. Many believe the threat of Islamic terrorism even on French soil is now becoming real. While Muslim militants have gained political strength in Sub-Saharan Africa, the young Central Asian republics of the old Soviet Union are seeking a new Islamic identity.

The rise of Islamic extremism has been phenomenal and has assumed various forms, sometimes taking the path of violence and sometimes of democracy. It has inspired terror among some, hope among others, altering the lives of millions of Muslims from Algeria to Afghanistan, Egypt to Pakistan. Islamic militants have been ruthless and indiscriminate in their use of violence and increasingly intolerant in their social attitudes, especially towards emancipated women and secular intellectuals.

The rapidity with which militant Islamists seem to be taking hold of Algeria and Egypt has been viewed with growing concern especially as these countries had for long been looked upon as a bastion against religious bigotry in North Africa and West Asia respectively. Last month the challenge posed by Islamic militants figured prominently on the agenda of the Organisation of Islamic Conference summit at Casablanca and the Gulf Cooperation Council in Bahrain.

Emergency

For the first time in its history, Algeria held multi-party elections in December 1991. But when it appeared the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) would win by a landslide, the government abruptly annulled the vote, banned the FIS and declared a state of emergency. Muslim extremists have waged a ruthless terror campaign, claiming hundreds of lives against Algeria's secular establishment.

Algerian intellectuals and the elite, who are heavily westernised both by training and outlook and foreigners including diplomats have become regular targets of terrorism. The Alge-

rian Islamists aim at nothing less than the extirpation of all manifestations of Western intrusion. Hence the campaign to kill intellectuals, unveiled women and foreigners. The original liberation struggle, Islamists maintain, is incomplete.

Reconciliation

The Algerian government is in a bind. If it allows the FIS to compete in elections, it risks an Islamic State. An Islamic victory even by democratic means could easily be a case of "one man, one vote, once", as an American diplomat has said. If the government does not, it kills hopes for democracy. Given the open rejection of democracy by some Islamist leaders and others' espousal of it as only tactical, there is little possibility of

councils. The twin cocktail of a Kurdish and Islamic resurgence is threatening to shake the foundations of the secular republic carved from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire.

Even in a country like Saudi Arabia, widely viewed as one of the world's most fundamentalist Islamic States, King Fahd has himself denounced Islamic extremists, warning religious hardliners against the distribution of anti-government tape cassettes and literature and the use of mosques as pulpits to incite people against the ruling family.

Iran and Saudi Arabia with competing aims and agendas are engaged in a fierce rivalry to establish their versions of Islamic fundamentalism in six



Freshly inducted foreign mercenaries of Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami holding positions openly in Ramhall belt of Kupwara district.

reconciliation. Attempts at dialogue with imprisoned FIS leaders have been abortive. The hardline group of "eradicateurs" favour the option once chosen by Syrian President Hafez al-Assad when he destroyed the ancient city of Hama killing tens of thousands of people in 1982. But Algeria is not Syria.

The Algerian civil war is casting a dark shadow over the neighbouring countries like Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. While President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia has crushed the militant Hibz al-Nahada movement, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is battling against Islamic radicals, particularly those belonging to the officially outlawed organisation 'Gama al-Islamiya', waging a guerrilla war against Egypt's secular, pro-western government. The Islamists' declaration of war on foreign tourists is threatening to undermine Egypt's tourism industry that pumps \$3 billion a year into Egypt's economy.

In Turkey, which has presented itself as the model for a modern, tolerant version of Islam, the Islamic-based Refah Party has made dramatic gains in municipal elections. The RP has control of 28 of the 76 city

Muslim republics of formerly Soviet Central Asia. The Fergana Valley--shared by Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan--is a hotbed of militant Islam. While Gulf benefactors have helped restore Islamic monuments in Samarkand and Bukhara, groups advocating Islamic renaissance have widened their support base on Central Asia.

At the core of every Islamist movement is a call for the introduction, sooner or later, of the Sharia. And it is precisely the interpretation and application of Sharia that strikes fear into the hearts of secular people. For all the fine words of Islamic scholars about the Koran's advocacy of tolerance and pluralism, Islamic law in practice has left little room for unbelievers. Islam has been projected by fundamentalists not as a religion of compassion, justice and equality but as an emblem of defiance, intolerance and militancy.

The Islamic movement cannot be understood as a single organisation. While some hark back to the golden age of Islam in the ninth and 10th centuries--when it was a dynamic force, Islam without borders, others blend geographical ambitions

(Contd. on page 11)

Indira Gandhi in Kashmir

(Indira Gandhi visited Kashmir for the last time on Oct 27, 1984. A few days later she was assassinated)

By Shyam Kaul

It was a clear late October morning in 1984, with a touch of a friendly chill in the autumn air. Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, was all set to board the aircraft for her return journey to Delhi after a day's visit to Srinagar. At that point of time no one could imagine that it would be her last visit to Kashmir.

Suddenly there was some commotion at the main gate of the old airport, a little distance away from the tarmac. Some one was vociferously arguing with the security staff at the entrance. All eyes turned to the gate and Mrs Gandhi's attention was drawn too. She held back her step and asked what it was all about. Immediately several security officers rushed to the gate and raced back to inform the Prime Minister that it was Kalooji Nanda, a well-known Congress party worker of Anantnag, insisting that he be allowed in.

"Let him in," ordered the Prime Minister and within minutes an agitated Kalooji was seen puffing his way, straight to Indira Gandhi. After a hurried salutation, he rightaway poured out his verbiage.

"Madam", I am sorry, I didn't get it. But I am happy. Please accept my 'mubarikbad' (congratulations)", replied Mrs Gandhi cheerfully.

"Believe me, Madam, I did send the 'ruqa'." Then pointing towards ML Fotedar, who was standing behind Mrs Gandhi, Kalooji told her, "I am sure Makhanlal has not given it to you. Pull him up in the aircraft".

"I will, I will. Give my blessings to 'dulha-dulhan'," said a visibly amused Mrs Gandhi as she climbed up the stairs.

Two days later a fabulous gift for the newly-weds arrived from the Prime Minister's house in Delhi.

Kalooji Nanda was not the only Congress worker with direct access to the Prime Minister. There were tens of them all over Jammu and Kashmir, who could approach her and talk to her with no prior appointments and without any rigid ceremoniousness and official formalities. Mrs Gandhi never discouraged her grassroot level party workers from reaching her and speaking out their mind on all sorts of matters. She often sent them small gifts and greeting cards on festivals and festive occasions.

That was Indira Gandhi's style of getting feedback on political, organisational and other matters from her party workers, down to the humblest among them. Whenever such workers travelled to Delhi, they would make it a point to call on

"Indiraji", and she never refused to meet them. She would take care of their small demands, like, for instance, quick medical treatment and performance of pilgrimage, within or outside the country. A patient listener, as Mrs Gandhi was, she would listen to her party workers telling her about the political scenario and other things in Kashmir. This would naturally give her the real feel of the overall ground situation in a sensitive place like Kashmir. Many such workers are still around.

Mr Fotedar once told me that when Mrs Gandhi met people and received visitors, she would

efficiency and vigilance on the intelligence front.

Again in 1999, when there was an unprecedented and shameful intelligence failure in Kargil, one wonders whether things would have gone that bad if non-official political channels between Srinagar and Delhi had been active. It is an irony that it was left to a shepherd to tell the army of the large presence of Pakistani intruders in the entire Kargil sector.

In 1965, an ordinary Gujar, Mohammed Din, who was the first to inform the authorities of the presence of Pakistani infiltrators in the mountains of

ten in a letter to Edwina Mountbatten, that Kashmir "affects me in a particular way; it is a kind of mild intoxication—like music sometimes or the company of a beloved person.. it is the very air of Kashmir which has something mysterious and compelling about it."

Indira Gandhi was no less enamoured of Kashmir. She loved it and its people immensely. One of the objects she liked most in Kashmir was the majestic Chinar. It was surprising how she kept track of what remained of the ancient chinar at Bijbehara, said to be the oldest in Kashmir. After a

from green to the colour of fire. She said she wanted to see the "fire of chinars".

I was recording every word of Mrs Gandhi in my small tape recorder. "I have come here in May, June, July, August and also in winter months of December and January, but somehow I had never made it October".

But this time "the reason which I had mentioned to Thakur Saheb (Devi Das Thakur, who was a minister in the state cabinet) was to see the changing leaves of the chinars".

Perhaps the land of her ancestors had beckoned Indira Gandhi, through one of her loves, the chinar, to pay her farewell visit to the Valley, and convey her last message, as told to us, to the people here, "they know they have my love and concern". This message could as well have been that of her father. Five days later she was assassinated.

Mrs Gandhi was fond of Kashmiri cuisine too, especially the ubiquitous 'hakh' and "a little of Dam Aloo", as Miss Mehmooda Ahmed Ali Shah, a well-known educationist and a friend of Mrs Gandhi, put it.

During one of Mrs Gandhi's visits, the then Press Club of Srinagar, headed by veteran journalist, late RK Kak, hosted a luncheon meeting with her at Amarsingh Club. It was a compact and informal get-together and, as food was served, Mr Kak provided opportunity to every journalist present to have an informal word or two with the Prime Minister. She did not partake of much of non-vegetarian preparations and I asked her about it. She said she was not a vegetarian but from her childhood she had been brought up as one. The "hangover", as she put it, was still there.

On another occasion, Mrs Gandhi addressed a crowded press conference at the government guest house. At the end of the conference, Sati Sahini, veteran journalists and ace photographer, walked up to her with a large picture of her, requesting her to autograph it.

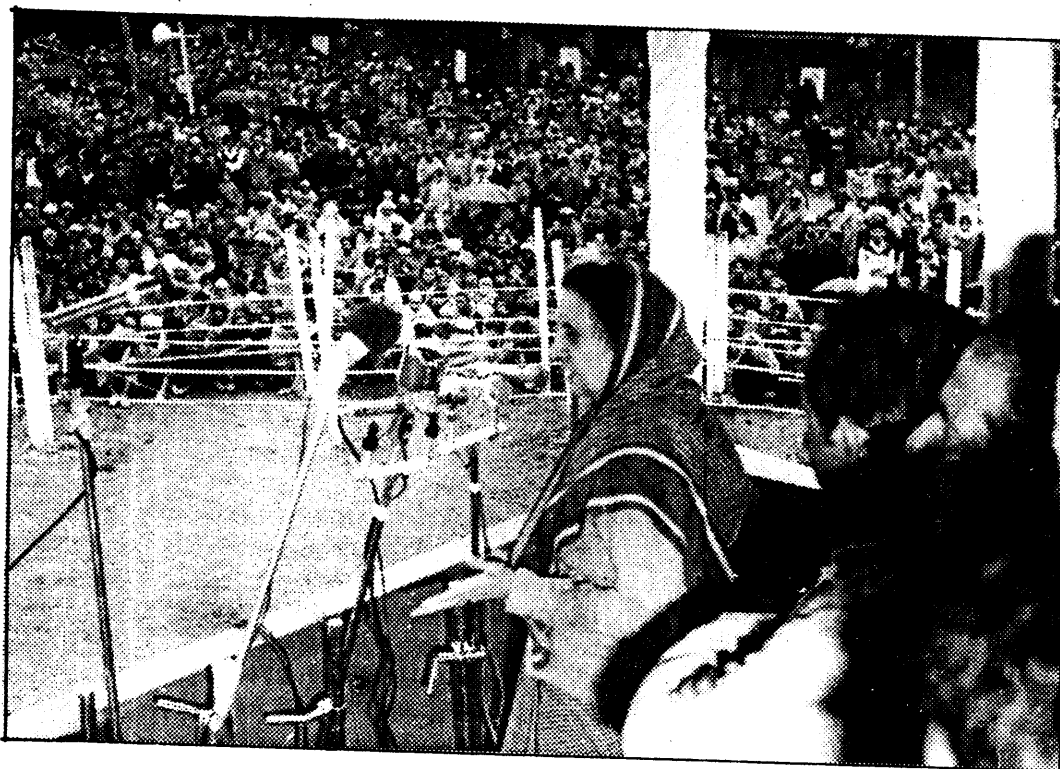
"Do you want my signatures in English, Hindi or Urdu?" She asked. "Madam, anything you like", replied Satiji.

"Noting irritates a hostess more than when she asks her guest whether he or she would like coffee or tea, and the reply is "anything", said Mrs Gandhi cheerfully.

Sitting across her table, in the front row, I wedged in, "Madam, the question doesn't arise here, we were offered neither."

There was laughter all around, with Mrs Gandhi joining in too. The officers of the

(Contd. on page 10)



Mrs Gandhi addressing a mammoth public gathering at Shangus-Anantnag during 1983 assembly elections.

make it a point that no party worker, from any part of the country, went away without getting the opportunity of having a word or two with her.

No Prime Minister after Indira Gandhi maintained her level of rapport with party workers at lower levels, at least in Jammu and Kashmir. Nor could anyone of them establish such non-official feedback channels. Rajiv Gandhi, who owed his political career to his mother, ceased to maintain and utilise any such channels. Even the then Pradesh Congress President, Mufti Sayed, who was among the most trusted confidants of Mrs Gandhi, rarely had an audience with Mrs Gandhi's successor.

One wonders if things would have been different in 1989-90 if the leadership in Delhi had got the right signals and feedback from political and non-governmental sources in Kashmir, which was struck by fundamentalist terrorism like a lightning. In retrospect, such feedback and signals would perhaps have been very helpful, in view of the fact that the then government in Kashmir was not known for its

Gulmarg, was treated as VIP and bestowed with national honour, mainly due to the efforts of Mrs Gandhi, who was the I&B minister at that time. After 1989, when Pakistan-sponsored terrorist violence hit the Valley and every symbol of Indianhood became the target of the new gun cult, Mohammed Din was gunned down. He had not been provided with any security by the government.

In May 1999, a humble villager of Garkhun (Batalik) in Kargil, Morup Tsering and his brother, Tashi Namgyal, were the first to inform the army of the presence of Pakistani intruders in Kargil-Batalik sector. Indian army threw back the intruders. Several months later, in October 1999, when the correspondent of a national daily went to see these unsung heroes, she asked Tsering whether he had been given any 'shabashi' by the concerned authorities.

"I am being interrogated till today," replied the guileless man of the mountains. Let us hope and pray that Tsering and Namgyal do not end up the Mohammed Din way.

Pandit Nehru had once writ-

visit to the Valley, she had written to her friend, Pupul Jayakar, "You know, Pupul, Bijbehara chinar is dying".

It was a cruel accident of fate that Indira Gandhi paid her last visit to Kashmir, a few days before she was assassinated, with the sole purpose of seeing the chinar in autumn.

When Mrs Gandhi arrived at Srinagar airport on the morning of Saturday, October 27, 1984, there were only three journalists present in small but select gathering that was there to receive her on, what we had been told, was a "strictly private visit". Early that morning I had got the information about the Prime Minister's visit from PCC President Mufti Sayed. I informed two of my journalist colleagues, Pran Jalali and Zafar Meraj and the three of us rushed to the airport and managed to have a chat with Mrs Gandhi, as she sipped "kehwa" under a small shamiana soon after her arrival. She said the "real reason" behind her short visit to Srinagar was to have a view of unique fire-bearing spectacle of chinars in autumn, when the leaves of the great tree change

Mahjoor--the art of eye and heart-I

By Dr. R.L. Bhat

*Aavu-lun tchor pia-la heth
phe-raan raatus doh-hus
Du-ot nae aasun-vae-li daryavun
te-mis akh kat-rah aab.*

[The whirlpool with its empty cup, swirls day-n-night; the well supplied river didn't spare a drop for it.]

These lines here, are vintage Mahjoor. The choice of words, the cadence of tones, the intimations of an unknown, unfathomed depth, are characteristically Mahjoor's. It is cited as one of the 'greatest' poetic formulations of Gh Ahmad Mahjoor [1887[1885?]-1953], the elderly poet who came to dominate the literary scene of Kashmir for the first half of this century. It could be a great line, only it is meaningless for being actually incorrect. The cup as well as the swirl, of the whirlpool are both given of water. Indeed, the river, ter filling up whirlpools' mains empty. Its cup re-lack of generosity on the of the unquenchable, whirlpool's being. Had tion-"Du-ot nah?, give...?--the lines and depth, a meaning. As it river did not give..." incorrect. It is quaint, at never took his mind lead his heart. He looked flit over the beauties, them at the level of shade and, scent, hue and sheen but no deeper, no truer. Mahjoor turned out great poetry, perfected the art of eye and heart but stopped short of making his verse the art. Today, when we look back without the benefit of Mahmood Shari vocalisation, without the appeal of novelty of lilting filmi tunes, without the benefit of a bottled up literary scene, Mahjoor comes through in his true size.



the river. They are all of proceeds further only af-cup which, though, re-mains empty not for any part of river, but because unstaible nature of the Mahjoor raised a ques-(Didn't (the river) would have gained true is, the assertion that 'the makes the line factually best. But, then, Mahjoor where his roving eyes at colours, let his heart saw them and sang of

Mahjoor came to Kashmiri as an elderly man. He was over forty when he actually turned to Kashmiri in the late twenties. Though he had written a 256-verse [unfinished] masnavi and a longish propaganda poem for the British, in Kashmiri about a decade earlier, his Kashmiri poetry began only in the late twenties. Kuliya-ti-Mahjoor, a collection of all his Kashmiri verse [Ed MY Teng, Cultural Academy], lists only eight pieces written before 1931.

Mahjoor looked down upon Kashmiri, thought of its as a language of little consequence, of very little poetic ability, and like Galib's adoring his Persian considered his Kalami-i-Urdu, colourful and beautiful. Mahjoor, had travelled thrice to Punjab, met Iqbal, Hafiz and Shibli and if his Qasida of Maharaja Hari Singh, written in 1925, is any indication had attained a feel and proficiency in Urdu versification. He was well versed in the art and intricacy of poetry, had a wide study and a stature, at least at the state level, in Urdu. He was respected, and when Mahjoor broke out in Kashmiri with Bage-Nishata-ke-gulo and Mohamood Shari, he was revered. That reverence remained unweaving till his death in 1953.

But Mahjoor did not become Mahjoor simply because of the reverence. He was a great poet, almost a genius. He is said to have possessed an outstanding memory and could recite other poets for 'hours together'. He was well read, and had a good knowledge of history of Kashmir. During his first visit to Punjab he had come in contact with Mohd-din-Fouq, the great historiographer of Kashmir. He had a thirst for knowledge, that is attested by the vast collection he left behind him. He was a numismatist and antiquarian. Above all he had been endowed with a poetic gift, that few, very few--one could even say a chosen few--can claim. And, he put these gifts to good use. His employment gave him a chance to roam the realms of Kashmir from south to north, from Kuthar to Handwara, from Kashmir to Balistan. His roving eye kept seeing the beauty, his heart kept registering it and he poured forth his intimacies in flowing verse, that ceased its train only at his death.

*suley ga-ich bedaar guli-bostanae,
Bulbul sae-nd-i afsaa-nae boz
Gash aav mutch-rav chashmae masta-nae*

Bulbul sae-nd-i afsaanai boz.

[Rise early, ye flower of the garden; list, thee the tales of the bulbul. Light is come, ope ye the misty eyes; list, ye the bulbuls' tale.]

Kashmiri, did actually wake up, opened its sporific eyes and listened to the tales the bulbul, Mahjoor strummed forth. And, what a tale it was! Mahjoor, declared early that he was pouring forth Rasul's wines, again.

*Rasul-un pron mus lod naven banan
Te ku-non trov mai-khanun ma-nz*

Rasul Mir is, the poet of love. Love rings loudest in Mahjoor's poetry. In fact Mahjoor sings of little else, apart from the tales of heart, 'vardaati-qalab,' [incidents of heart] as they say in Urdu.

*Tama-naa cha-ni deeda-ruk
mai chhum yimberza-ley bombro
Phojis ya-math lae-jis vucch-ney
Gajis chaney kaley bombro.*

[A narcissus, I ever pine to see ye O wasp, I flourished when I began to see, and am withering for a glance from thee.]

*Aja rae-ts bo ga-ri dra-yes
vana va-nae Nagai ra-yes
Lae-ni za-la val-nae aa-yes
Poshey ma-ti ja-na-no*

[At mid-night my home I left, to sing ditties to Nagae-rai, In the net of fate I got caught, Oh, my flowering lover.]

Maara ma-ti aa-vaa-ra kaer-thus

*Char-h myo-nuy Kaer-zi-hey
Roshe-ye-zi-hey ul-fa-tuk mus
lo-la kha-sen baer-zi-hey*

[Me ye have dear turned loose, me, whose care, you should've taken, Ye, should've come and loves' wine, into cups of love should've shaken].

It was love that Mahjoor sang of through two and a half decades of his life, as a poet of Kashmiri. Love, seen through shuold've varying angles, love experienced in its colourful variegations, love imagined in full variety of its bliss and bereavement.

*Lol Mohjoorus lol bol-a-navaan
Loluk karaan guftaar
Lol-ai chho saazus saaz vava-na-vaan
Lol-ae ka-raan iz-haar;
Bulbul lae-gith a-ichoo lola bagus
Chha-vaan lo-luk ba-haar*

[Love makes Mahjoor speak of love, love makes the music ring of love. Enter the garden of love as a Bulbul, enjoying the spring of love].

Love comes through in Mahjoor, in all its conventional moults. Faithlessness, pain, betrayal, indifference, rivalry, all are there in the verses lending them body and substance, as it can give.

*Van-ta-h vesi-yey be-wa-fae-yi
shae-va-yey dil-daar chha
Naz-nee-nun, mah-ja-bee-nun,
qatt-o-gae-ruth kaar chha.*

[Tell my friend, is faithlessness, the way of love, does, it behove the delicate beauties, to kill].

*Zaug heth bar tal gazal vak-tan
ba-ras ala ala karaan;
Tsoor chha, makh-moor chha
Mahjoor khosh guftaar chha*

[Hinding by the door, at early dawn, shaking the door at the hour of poesy'; is it a thief, a befuddled one? or Mahjoor, of the sweet tongue?]

*Lae-ni ni-chi-pat-rey saath vuchh-no-vum
kar sa-na mae te tus gatchi mil-tsar'
Bul gov jyo-te-shis hisaab ro-vum
Kae-mee roosha-vo-vum posha not yaar.*

[The book of destiny, I got scanned, to know when he and I shall meet. The jyotishi got mislead and lost the count, who has estranged my flowry friend].

*Lov-hot posha-ttoor nend-rey vuznovum
Zo-num ye-ti roz-naeki chhis na at-waar;
Lo-la mus cho-vum vuoor heth tro-vum
kae-mee rosha no-vum posh-a-mot yaar.*

[The loveful bud I awakened and knew it would not stay for long. My love I fed it, my essence bestowed....]

Mahjoor incidently, is said to have been quite a robust lover in his actual life. His job took him to far nooks of the Valley and he enjoyed the bounteous beauty both

literally and figuratively. One of his famous seductions is said to be the one in Handwara where he had affairs, with two daughters of a baker, simultaneously. But then Mahjoor a was tall handsome man, who was given to living in style of a romancer. He always wore spotless robes, preened and cared for his person, dyed his hair and carried the airs of a dandy. Though he was perspetually dis-satisfied with his patwaris, job, the post all the same carried a power that probably can't be dreamt of in this year 1999. Mahjoor look full measure of the love he sang of. And in the process raised love poesy to lofty heights. He laid novel ornamentations upon the expressions of love, decorated it with rare similitudes and enriched the Kashmiri poetry with gems from his gifted treasure:

*chaa-ni bu-ma-h meh-rabi masjid
roi chon ra-sh-key sa-num
Don acchhan tal jal-va-igar chhum
Koba tae but-khana chon.*

[Thy brows are the domes of the mosque, thy face is an envious idol; I see before my eyes, in thee, the ka'aba and the idol-house together]

*Shama-h tsa-yey vav-a gra-yey
posha vae-thra-h poev pathar.
Paan zin-dai zal-u-nuk vot
pon-pae-ris par-va-na chon.*

[In the evening shades a leaf, fell by the shake of a wind. The moth in this got the message thine, to fling itself alive into fire]

His escapades apart, it was the longing of love, of a yearning and pinning of heart, that Mahjoor sang to finesse. The loss of the loved one, the indifference of the object of love, the transience of 'vissal; (fulfilment), and the long lasting deprivations, come out in Mahjoor's lines in un-matched sheen and splendour. His expressions, taking inspiration, even ideas, from the masters of Urdu and Persian bring to Kashmiri tongue and tone a thoughtful depth and novel experience.

*vae-nith lola guftaar/tse te aar an-hai
Tse ddee-shiith mae zev/chham kalaan Teathi ya-ro;
Hakeem yes tse aasakh/te-mis mot kari kya-h
So bee-maar zan-h no/ba-laart ttathi ya-ro;
Chhi kar nunda-bae-n-i ka-nsi/suod roi ha-vaan.
Tai-vai zoon aaba-manz
allaan ttatthi ya-rao*

[With loveful talk, they pity I could arouse, thy sight, however, takes my voice away How'll death deal him, whose doctor art thee, that ailing one, my dear, doth never get cured. Do the beautiful ever, show their looks staight? Look the moon-keeps shaking even in water!]

(To be concluded)

NEWS BRIEF

Backdoor appointments

KC Correspondent

SRINAGAR: Responding to the question of National Panthers Party MLA, Harshdev Singh in the assembly, government admitted the backdoor appointment of 76 candidates in General Administration Department (GAD). The appointments were made during NC rule flouting all rules and norms. However, government didn't specify the reasons for such appointments.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Bashir Ahmad Kitchloo was humiliated when a ruling party member walked out of the legislative council alleging backdoor appointments in SRTC and the minister was accused of corruption.

2000 militants infiltrate

KS Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 30: DGP J&K Police Mr Jagat today admitted that 2000 militants mostly foreigners had infiltrated in to the Valley from May to August 1999 while other 150 militants infiltrated afterwards.

He disclosed that the police and security forces are going to launch a 3 month long counter-offensive in Kashmir valley and hoped of improvement during winter.

European diplomat lobby for American Line

(Contd. from page 4)

lectuals the Canadian diplomat was told that grant of greater autonomy to the two Kashmiris and a free passage for the people living on either side of the LoC could not be a lasting solution the envoy is said to have said that at least it may be the base for the final solution. The solutions being proposed by these diplomats, experts opine, would ultimately help America in gaining an independent foothold in Kashmir. US desires a solution in which neither India nor Pakistan have political and military control over the state.

The splinter faction of Panun Kashmir lead by Dr Agnishekher which had an audience with the European delegation carried out the ritualistic exercise of submitting a memorandum. It failed to expose the sinister dimensions of the visit of the European delegation. It also did not draw the attention of these diplomats to the American intrigues in Kashmir, which actually are destabilising this region".

DD's Mafia

KS Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: Amidst allegations of bunglings in allotting programmes to 'Private TV Producers', ostensibly to fight Pakistani propaganda, the Information and Broadcasting Minister Mr Arun Jaitly has recommended to total reshuffle of Kashmir Media Cell and cancellation of all current affairs programmes. The scandal surfaced during Mr Pramod Mahajan's period while a Deputy Director Doordarshan was placed under suspension. Another DDG is understood to have been suspended recently.

The TV officials with collusion of KMC allotted serials to private TV producers who do not know ABC of the same. It is understood that about 90% of private TV producers are either illiterate wives of DD officials or other influential persons.

Indira Gandhi in Kashmir

(Contd. from page 8)

State Hospitality were not amused though and the concerned minister expalined that since the small hall was too crowded, it had not been possible to serve tea or coffee.

At her press meets in Srinagar Mrs Gandhi was always in good cheer and more communicative than one expected. In fact some journalist colleagues from outside the state, who sometimes attended her press conferences in Srinagar, would often say that Mrs Gandhi was more at home at the press meets in Srinagar than anywhere else. She knew by name most of the leading mediapersons in Srinagar, especially among the reporters.

After the Congress party lost power in 1977, Mrs Gandhi once undertook an extensive tour of Kashmir, part of which I had the opportunity to cover as a reporter. One day while travelling from Bandipore to Sopore, Mrs Gandhi was stopped by large groups of women at every village enroute. They hugged and kissed her and younger ones ran with her car. At one place an old silver-haired woman embraced her and told her, "leave Delhi alone; you are ours, come here and rule over our hearts." Mrs Gandhi was visibly moved by the genuine vein of the old woman's words and asked PCC leader, GR Kar to translate the words for her, which he did. Having been a witness to the unbound and spontaneous demonstration of love which women in Kashmir showered on Mrs Gandhi, one tends to agree with Miss Mehmooda, who says, "Indira Gandhi was the darling of Kashmiri women".

Chronology of Events

Oct. 16 to Oct. 31, 1999

- Oct 16:** 2 militants were killed and a cop injured in an encounter in Mohore (Udhampur). Militants attacked an Army and SOG camp in Surankot. 2 militants were killed in Kashmir valley while 2 BSF jawans and 2 civilians were injured in grenade attack in Srinagar city. A militant was arrested in RS Pura while a suspected militant died in custody in Kishtwar.
- Oct 17:** In an encounter 5 hardcore militants and an army jawan were killed at Hari Budha (Surankot). Security forces, killed 3 militants while an army jawan was killed in indifferent encounters in Kashmir valley. 17 civilians and a constable were injured in a grenade attack at Tral.
- Troops recovered 8 rockets from Hamirpur in Chamb sector, 1 militant was gunned down in Mohore.
- Oct 18:** Militants made yet another attack on civil secretariat in Srinagar, while administration claimed break through in earlier attack. Police recovered a dead body from Ganderbal area. Forces arrested four militants in Anantnag district; 2 of them are the employees of JKAP and RRB department. A UP youth involved in militancy was arrested in Poonch district.
- Oct 19:** An Army major and 4 militants were killed in a fierce gun battle in Doda district while a dreaded militant of Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI), Janbas was arrested. While militants were killed in Surankot, 2 in Kashmir valley, 10 people-5 militants, 3 civilians and 2 soldiers were killed in different militancy related incidents.
- Oct 20:** Forces killed 13- 7 in Poonch, 4 in Banihal and 2 in Kashmir valley while an army source was killed by militants in Kashmir valley. Militants gunned down a woman in Rajouri district, who resisted an attempt of militants to take his son for arms training.
- Oct 21:** Security forces today eliminated 9 militants mostly foreigners in different operations in Poonch district, militants attacked a army camp in Surankote killing a jawan and injuring 3 others. Banihal observed a bandh against killing of 4 militants while forces arrested a HM militant from the area.
- Oct 22:** The forces eliminated 6 militants-4 LET, 2 HM-in different operations in Doda district and recovered huge quantity of arms. A Champarni massacre accused was also among the slain militants. Security forces killed 4 militants while militants killed 4 persons including 2 counter insurgents in Kashmir valley. Militants killed a civilian in Rajouri district. One more militant was killed on Surankot.
- Oct 23:** 3 BSF personnel were killed and 4 others injured in a landmine explosion near Kokernag. Security forces eliminated 6 militants in Safapora (Ganderbal). 3 children were killed while fideling with a shell at Patnar (Bandipore). 18 people were injured in an grenade attack at bus stand Bandipor, 5 militants were killed in Poonch district, 5 school children were injured in a blast in Sangla (Surankot) school, 14 people were injured in an explosion in Raghunath Bazar, Jammu.
- Oct 24:** Security forces eliminated 4 HM militants at Chandigam, Anantnag, 4 soldiers and 2 counter insurgents were injured in landmine explosion near Bindoo (Kokernag). A civilian was killed in Trehgam while a dead body was recovered in Kupwara. District police recovered a wireless set from a school teacher in Anantnag. A militant was injured in Gandoh (Doda) while a girl was injured in Pak firing in Lam sector. 13 blasts rocked Rajouri as militants targetted the police camps.
- Oct 25:** Security forces killed 2 militants who were responsible for a blast under Bafliaz bridge in Surankot, 2 militants and a civilian were injured in an encounter at Ciyari Budha (Poonch). A civilian was killed and 2 others injured Indian and Pak troops exchanged firing in Uri sector. A civilian was shot dead by militants in Budgam district while a dead body was recovered in Peerbagh.
- Oct 26:** Security forces eliminated 3 militants-2 in Pulwama, one in Kupwara and arrested 3 dreaded militants while militants eliminated 2 civilians in Kashmir valley. A militant was arrested in Poonch district while a jawan was killed in Rajouri district BSF killed 2 ISI agents in RS Pura. SPO turned militant was killed in Thathri (Doda).
- Oct 27:** Security forces eliminated 6 militants and apprehended 5 militants in Kashmir while Valley observed "blackday" in response to Hurriyat call on 52nd anniversary of landing of Indian troops in the state. Militants gunned down BJP leader Aijaz Ahamed in Bhagwan area of Doda district and set ablaze two forest depots in the same district.
- Oct 28:** Militants made yet another attack on civil secretariat killing 3 persons and injuring 18 others while another 21 persons were injured in 2 different grenade attacks at Hanuman Mandir, Srinagar and Achabal bus stand, Anantnag, militants killed a civilian in Anantnag district while forces claimed to have recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition including 8 AK rifles and 68 kg RDX. 3 persons-1 jawan, civilian and a militant were killed in an encounter in Doda district. 2 BSF jawans were injured in a blast in Gool (Udhampur) militants attacked Rehtal police post in Rajouri district.
- Oct 29:** A BSF jawan, a militant and a civilian were killed in militancy related incident in Kashmir valley, 3 militants were killed in Doda district while a civilian was killed in Rajouri district. BSF arrested 2 ISI agents and recovered 2 kg RDX in Ramgarh sector.
- Oct 30:** 8 persons-5 militants, 3 army men including a Lt Col were killed in Surankot valley. Two militants were killed in Doda while a police cop was killed in Udhampur district.
- Oct 31:** While militants attacked the residence of JD activist at Bemina and slain DD Director Lassa Koul's house, security forces eliminated 3 militants in Kashmir valley. Two jawans injured in Fasilabad encounter succumbed to their injuries. Forces arrested 3 HM militants in Doda district.

Pressure for dialogue builds on India

(Contd. from page 1)

country is in danger." The Pentagon is projecting Musharraf as a secular, western oriented leader who could not do anything rash with his control of the nation's nuclear arsenal. Miliam also dropped hints that the Americans would not be concerned about late elections if significant progress on the multitude of problems the country faces could be made.

Musharraf Reciprocates

Reacting to the favourable US reaction, Gen Musharraf told The Guardian that he was encouraged by international reaction and understanding of what he was trying to do. Musharraf has also been responding to allay the western fears about his fundamentalist leanings. His posing in civilian clothes, with two puppies in his hands, and his modern wife carrying his grand-daughter were to convey his image as that of a soft person and a family man, something really adorable in western

societies. Musharraf talked about his Turkish connection and admiration for Kemal Attaturk, the secular builder of Turkey. Speaking about the relationship between the new army rulers and US, Prof Javed Bhutto of Sind University comments, "the army leadership is as much pro-US and as fearful of Washington as Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif were. The only message that the takeover gave is that whatever dealings the US has with Pakistan, the army general headquarters (in Rawalpindi) cannot be bypassed".

Indian Apprehensions

The open courting of the fundamentalist generals by the Americans has not gone amiss in India. Brahma Chellaney the noted analyst says, "By applauding Musharraf's dedication and patriotism and seeking to bail him out, is in danger of creating yet another frankenstein monster".

Indian reactions to the coup has been cautious. Describing

the developments in Pakistan as unfortunate, Mr Brijesh Mishra, the National Security Advisor said, "India would have to be vigilant. Pakistan had military rulers thrice in the past. Under two, we had two wars under the third, there was export of terrorism to India in Punjab, J&K and other parts of the country." India holds Musharraf as the man responsible for Kargil misadventure. The new team of rabid anti-India baiters that Musharraf has selected and his permission to the holding of the Lashkar-e-Toiba Conference at Muridke on Nov 3-5 cannot be comforting to India. Toiba has publicly said that it was planning to intensify strikes in Kashmir in the first week of November to coincide with its annual congregation. India has rejected dialogue with Gen Musharraf. It has demanded stopping of cross-border terrorism and hostile propaganda as the first step. America has not been sensitive to the Indian fears.

Instead it has started bullying India and urged it to resume the Lahore process with the very people who sabotaged it and to restart talks on Kashmir. US has remained noncommittal about India's precondition that Pakistan stop instigating terrorism in Kashmir. US has at the same time re-emphasised the strategic importance of Pakistan for its imperial interests. Inderfurth told a congressional committee that Pakistan can serve as an example of a progressive Islamic both economic and political-between the Indian ocean and Central Asia".

The US is linking its support to military junta and future economic aid with the resolution of Kashmir issue as per America's "wishes". It has also indicated its willingness to resume arms sales to Pakistan. Every time, US reference to Kashmir and sale of arms has ended up hardening of Pakistan's stance on Kashmir. In the process this has prevented Pakistan's emergence

as a modern viable state. Also Americans feel that a homogenised set up in Pakistan can toe its line better than a democratic set up.

India is being pressurised into opening so-called dialogue with military junta. It is being told that Musharraf is the best bet because it could bring order and stability in Pakistan. India is asked to make "improvements" in Kashmir and offer other concessions that could help Musharraf to stabilise his position in the faction ridden army. It is argued that Vajpayee has "won the election and the war" and can be magnanimous. On Oct 20, Inderfurth stated that US will take "appropriate steps" to lead Pakistan's new ruler in "right direction" and will hold discussions with India in this regard "in a way that will serve our purpose." This has been the standard US practice of pricing concessions from India, while remaining indifferent to the pledges reneged by Pakistan.

Coup in Kashmir-Genesis and Implications

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history. The Sharifs were only seeking to do to the army what they had earlier done to the Supreme Court: sow the seeds of dissension in its upper echelons so as to render it ineffective as a check on their ambitions."

Pakistan Peoples' Party even welcomed the formation of the extra-constitutional National Security Council, which gives the army a permanent and open role in politics. The only muted voices of dissent have been those of Prof. Jamal Naqvi of the Communist Party and Mrs. Asma Jehangir, the noted human rights' activist.

IMPLICATIONS

There is concern in the countries which are victims of

cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan. Russia has said that the coup may encourage the Chechen ultras. The mood in the fundamentalist camp is upbeat. Taliban has defended the coup as a reaction to the pressure exerted on Islamabad by foreign powers and has asked foreign powers to keep out of Pakistan. Bakht Zameen, the chief of the terrorist outfit Al-Badr welcomed the coup saying, "Military has a better understanding of the Kashmir dispute." The Prime Minister of POK, Sultan Mahmood Choudhary said, "strenuous efforts are being made to promote the ideological integrity of Kashmir in POK making it "the base camp" for

an independence movement in the real sense."

Gen. Musharraf after the takeover released more than 150 hard-core Islamic militants and has also given a go-ahead signal to Lashkar-e-Toiba for holding its annual congregation at Muridke. This is an indication how Musharraf is bent upon Talibanising the Pakistani polity.

In relation to India, Gen. Musharraf said, "I am prepared to deal with India on all contentious issues as a package and the status of Kashmir can not be treated separately." So long as Gen. Musharraf is busy setting his own house in order, the tension along the LOC is unlikely to aggravate. He may even en-

gage in some peace offensives in Zia style to buy time. But when he consolidates his political control, as Brahma Chellaney rightly assesses, "the Pakistan problem could come to haunt India with a vengeance." Musharraf's supporters are already saying that the ousted Prime Minister was personally profiting from trade with India, but the military's interest is not trade but Kashmir.

With Musharraf in command, there is real apprehension that the proxy-war may be extended to cause disaffection among the Indian Muslims. Some of Musharraf's interviews and speeches since October 1998 reflect his views on Kash-

mir and relations with India. This thinking runs like this:

The acquisition of Kashmir by Pakistan can wait. What is more important is to keep the Indian army bleeding in Kashmir, just as the Afghan Mujahideen kept the Soviet troops bleeding in Afghanistan. Secondly, even if the Kashmir issue is resolved, there can not be normal relations between India and Pakistan because Pakistan, by frustrating India's ambition of emerging as a major Asian power on par with China and Japan, would continue to be a thorn on India's flesh. And so long as it does so, Pakistan would continue to enjoy the backing of China and Japan.

Wrath of militant Islam

(Contd. from page 7)

with religious zeal. Iran and Sudan have been blamed by the Algerian and Egyptian governments for sponsoring terrorism. Once considered a model of religious tolerance, Sudan today is sowing Islamic fundamentalism across the Arab world. Many of the Islamic groups have shifted their bases from Damascus to Khartoum. President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's government has patronised both radical Palestinian Hamas organisation and the Iran-backed Hizbullah.

Fundamentalism

The reasons for the dramatic rise of Islamic fundamentalism are not far to seek. A generation ago, the young Arabs were inspired by Gamal Abdel Nasser's strong espousal of

secular pan-Arabism. Today the younger generation is enthralled by the likes of Hassan Abdullah al-Turabi of Sudan and Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah of Lebanon, the two most prominent figures of the Islamci movement. Their names evoke what one analyst describes as "images of car bombs, holy wars and historic revenge." They are working to undermine every government in every Muslim country in the world.

The present-day rulers have none of the charisma Nasser had and seem to act as stooges of the West in foreign policy. Besides, the present rulers have very little to offer to the new generation of politically despairing Arabas. While the Gulf Arab

States are affluent and developed, the economic development model followed so far in Egypt and Algeria has marginalised poor sections of people. The mullahs often exploit frustrations bred by political and economic marginalisation and systemic corruption while presenting themselves as attractive alternatives to the Westernised secular elites. With expectations far outpacing the creation of jobs, social services and housing and the governing elites blindly aping the Western only religious extremists seem to offer the self-esteem the younger generation is clamouring for.

Support

The Islamists have built a wide popular support by virtue of these elements staffing

grassroots welfare organisations like hospitals, clinics and day-care centres that are run through mosques. Hamas' role in offering services and organising the *intifada* against Israeli occupation in Gaza and the West Bank are illustrating cases in point. The Islamists have also gained ground due to the popular perception that they are incorruptible. Slogans, like "no constitution and no laws and the only rule is the Koran and law of God" appeal to those who find solace in Islam.

Perhaps the Islamists' greatest appeal lies in the fact that all forms of government whether monarchy, democracy or communism (at least the way these have functioned so far) have failed. Islamic absolutism is the

only from which is yet to be tried in modern times. The attitude of the Islamic fundamentalists is "this is a trial by God, and we will prevail". Such an optimism is, however, not shared by independent, secular analysts.

Though the conservative governments in the Arab world reviled groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, they used them as a bulwark against left-wing Arab nationalism, communism and Shiite extremism. Today they are paying the price for their follies. All said, the Islamists may not be in a position to capture power immediately but the terrorism of their brand will continue to be a festering sore in the body politic of the Islamic world.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times

Kashmir Militancy-Changing Trends

Special Correspondent

Death a squads

Two recent incidents point to the new features emerging in the decade-long terrorism in Kashmir. In a dare-devil attack only a day before the State government offices were to move to the winter capital Jammu, terrorists launched an all-out attack on the seat of power-Civil Secretariat. Over a dozen rifle grenades fired resulted in the killing of three secretariat employees and injuring eleven others. Minutes before the attack, separatists had lobbed a grenade at a BSF picket near Hanuman Mandir, located 1 km away from the secretariat. This was the second such attack on the secretariat. In the earlier attack on September 29, five grenades were fired leading to the death of two employees.

A week back, IGP Kashmir Range, Mr Gopal Sharma had claimed that the 4-member group of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, allegedly responsible for the September 29 attack had been apprehended by SOG, Budgam. These militants during the interrogation had disclosed that there could be another "major attack" on the secretariat around the timing of Durbar Move. Prior to attacks on civil secretariat there were similar attacks on Army installations in Bemina, Badamibagh and Kupwara. All this points to the new phenomenon of Fidayeen (suicide squads) groups among the terrorists. Speaking about this, the minister of state for Home, Mr Mushtaq Lone told State Assembly, "Pakistan's ISI is using Fidayeen group (death squad) carved out of the Lashkar-e-Toiba militant outfit to penetrate into the security zones, breach the security cover of high dignitaries, target vital installations and government buildings in J&K".

Local Hardcore

The second incident, which should send alarming signals about the extremely secretive command structure of the terrorist movement in Kashmir, is the encounter incident at Lal Bazar, Srinagar. In this security forces were engaged for more than two hours before the terrorist was killed. When brought to his home in Maisuma locality, people were stunned. During the last ten years they could never imagine a person of his profile could be a hardcore terrorist. In the attacks on secretariat the involvement of local hardcore is being suspected. The grenade attack in Raghunath Bazar on October 24 is also being attributed to the Kashmir terrorists. Thus the Indian security forces are being confronted with an 'invisible' militant. In the preceding years, the identity of the people associated with the militancy was known

even to the man on the street. This makes the task of the security forces harder. Secondly, earlier the militant was ill-trained, poorly motivated, lumpenised local who stood as the frontliner. The ideologues of the separatist movement seem to have preserved the hardcore both in terms of motivation and training for the future engagements. This cadre is reported to be the real hardcore of Jamaat

Nexus

In terms of internal support structures also, the command structure of the terrorist movement is extremely secretive. As per reports sections of police, administration and politicians are in close cohorts with this new command structure. Without this nexus no foreign mercenary can operate. The former IGP BSF, AS Mangat did some plain-speaking about this. In the Kashmir countryside ISI focus seems to have shifted from mass involvement to individual underground saboteurs.

Contrary to the general impression, the local factor is not that negligible. By overplaying this vigilance and tracing down of the local saboteur has slackened. Upto Sept 30, this year 762 militants were killed. Of these 217 were foreign mercenaries. 552 militants were apprehended, while 69 militants surrendered to the security forces. According to the State DGP, Mr Gurbachan Jagat nearby two thousand terrorists have sneaked into J&K from Pakistan between July and Sept. Of these sixty percent are foreign mercenaries.

Locals Recruitment

The other disturbing phenomenon is that locals, including some Shia youth are being drafted into militancy through coercion, allurements and deceit. The youth being targeted is usually in the age group of 15-18 years. After Kargil war, many of the local youth not only from remote forest villages but also from Srinagar and Kupwara have disappeared to join the militant ranks. Reports say that in September alone, more than hundred boys disappeared. In Pulwama district twenty boys hailing from Tahab, Rajpura etc underwent week-long training in the camps being run locally. After this training, these boys are sent across to PoK for more intensive arms training.

Shia community by and large has remained indifferent to militancy for many reasons. Its minority character, lack of adequate representation in politico-administrative apparatus, different political legacy, fears over the fundamentalist-sectarian character of the separatist movement and persecution of Shias in Pakistan made it even hostile to the militancy. Hizbul Momeen, a Shia outfit patronised by a few

disgruntled bureaucrats was an out and out mercenary outfit with no roots in the Shia community. This outfit active in early years stands defunct now. Infact many of the Shia youth who did go across initially for arms training for self-defence against fundamentalist were reportedly advised by Shia officers in Pakistan Army not to involve themselves in militancy.

Recently media reported that many Shia youth in the age group of 15-20 years were joining militant ranks. Since August 30, nearly twenty Shia boys were reported missing from Delina, (Baramulla), Sholipora-Parisabad, Shogpura (Budgam) and Chattergul (Anantnag). Instead of involving clergy, ISI is cultivating ordinary civilians to

were as many as six attacks on Army camps and STF during last-three months.

New militants being highly trained and strongly indoctrinated have superior communication systems like compass, global positioning system equipment and other tele-communication equipment on Oct 26. Army recovered nearly two hundred kgs of RDX from a thick residential Mohalla of Srinagar, Chinkral Mohalla. This was the biggest haul so far and points towards the ISI gameplan.

Chemical Weapons

The terrorists are also acquiring more lethal weapons. In September last 'Jehad-e-Kashmir', an Urdu journal being published from Muzaffarabad, PoK



Weaponary with stickers of Hizbul Mujahideen recovered in Wussan encounter.

entice them. Wazir Pir, an ordinary trunk manufacturer had motivated, as per police sources, four youths in Delina. Pir arrested on Oct 2 said during interrogation that the boys wanted to come back but were being prevented by Afghanis. Police is reportedly under political pressure to release Pir.

Upgraded Weaponry

Terrorists' armoury and the nature of actions are also undergoing change. Earlier the separatists avoided direct and prolonged engagements with the security forces or fought with just AK 47 rifles when cornered. Now they have become offensive keeping the security forces on the tenter hooks. In Poonch-Rajouri sectors the militant targets were mainly the security forces camps and police pickets established in minority community areas (to force their migration) or on their infiltration and exfiltration routes. Terrorists are using weapons like mortars, Rocket-Propelled Guns (RPGs), flame throwers, anti-tank rifle grenades (AT RGs) and Pika guns. In Rajouri-Poonch there

claimed that Islamic militants are in a position to use poisonous gases and chemical weapons in Kashmir. Infact some gas masks were recovered from the posts vacated by Pakistan Army in Kargil. On Sept 22, 1999 for the first time police seized huge cache of cyanide and foiled militants plan to poison supply of water to security forces in Anantnag. 3.5 kgs of cyanide powder were recovered from a house at Malwan in Qazigund. Security forces got a clue, when it arrested a villager whose back was burnt while carrying the load via Gool Gulbagarh. Earlier a single cyanide Pill had been recovered from a slain militant.

Double Agents

A new phenomenon is also apparent, where many of the surrendered militants are acting either as double agents or moles of ISI. Due to mishandling of the counter-insurgents, many surrendered militants are engaged in dacoity, extortions, vendetta killings. In September more than twenty dacoities took

place in Srinagar. Several such dacoities took place in Srinagar. Dacoities occurred in Baramulla also. These people seek shelter in houses as local youth and commit dacoities during night. Different groups of renegade militants have been plagued by rivalry. One group is indulging in extortion and rivalry to malign the other group. Reports even attribute the issuance of threats to cable operators to renegade militants. The aim being simply to extract money, by using letter pads of terrorist organisations.

Phenomenon of double agents came to surface with the arrest of Rashid War, a Shiv Sena leader and a former renegade militant. In another incident as per a media report, a surrendered militant turned NC leader and his son were being questioned for alleged links with militants. This leader belonging to Kulgam area had SPOs and police personnel attacked to him for security. Intelligence reports say despite joining politics, his liason with militants continued. Many a times militants are alleged to have been visiting his houses. On October 11, the SPOs and police personnel on guard duty reported the missing of .303 rifle and 190 rounds from their possession. In their report they mentioned that some 20 odd militants attacked the house of NC leader and the missing ammunition was consumed, while the rifle was snatched by the militants. On inquiry this proved false. Raja Aijaz Ali, DIG Anantnag has issued orders of suspension of three police officials including a selection grade and two constables, while the six SPOs have been terminated from services. All the SPOs are residents of Kulgam tehsil.

"People-Friendly" Moves

Large scale rapes, brutalities and extortion had created serious resentment among Kashmiris against mercenaries. ISI is revising its strategy to dilute this resentment. Informed sources say, it has instructed foreign mercenaries not to engage in extortions. They are trying to win over people through massive bribes. Media reports say that for stay of one night Rs 1000 is being paid, while they purchase Rice at the rate of Rs three thousand per quintal. On certain occasions bread is being purchased at the rate of Rs 50. Terrorists have also been asked not to kill civilians unless considered informers. The number of civilian killing in June, July August, September 25, 16, 3 and 5 respectively of strategy to hit only the belted forces and not target civilians is guided by realisation across the border that these activities were alienating the locals.