

Nader Khan and His Family

by

The Afghan Immigrant

Extracted from Issue One of Jamhoor-e Islam, 1 September 1951, published in Peshawar, pp. 10-18. This period coincides with the time when Abdul Hai Habibi announced the establishment of the Interim Republic of Afghanistan in Peshawar and himself took charge as head of the government and announced his policy.

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Background of the Gold Worshippers

The structure of the government of present day Afghanistan was laid by His Majesty Ahmad Shah Baba in 1747 BCE in Kandahar. To the extent possible he united the Afghan nation. It was under the umbrella of national unity by means of which he managed to form a large nation similar to that of the Ghaznavi period in the heart of Asia. This great king extended a hand of brotherhood to neighboring India, Iran and Bukhara. In Delhi he enthroned the Baburi prince, in Khorasan he nurtured the descendants of Nader Shah Afshar and after a brief skirmish he allowed the Moslem ruling family of Bukhara to take charge of their country.

To the south he formed a union with the royal Baluch rulers and established a durable bond with the local Kathagan and Badakshan rulers. His policy was similar to that of the Ghaznavi and Ghori kingdoms which relied on Islamic brotherhood. His durable relationship with the Moslem Baburi rulers of India, Nasir Khan, the Baluchi chief, the amirs of Sind and Skekarpur, Hafez Rahmat Khan, in the heart of India, the amirs of Kataghan and Shahrukh, the prince of Khorasan and other contemporary rulers, is a good example of his exemplary politics.

The great Ahmad Shah Baba passed away in 1762 and left a remarkable legacy in the history of Afghanistan, Central Asia and India. However, as a result of deep discord among his descendants, who for years were engaged in discord and intrigue in Kabul, Kandahar, Peshawar, Punjab, Sind and Herat, his kingdom could not be maintained and the wistful waves of colonialism from the east and west, threatened the country. Political turmoil, internal and foreign activities resulted in the end of the kingdom established by Ahmad Shah around 1814 with another family coming to power. This family was the progeny of Mohammad Khan Barakzai (famous as the Mohammadzai family) which had close ties with Ahmad Shah's family. Several sons of Sardar Payenda Khan and the brothers of Wazir Fateh Khan became regents in different parts of the country stretching from Herat to Kashmir, the Oxus, Sind and as far as the shores of the Indian Ocean. A period of bloodshed, destruction and rivalry continued for another 50 years.

Among the brothers of Wazir Fateh Khan, one Sultan Mohammed Khan, was a debauched person. This devout philanderer was the regent of Peshawar and adjacent areas. He had a palace in Wazir Bagh of Peshawar where he indulged in drinking and exuberance with a large number of ladies of the bedchamber. This strange creature had a passion for gold and drank in golden goblets, wore golden garments, had golden carpets and slept in a gold-studded bed. He had the habit of wearing golden bangles, wore golden shoes and hung heavy gold medallions around his neck. As a result he was nicknamed the Golden Sultan

and Golden Sardar. He spent his whole life with the ladies of the bedchamber in perpetual intoxication. He did not have a clue about the lives of people. On the short occasions when his courtiers managed to divert his attention from the women of the bedchamber he would say I do not know anything else. Go and do whatever you seem to be fit but just tell me how much gold have you brought?

Outside of the harem a number of goldsmiths were at work all the time making golden ornaments for the Sardar. At times when it was not possible to acquire gold the goldsmiths would melt old gold pieces and pour it into new molds so that the greedy Sardar would take pleasure in looking at the new jewelry.

This is how the inept Sardar spent his life and those under him were zealously engaged in looting and pilfering the common citizens at a time when the newly formed Sikh establishment was spreading all over Punjab and had usurped a part of Afghan land from Kashmir to the border of Punjab.

The gold-loving Sultan Mohammad Khan, however, was unable to abandon his unscrupulous lifestyle. His government was under the threat by the fearful army of Ranjit Singh whose blood thirsty soldiers had reached the Attock region. By the time the Sardar realized his inadequacy and neglect it was too late and the well-established Sikh army crossed the Indus river. Sardar and his brothers sold their holdings to Ranjit in exchange for a few ingots of gold. A land which was the birthplace of Khushal Khan and Pashtun freedom fighters. In order to continue their life in grandeur and lavishness the brothers surrendered to the bellicose Sikh leader.

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Participation in the Death of Sayed

During that time the glimmer of the first Islamic government in India radiated throughout the mountainous regions near Sind and Peshawar and Moslem freedom fighters in India and the Afghan mountains were fighting against Sikh tyranny under the leadership of the late martyred Sayed Ahmad and Mawlawi Ismail. The king in Kabul and his brothers should have helped these freedom fighters but he was scared that the influence of the Islamic fighters would spread and the Golden Sardar started an opposition front against the freedom fighters in Peshawar. He poisoned Sayed Ahmad and joined the ranks of Ranjit's army. With the help

of infidels he martyred Islamic freedom fighters in Bala Kot and managed to silence the glimmer of hope of the Moslem freedom fighters in 1821.

The Golden Sardar, who had sold his honor and nation for a few pieces of gold, was unable to withstand the ever increasing military might of the Sikh army and sold a significant portion of his domain to the Sikhs and himself fled to Kabul. He died in Kabul in 1861. In the eyes of the Afghan people he was considered the most ignominious person in the country and people started calling Maranjan Hill of Kabul, where he and his ancestors are buried, as the Dishonorable Hill and his brother, Yar Mohammad Khan, because of his support of Ranjit Singh, was known as Yar Singh (refer to the history of Nawa-e Ma'riq, preserved in Kabul Museum). This was the life and contemptuous departure of Golden Sardar, the founder of this family who spent his whole life in amusement with women of the court, idleness and the sale of his homeland. The present day Mohamadzai family carry the legacy of such an ignoble person and the children of Golden Sardar seem to be possessed with evil.

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The Yahya Clan

Among the many children of the Golden Sultan, two who are considered to be his legitimate sons, are Sardar Yahya Khan and Zekria Khan. Sardar Yahya, alike his father, loved gold, had inherited the ill-deeds of his father was a traitor and was known to have belligerence toward his own brother.

The Golden Sultan had 44 sons and 36 daughters. This large family was constantly engaged in deceit and wrong doing against the goodwill of the nation. In order to have a venue to the rulers of the country and participate in the looting of the country's wealth his children deceived the rulers, who were the descendants of Amir Dost Mohammad Khan, and encouraged them to engage in womanizing. Having abnormal traits, members of this family had a passion for gold. Being engaged in illicit drugs their behavior was abnormal and they had the tendency to be in a state of fury and the love for gold, money, extortion and oppression was embedded in the thoughts of most members of this extended family.

Through deceit, Sardar Yahya Khan managed to engage one of his daughter in the court of Amir Yaqub Khan and it was due to the wickedness of this woman which brought down the young Amir resulting in the destruction of the country. Through his daughter Sardar Yahya Khan managed to influence the Amir. This was a critical period in the history of the country as

the British were under pressure by the freedom fighters during the Second Afghan-Anglo war when the Afghan warriors attacked Cunard, the English representative, stationed in the Bala Hisar fort. Sardar Yahya on many occasions accepted money from the English to create discord among the freedom fighters and through the deceitfulness of his daughter the Amir was taken to Gandumak where the ill-fated treaty of Gandumak was signed on 16 May 1879 by the young king who did not have any volition of his own. This was the second time when the nation was sold. First Yahya's father sold the province of Peshawar and Bangash to the Sikhs and by means of sorcery his son took the Amir to Gandumak to sign the defamed Gandumak treaty resulting in the separation of provinces such as Pseen, Lorlayee, Karam, Nowshaki, Sebi and Khyber from Afghanistan which were annexed to British India.

The marriage of Yahya Khan's daughter to Amir Yaqub Khan resulted in his weakness, indulgence in revelry and his final demise. As a result his kingdom fell apart and the English sent him to Deradun of India. His demise was brought about by his father-in-law. The reigns of power were transferred to Amir Abdul Rahman Khan in 1879 who ruled with an iron fist.

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Amir Abdul Rahman Khan and the Yahya Clan

Amir Abdul Rahman was a learned and wise person who had experienced the tribulations of life and realized that the Yahya clan was engaged in adulteration of the country who wanted Musa Jan, the young son of Amir Yaqub Khan, whose mother was daughter of Yahya Khan, to be assigned as regent so that they may once again lead the country toward disaster.

With the downfall of Amir Yaqub Khan, all the machinations of Yahya Khan came to an end. He realized the outrage of the nation toward him and his family and came to the conclusion if the British were to leave the country he and his family will fall victim to the freedom fighters and will be prosecuted as traitors. In 1879 he left the country with members of his family and took refuge under the helm of his English masters and became a refugee in British India.

His masters lauded his traits and this family of betrayers and renegades were allowed to stay in Deradun, were provided salaries by the British and the sons of Yahya Khan, Sardar Mohammed Yusuf and Mohammed Asif, were reared under the influence of their English masters.

This was a time when Amir Abdul Rahman Khan was the ruler of Afghanistan and he received intelligence that the family of Yahya Khan was under training by their English masters and were being prepared for illicit undertakings in Deradun. In the second volume of his book Taj-al-Tawarekh, he describes them in these words.

“Some of them are under the patronage of the English, meaning they are the lackeys of the English state.” This interpretation by Amir Abdul Rahman Khan is in place and in chapter five of his book he talks about the corrupt leanings of the family with the English. As it is known, at the time of his death, he told his sons to stay away from the Yahya family.

In short, after the death of Amir Abdul Rahman Khan in 1901, the British once again realized that his son, who was the regent, was a patriotic and nation loving king and had started social, military and industrial reforms. Thus they tried to divert his attention in another direction. For this purpose the imperialist British once again made use of the Yahya family and the role which Yahya Khan had played in the court of Amir Yaqub Khan was once again repeated in the palace of Amir Habibullah Khan by Yahya Khan’s sons.

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Nader Khan 1880-1933

After getting training from the English for several years the Yahya family returned to Afghanistan and introduced deceit, indulgence and lust into the court of the young king Habibullah Khan. Two sons of Yahya were appointed as the Musahibin (companions) of the court. It was the duty of the two brothers to interact with the king from every angle and keep him engaged in debauchery, binging and sexual indulgence. Sardar Yusuf Khan imitated his father and introduced his daughter to the court and this young woman, who was famous as the queen from Hindustan, introduced the king to wanton amusement and whoredom. The brothers of the queen, Nader Khan, Shah Mahmud Khan, Hashim Khan and Shah Wali managed to take charge of affairs outside the royal court and in a short time Habibullah was mesmerized to the extent that he did not even have the slightest say in anything since the affairs of the state fell into the hands of the Musahibin and his harem was run by Sardar Yusuf’s daughter. The amir was not heard of as he got engaged in a life of sexual indulgence to the extent that he lost his life and in 1919 was killed in Laghman by these very same people while he was in a state to total intoxication.

Amir Habibullah was a kind king who wanted to advance his country. During his early

years he visited India and in 1907 he travelled to different places in his own country. It is said that on the day he reached the Afghan border in Torkham he issued orders that a minaret of rocks be erected and said that the minaret is a symbol advancement and prosperity of the country. Based on this intention he built schools, the military academy, started publication of Seraj-al-Akhbar newspaper and built roads. Unfortunately wanton amusement turned him into a second Sultan Mohammad Khan ultimately resulting in the loss of his life.

Due to the bad influence of the Musahibin and the ever rising influence of Nader Khan, son of Yusuf Khan, the patriotic people, who worked for the Amir, were unable to accomplish any nationalist duties. Nader Khan, who had direct links with colonialist elements in India, and had been trained under their umbrella, was a vassal of the viceroy of India. In order to increase his influence among the frontier people a rebellion was started in 1912 in the south against Amir Habibullah. The sole purpose of this movement by the viceroy was to increase Nader Khan's influence in the court and among the frontier people.

The rebellion spread quickly and threatened Kabul. The king who was deeply engaged in a life of luxury succumbed to the wishes of the Hindustani Queen and the Musahibin and sent Nader Khan as the defending general to the south. This general who had the backing of Delhi and took instruction from the British, with the help of intelligence officers in Peshawar and Parachinar, managed to bring an end to the rebellion and thus attained the special attention of the Amir and the frontier people and was promoted to the rank of commander taking control of the Afghan military.

Those who were accompanying Nader Khan in this military campaign honestly state that the colonial forces and officials in Delhi were preparing Nader Khan to take charge of the country. Ali Akbar Tarzi, a young freedom fighter, who was later killed by Nader Khan after serving in Europe and Moscow, in an interview in the winter of 1932, informed the writer of this treatise about the evidence he had gathered on Nader Khan. He showed me documents revealing Nader Khan's contacts with English officials posted along the frontier and how he worked for the English in the Afghan court and received instructions from English officials on both trivial and important matters.

Ali Akbar Tarzi was the military attache of Afghanistan in Moscow for many year and had met a large number of retired officials and military officers of the Tsar period who lived in Tashkent and Moscow. They had provided him secret documents related to their stay in Afghanistan, which they had obtained covertly.

As far as I can remember one of the document, pertaining to Nader Khan, was as follows:

"Commander-in-chief, Amir Mohammad Khan, has retired due to old age. The British officials in India asked the Amir so that he (Tarzi) be appointed as commander. In the beginning the Amir assured us but later said that his father had recommended that he take care of the Yahya family. Therefore if he does not appoint General Nader Khan as the

commander British officials may be disappointed. Since his father and uncle are Musahibin of the court British officials in India may force the Amir to accept this matter. The British government in India consider him as their friend in the court of Kabul...”

Through such means General Nader Khan managed to subdue his political and military rivals and took over as the absolute military dictator of Kabul and commander-in-chief in 1916. He relied on foreign resources, received money from Delhi and military backing and in a short time managed to take over the leadership of Afghan forces. He removed his rivals, such as Haider Khan Charkhi, and others from the Afghan military.

General Taj Mohammad Baluch, who was an outstanding military leader and a proponent of Afghan freedom, considered a staunch rival of Nader Khan, was beheaded. General Taj Mohammad Khan Baluch was in possession of documents while he was commander in the Eastern regions and Qataghan. These documents are related to the period 1920-22, which I had seen in 1927. They included several letters signed by Nader Khan which were directed to some members of his family and the military.

The incident of Kala Gosh of Laghman (the murder of Amir Habibullah Khan) took place on the night of February 18, 1919. There is evidence that several commanders were involved in the incident, who provide an account of the developments which took place that night. Sardar Sher Ahmad Khan, who was a close family member of Nader Khan's family, consider Nader Khan to be the main perpetrator of the incident. This is because from the beginning he was eying to take over the Kabul throne and had laid out extensive plans in Delhi and Kabul to achieve his aim.

One letter which was revealed by General Taj Mohammed Khan provides confirmation of the plan which reads: “This is to inform Saleh Mohammed Khan, the deputy commander: All is well at this end and you need not worry about the state of affairs. The carrier of this letter will inform you about the particulars of the situation in Jalalabad. All the actions are taking place according to plan. What you had been told is happening. After the burial of the body (Amir Habibullah Khan) we appointed his brother as the king and we surmised that the issue will not remain like this.

“The honorable Rekab Bashi (commander of cavalry) is aware of the situation and the honorable Mustufi-al-Mamalek (finance officer) is also engaged in this matter. With the grace of God he will move to the capital with his men from Tagab and will take over responsibility of the soldiers in the capital. You need to be aware of the situation so that the military affairs do not fall apart. The south is in our control and you need not worry about that region. Opposition against our forces in Jalalabad and Kabul will be brief. In the end we will be in charge. Assure your men of the situation. May God be with you.” The date of this letter is February 19, 1919. (In this letter Rekab Bashi is Shah Wali Khan, brother of Nader Khan, and Mustufi-al-Mamalek is Mirza Mohammed Hussain Khan Kohistani).

This letter was written on the second day after the murder of Amir Habibullah Khan and

was intended to be delivered to deputy commander of Kabul but it is not clear whether it reached the recipient or not? Since the Kabul garrison had paid allegiance to His Majesty Amanullah Khan on March 1, 1919. At any rate Saleh Mohammed Khan was appointed as commander in the first cabinet (see the third issue of Aman-e Afghan newspaper). From this letter it is evident that Saleh Mohammed Khan was aware of the events and had joined the supporters of Amanullah Khan.

Anyhow what could Nader Khan have done after the Kala Gosh incident? A part of his actions are evident in the letter. It was his greedy aspirations, which surfaced during the coronation of Amir Nasrullah Khan in Kala Gosh on that day in the presence of other distinguished guests such as Ali Ahmad Khan. According to the explanation provided by Abdul Hadi Dawi, a writer of Aman-e-Afghan, commander Nader Khan made some logical comments. What were these logical comments? (refer to issue 1, page 6, column 2 of Aman-e-Afghan, April 13, 1919). The letter provides a good explanation of these logical comments, which shocked all the dignitaries in Kabul and the nation.

What happened is that Nader Khan was unable to take charge of the kingdom? This is an issue which needs to be scrutinized by taking into consideration all the available evidence. It is the task of history which we will not evaluate here. What is clear is that there were forces stronger than Nader Khan which prevented Amir Nasrullah from ascending the throne and put Nader Shah in his place. During the Jalalabad incident the Afghan military establishment almost sent Nader Khan to his grave.

After the coronation of Amanullah Khan, Saleh Mohammed Khan was appointed as commander but Nader Khan managed to remain active in the background and after the declaration of independence he was sent to the southern front in August of 1919.

The war of independence was started at three fronts. The commander of the eastern front was Saleh Mohammed Khan, that of the Kandahar front was Prime Minister Abdul Qudus Khan, and the southern front was under the command of Nader Khan. The Afghan forces were not successful in two fronts with the exception of the southern front where Nader Khan and his brothers, Shah Wali Khan and Shah Mahmud, prevailed within 15 days to break the strong British fortifications of Wana, Sardegi and Tahl. The mystery of these glorious victories can be read in the Sudden Southern Attack (1922) and the Russian letter of the Tsar era. It does not make sense that the mighty British forces did not allow the Afghan forces in the east to move forward one step. Similarly in the western front thousands of Afghan freedom fighters from Kandahar were not able to make any progress. Instead Daka and Spinboldak were taken over by the the British forces while only in the southern front the British air and land forces were defeated at a time when the Afghan military and the frontier tribesmen there did not possess a single aircraft or heavy weapons and were fighting only with old rifles. One does not have to be a genius to figure out why Nader Khan was declared a conqueror and field marshal? While the forces in the east and west were lambasted by the

British ground and air force. It was a result of such political and military intrigue by the British that Nader Khan returned as the conqueror from the southern front and took over the command of the Afghan military from Saleh Mohammed Khan who had been defeated in Daka. Following these incidents Nader was declared as the defense minister and commander of armed forces.

Another letter, in possession of General Baluch, clarifies this matter very well. A copy of the letter, written at the Gardez garrison on May 29, 1919 is presented here.

“The honorable Shah Jan, head of cavalry. All is well here. Conduct your work without any worries. According to the information we have received the British forces are not fighting and have deserted several locations and fortifications in the south. This is indeed an occasion of stature for both of us. Forge ahead without any fear toward Wana. You will not face any resistance. It is up to your volition to make sure that others do not learn about this state of affairs. You will take over that section and we will do so here. I leave you to the grace of God. Signed by Nader Khan on May 29, 1919.”

This letter clearly clarifies the issue how General Nader Khan became the commander-in-chief? And how he became the victor of Tahl and was declared a field marshal? Moreover it shows how the British managed to impose their scheme of colonialism and revisionism in Afghanistan by means of Nader Khan.

Field marshal Nader Khan, who returned from the south with pomp, was well-received by the young and simple-hearted king. A minaret was erected in his name and he was appointed minister of defense and his brothers were given important positions and their sphere of activity spread dramatically.

One year after the war of independence people realized the real character of these brothers, what they were up to and what kind of plot they had schemed, with the aid of foreigners, to take over the throne? The very same king who had pinned the medal of sun and great conqueror on Nader's chest was forced to expel this usurper of the throne from Kabul and he was sent to Qathagan and Badakshan as chief of operations as his ties with the British were now clearly evident. In order to get rid of his base influence he was later sent as ambassador to Paris. But he was the kind of person who would not give up his evil schemes.

Even though he was the Afghan ambassador in Paris he maintained ties with London and Delhi and was waiting for the day so that his old masters would find a way to send him back to Afghanistan.

When his old masters found they were devoid of any new political ploys they once again instructed the government in Delhi to start a rebellion in the south (1925-26) and sent Abdul Karim, an exiled prince in India to the southern border. Since Nader Khan was the only hero of the southern front it was thought that the king will be forced to recruit him once again and give him the chance to spread his influence.

This time the establishment in Kabul had wisened up and knew well the machinations his personality. The rebellion in the south was thwarted and on May 25, 1925 about 60 rebel leaders were brought to Kabul and executed in Siasang prison.

His desire to reach the pinnacle of power were once again thwarted and the country did not fall into the hands of this evil person. He spent his days in oblivion in Europe and waited for his old masters, the colonialist in Delhi, to once again ferment chaos to the country.

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Nader Khan and the Uprising

The unfortunate year of 1929 arrived. According to influential newspapers of the time it was said that British agents were in contact with the Nader Khan who at that time was living in Nice, southern France. The watchers of Afghan and Indian political affairs considered this move an important political step and Indian newspapers, in particular, the Zamindar of Lahore and Hub-al-Mutayan of Calcutta revealed these secret meetings.

The 1929 revolution was vigorously started from the eastern border by the Shinwar tribesmen and the British political and intelligence establishments once started their activities. King Amanullah Khan, who had just returned from a trip to Europe, faced this unexpected resurrection and toward the end of the year organized groups of bandits from Kohdaman took over the capital of Kabul while the king was driven toward Kandahar.

It was during this time that the planners of the revolt moved Nader Khan from Nice to Bombay and slowly brought him to southern Afghanistan by way of Tahl. The place where his plans for influence were crafted.

The country did not have a leader and it was under the pressure of division and disparity. The bandits from Kohdaman were looting and destroying Kabul. This was a golden opportunity for the British colonialist in India to make their fifteen year old endeavor successful to put Nader Khan on the throne.

Nader Khan was brought to Afghanistan looking frail with a white beard and introduced as the servant of the people. The question arises where did all the weapons, money and people come from? The reader himself can answer this question. Naturally the answer is from the same place and direction where Nader came from.

Commander Nader Khan unexpectedly managed to be in possession of a great deal of

weapons, money and men and raced toward Kabul in great haste. Nader, who was reared by British colonialists in the city of Anbala of India and had reached the ranks of a commander in Afghanistan, managed to take control of Kabul with the aid of his British masters and was coronated on October 16, 1929. In this way both he and his masters achieved their long-awaited goal.

The Afghan nation which was fed up from anarchy of the revolution did not oppose the coronation of Nader Khan as king but they had great expectations from him. From the beginning he was boasting of nationalism, democracy and national integrity but none of these promises came to fruition when he came to power. Instead he turned out to be a brutal killer and autocrat and the nation realized:

*You, who rescued me from the wolf
Yourself, turned worse than the wolf.*

Now we will analyze, by means of historical evidence, the tyrannic rule of Nader Shah in light of the promises he had made to the nation. We will see that he was merely a lackey of the British and one who had been trained under colonial British schemes, was a person who advocated British imperialism and had come to power as a result of their support.

Earlier you read that Nader Khan was brought to Tahl by way of Bombay and Peshawar. The whole Afghan nation knew that he was not in possession of any means but the British provided him with weapons and money and put several hundred men at his disposal. If he did not have any links with the colonialists then how was it possible for him to travel through India and start a rebellion against the legitimate government in Kabul.

During the first year of his rule two persons, Sardar Mohammed Amin Khan and Abdul Hakim Khan, the commercial attache in Peshawar, attempted to start a resurrection against Nader Khan among the frontier tribes but British agents, in an official communique, called the rebellion against the interests of the nation and the two individuals were sent from Peshawar to Rangoon (see issue 14, year 1, page 7 of Afghanistan newspaper, Lahore).

It is clear that Nader was a lackey of the British otherwise how was it possible to give him permission to enter Afghanistan? Moreover, how was it possible for him to start a rebellion among the frontier tribes?

To clarify this matter I present evidence which I have gathered from newspapers of that period.

Hub-al-Mutayan of Calcutta in issue 195, of 1931, after the establishment of Nader Shah's kingdom, writes:

"All matters between the British agents and Mohammed Nader Shah had been agreed upon beforehand. Based on this hope the British came up with agreements to establish a Nader Shah government and ensure the defeat of Habibullah Kalakani." (Issue 19, Year 1, Afghanistan, Lahore).

Issue 190 of 1931 of Hub-al-Mutayan clearly states: "In politics the English are skilled

like chess players. Hence they will allow the rival to make several moves and in the end make their crucial move. In Afghan politics, Habibullah Kalakani, was nothing more than a convenience, who was brought to the limelight by Humphrey, the British ambassador in Kabul, and got rid of him by means of Nader Khan (meaning they placed Nader Khan on the Kabul throne).” This was the opinion of a well-established Indian newspaper.

Now I will present another piece of evidence from a European newspaper. The Italian newspaper (Jeuber Virchia, year 1931) in an editorial stated that the 1929-30 insurrection came about as a result of the efforts of British India:

“Members of the Indian parliament in Delhi have complained about the extravagant expenses of the British embassy in Kabul. Russia also considers the Indian government to be responsible saying that in 1931 Britain provided weapons to Afghan tribesmen and increased their influence in Kabul by providing ammunition. It is possible that Nader Khan is a vassal of the British whom they have been eyeing for years. He entered Afghanistan after passing through India and preventing him from traveling in India was not difficult for the British. Under the present circumstances nothing else can be said about this person...”

Afghanistan newspaper, page 14, 1931, Lahore: “We see that Nader Khan has been moved to Afghanistan by the British establishment in India for political purposes. They want to use him for their political motives and have thus made him the autocrat king of the country.” Local newspapers, published at the time, also highlighted this matter and elucidated the ill-fated actions of Nader Shah to the world. The weekly journal Habib-al-Islam in its editorials (issues 25 and 26) authored by Burhanuddin Kushkaki in 1931, refer to Nader Khan’s hypocrisy. The following lines are excerpted from the editorials.

“As previously reported Mohammed Nader Khan has been in total oblivion until now. It is clear that our hospitable eastern neighbor, the British, are the ones hosting him. He has been contracted against the wishes of our dear nation and sent to the south to once again take charge of the country’s reigns. Mohammad Nader himself did not have any money nor any weapons or equipment. What does his resurfacing mean? Are the British not aware about the religious sentiments of our people? Or do they consider Nader Khan to be a merchant for the English? Are we to allow such a treacherous person to be included in the annals of our history?

“As a result of his evil deeds this gray-bearded person, by putting into action his debauchery, has managed to incite some innocent people in the south against the central government and pitted Moslems against one another in bloody warfare by means of which he wants to fragment the nation. Through his actions he has disgraced Islam and Afghan honor, has abdicated his religious duties and has hung the garland of slavery around his neck. A veil of debauchery has blinded him and narcissism has clouded his mind as a result of which he has resorted to such contempt.

“The brave nation of Afghanistan will not succumb to such baseness and will not accept

to be enslaved by others. We come to the question as to whether Nader Khan has sold our country to the English or not? Indeed Nader Khan and others like him are ready to dispose the country to foreigners...”

This piece was published in one of Kabul's papers whose writer is still alive. He has exuded his feelings and expressed the sentiments of the people of Afghanistan against Nader Khan and his actions. It reflects the dark actions of Nader Khan as they have been recorded in the history of our nation. I present them here so that people may become aware of his deeds, mischief and unpatriotic character. Nader Khan was immersed in such debauchery and when he ascended the throne with the aid of his masters, the British government in India continued their direct and indirect divine favors for Nader Khan and arrested all those who were living in India at the time who opposed him. As a result in 1931, Sardar Amin Khan and Sardar Abdul Hakim Khan were moved from Peshawar to Rangoon.

The newspaper, Afghanistan, published by Murtaza Ahmad Khan, accused Nader Khan of dictatorial tendencies and was encouraging him to engage in democracy and nationalism was banned by the British government and its editor imprisoned for 10 years. This is just one example of the atrocities committed by the British government in India at the time.

Direct Confirmations:

1. An editorial in Soul and Military Gazette of Lahore of 9 February 1931 states:

“According to reports the government in India does not allow information about Afghanistan to be published. Since the people of India are interested to learn about events in neighboring countries the government needs to change their policy. It is of both awe and interest to know that in a London publication the photograph of a large convoy of military trucks, loaded with ammunition, which is headed from the border of British India toward Kabul has appeared. We were aware of such movement of weapons but did not publish it in order to be on the safe side. If such news, such as the photograph of a convoy of trucks is prohibited, the readers will be devoid of important information.”

From this article, published in a semi-governmental publication of the British raj in India, it is clear that during the beginning of Nader Khan's rule weapons were being transported from India to Kabul.

2. During the first months of Nader Shah's entrance to Kabul the British government of India provided him with a large quantity of weapons even though the political situation in Kabul was uncertain and rebels in Kohdaman and Kandahar continued their opposition against the government. At this delicate time 10,000 rifles and 50,000 rounds of ammunition were given to Nader Shah without any previous agreement or pact. On top of this 175,000 British pounds were also provided to Nader Khan. Hub-al-Mutayan has alluded to the transfer of weapons and money and wondered how such transactions could take place without any agreement. During its ten years in office the Amani (Amanullah Khan's) government was unable to secure the confidence of any foreign state to provide it such

paraphernalia. So how was it possible for Nader Khan to be such a favorite of the British establishment.

Informed politicians are aware of these matters and after the passing of 22 years I am alluding to this mystery so that it may be recorded in the contemporary history of Afghanistan. I leave it to the readers to make their own judgement about it.

This direct and indirect relationship which the British government of India had with their old friend, whom they had trained and reared, became the subject of conversation in political and media circles and the veil was raised from the secret and Nader Khan was forced to provide an explanation to justify the moves made by the British. It was due to such circumstances that on September 9, 1931 he convened a meeting, under the guise of a national assembly, and addressed the assembly members claiming that the British government in India would not allow him to go to the south to ask the people there for their cooperation.

However, we see that Nader Khan went through India from Bombay to Tahl and entered southern Afghanistan. If the British had opposed his movement then how was it possible for him to travel in India against all international norms.

In his speech Nader Khan wanted to hide facts from the world and claimed that he did not receive any help from British India. But everyone knew what kind of conspiracy he was engaged in. The irony was that a few minutes into his speech Nader Khan confessed that he received aid from the British. He confessed that last year (during the time of occupation of Kabul by Habibullah Kalakani) certain states provided his government help, such as Great Britain, without any pre-conditions by providing 175,000 pounds, 10,000 rifles and 50,000 rounds of ammunition (Kabul Magazine, page 15, July 1931).

In his speech Nader Khan mentioned certain countries which he claimed provided him aid. Which other countries was he referring to with the exception of Britain? It is unfortunate that he did not mention all the help he had received from Britain.

Nader Shah claimed that King Amanullah bought weapons from France and Germany. Buying and receiving free weapons are totally different transactions.

The British had total confidence in their old friend and provided him with free weapons and money aimed at usurping Afghanistan's independence which Nader Khan wanted to jeopardize, with the aid of his English masters, without any reservations. A while later, Sir Frazer Tetler was appointed as the British ambassador to Afghanistan. Twenty years later he confessed that his government had donated 10,000 rifles and 175,000 pounds to Nader Shah. Was the generosity of the British so bountiful? (see Afghanistan by Sir Frazer Tetler, p. 231, 1950 London). As it turns out Tetler felt it was his moral duty to provide the truth.

In order to justify his machinations Nader Khan told the assembly that King Amanullah Khan got a loan from the British when he visited Britain. Nader tried to hide the facts but the people of Afghanistan could not be fooled by such wiles. He made the accusation without

any evidence. The internal rebellion started just after His Majesty Amanullah Khan returned from this trip to Europe. The British were not stupid to provide a loan to a government which was under the threat of falling apart. There is no mention in the world media of the time indicating whether Amanullah asked for any kind of loan or accepted assistance from the British. Nader Khan was making these accusations to divert the attention of the people from his malicious ploys. He also told the assembly that the British leaders told Amanullah if he were to sever his relationship with the Soviet Union they would provide the Afghan government any kind of assistance that was necessary. Amanullah was not impacted by this promise and continued with his trip to Russia and Turkey. By the time Amanullah Khan reached Moscow, the enlightened and progressive people in India had recognized Afghanistan as an independent nation. When Kazim Pasha arrived to Afghanistan from Turkey to organize the Afghan army, the Shinwar rebellion had already started and the British found an opportunity to dismantle the Aman government (Etelaat-e Tehran, issue 86, 1931).

These events show how the British created turmoil in Afghanistan, engaged in political exploitation and how they usurped the legitimate king of the country and to whom they handed over the reigns of power.

Now we will evaluate whether His Majesty Amanullah Khan considered Nader Khan as a problematic person and a vassal of a foreign state? King Amanullah in his own words made this clear. I was present in the gathering when he addressed elders and leaders from Kandahar and some of his close friends in 1931 in the Moqor hotel. He was sad and melancholy because that same day the military in Kandahar had engaged in warfare with the rebels and a number of soldiers from Farah had died in the skirmish. When the subject of Nader Khan came up in the meeting as to how he entered Afghanistan by way of Thal, His Majesty said: "I told him to come by way of Kandahar and he wrote back that he will engage in activities on my behalf in the south. I know Nader Khan from childhood. He is an intelligent person but unfortunately he is not of much use to the nation despite his knowledge. I diligently tried to dissuade him from engaging in the politics of others but to no avail. As a result I was forced to send him to France. I can say with confidence that Nader Khan will succeed since he has the support and backing of the British.

"Habibullah (Kalakani) will be in power for a few months. I know who is my real rival in this game? But I warn everybody to be aware. Nader Khan will not do anything useful for you."

These were the words of His Majesty Amanullah Khan when he addressed the gathering in his last days in Afghanistan. Twenty two years later we see that His Majesty was totally correct.

(7)

Nader Khan's Treachery

Despite his dubious personality if Nader Khan had come to the country to serve it he could have become a beloved leader and attained his family's honor like Mustafa Kamal, Sa'ad Zaghlul and Gandhi. It was the misfortune of the people of Afghanistan that Nader Khan was only interested in ascending the throne a move which resulted in his disgrace. Had he served as a peacemaker and concerned citizen his name would have remained respectful among the people forever just like Mirwais Khan.

Upon his return from Europe he claimed he had not come to usurp the throne and promised when he takes control of Kabul he will establish a national elected government of the people. This was merely a deceitful ploy to fool the people with whose help he managed to dismantle the Habibullah (Kalakani) government.

These spurious promises started when Nader Khan left Europe and he continued with his misleading maneuvers until the capture of Kabul. His real character surfaced when he was put on the throne. He turned out to be even worse than Amir Abdul Rahman Khan in shedding the blood of people. In order to preserve his interests he was disrespectful to the Holy Koran by sending a delegation of 12 individuals to Shomali (north of Kabul). This delegation swore upon the Koran for the safety of Habibullah Kalakani and his supporter who were brought to Kabul and executed without a trial.

In order to get rid of this traitor the people protested throughout the country and some resorted to terrorism against his base family. As a result Sayed Kamal killed a brother of the despot king and upon his orders members of Kamal's family were prosecuted. He killed hundreds of people from Shomali for possession of weapons until Abdul Khaleq finished his sinister life. Members of the royal family killed and tortured many young Afghans. Why did the commission which was established to kill more than 20 persons to revenge the death of Nader Khan not persist that only Abdul Khaleq should be punished? His despot brother, Mohammed Hashim, once said in order to revenge the death of my brother I will kill hundreds of Afghans.

As a result many young Afghans were put to the gallows. The question arises under which Islamic law? Which court had ordered that they be tortured? Will the Afghan nation forget this kind of blood letting? A large number of prisoners died as a result of torture. Sixteen member of Kalakani's family were executed without a trial and his family completely destroyed and mass killings took place in Shomali.

Nisar Ahmad, the superintendent of Muti prison, killed prisoner Sher Mohammed and married his daughter by force. The Arg prison (Royal Palace prison) was filled with young people and the Kabul provincial prison, Badam Bagh prison and Deh Mazang prison became

the killing grounds of the people of Kabul. Alama Mir Qasem Khan was put to the gallows and Abdul Hakim Rustaqi was killed in secrecy.

Abdul Rahman Ludin, Khwaja Hedayatullah Khan, the chief of civil organization in Hazarajat, Khwaja Amiruddin Khan, the governor of the southern provinces, General Penabeg Khan, Faiz Mohammed the clerk, Faiz Mohammed Barut Safed, Taj Mohammed Paghmani, Ghulam Jailani Khan Charki, the ambassador to Cairo, Ghulam Nabi Khan, ambassador to Moscow, Ghulam Rabbani son of Ghulam Jailani, Sher Mohammed Khan, deputy commander, Ali Major Akbar Khan Tarzi, Mir Aziz Khan, contributor to Anis daily, Mir Masjedi Khan, Mirza Ahmad Mehdi Khan, Azam Khwaja, the chief of electricity department, Bashir Khan son of Munshi Nazir, Dawran Khan, Mohammed Yusuf Khan Kandahari, Mirza Mohammed Khan of Lahori gate, Qurban Khan, a child only 12 years of age, Ghulam Khan, deputy principal of Nejat school, Abdul Fatah Khan, the telegraph clerk, Mohammed Karim Khan, a student in Sweden, Sher Mohammed Khan, an official of Education Ministry, Ibrahim Qari Zada, Abdul Hakim Khan Rustaqi, Amin Jan, ambassador in Germany, Mohammed Aziz Khan, brother of Shuja-al-Dawla, Ghulam Moheuddin Khan, editor of Anis, Mohammed Amin Khan the translator, the brother of Amin Khan, Din Mohammed Khan, Ismail Khan son of Nazar Safar Khan Khanbaz Jan, commander of Kabul, Mohammed Wali Khan, representative to the king, Sayed Ghulam Haider who was poisoned in the palace etc. etc. were executed without a trial.

The following people were imprisoned from 10 to 15 years or more without a trial. Abdul Hadi Dawi, Mirza Abdullah Kandahari, Yusuf Haqiqi, Abdul Aziz, representative from Kandahar, Mir Ghulam Mohammad Ghubar, Mir Ghulam Ahmad, Mir Abdul Rashid, Anwar Bismil, Ibrahim Safa, Ghulam Dastagir Qala Beg, Habibullah, company commander, Rahmani, Reza, the translator, Sher Mast Kandahari, Abdul Samad Kandahari, Mir Mohammed Shah Khan, Mohammed Naim, telegraph operator, Mir Zuhuruddin, Aman Herati, Sarwar Joya, Rahmatullah Tundnavees, Kabir Munshi, Qazi Mahmud Sanjari, Qazi Aslam Sanjari, Qazi Aslam Babani, Sayed Kabir, Mahmud Yawar, Abdul Rahim Khan Safi, the minister for public works, Khalilullah Safi, Mohammed Omar Tata, Colonel Mohammad Amin, Abdul Ghafur of border petrol, Bebi Sangari, wife of Habibullah Kalakani, and his 20 year old daughter who were imprisoned in Dehmazang and were then exiled for 20 years to the north of the country. One of Kalakani's wife was killed and two of his wives for forcefully married. Sahebzada Ataullah-al-Haq, the foreign minister, Khwaja Babu, the interior minister, Abdul Qadir Khan Qarabaghi, Khwaja Mir Alam, Abdul Ghani Kalakani, Colonel Ghulam Rasul, Malik Abdul Hakim, Amir Mohammed, Mirza Abdul Qayum Khan, Sayed Aqa Khan, Ghulam Hazrat Khan, Malik Mir Baz, Malik Rustam Mohammed, Karim Khan, Colonel nawab Khan, Qachqar Khan, Langar Khan Panjsheri, Sayed Burhanuddin, Qazi Ali Ahmad Shakardarayee, Abdul Qudus Khan, Omar Khan Daudzayee, and many other. After serving their sentences the prisoners were sent to places where it was impossible for them to live.

Such illegal procedures continue to this day against human rights norms of the United Nations.

In 1950 Paro Khan Suleimankhel, Qurban and Haider Hazara, were secretly poisoned by the government while Sher Mohammed Khan, the minister of defense, was imprisoned without a trial and his house and property confiscated. Under the pretext of the Nowroz Conspiracy Sayed Ismail Balkhi, Khwaja Naim, Captain Mohammed Hasan Hazara and Sayed Ismail, representative from Surkh Parsa, and many others were imprisoned and their relatives put under surveillance. They were kept in prison without a trial.

(Synopsis of the incidents reported by Jamhoor-e Islam in its September 1951 issue published in Peshawar).