CHAPTER III

SIND UNDER THE DELHI SULTANATE

Sultan Muizuddin Muhammad b. Sam was assassinated at the hands of Khokhers of Punjab in 1206 A.D. On his death Uchh and Multan were retained by Nasiruddin Qubacha the then governor of the region. He gradually became an independent ruler of the territories of Sind until he was dislodged from that position by Iltutmish.

Nasiruddin Qubacha (1206 - 1228 A.D.) was one of the Turkish slaves of Sultan Muizuddin Ghori. Much is not known about his early career except that he was one of the favourite and trusted slave of Sultan Muizuddin and he was endowed with great intelligence, sagacity, efficiency, skill, foresight and experience. He had served the Sultan with distinction in various capacities, and ultimately became an influential figure in the court. He was married to the elder daughter of Qutubuddin Aibak and had a son from her, named Shaikh Alauddin Bahram Shah.

Previously, region of Multan and Uchh was held by Malik Nasiruddin Aitum, who was killed in 1203-4 A.D. in the battle at Andkhud between Sultan Muizuddin and Sultan Usman, the ruler of Samarqand. The region of Uchh was assigned to Qubacha.

2. Ibid., p. 419.
After the death of the Sultan he continued to enjoy the confidence of Qutbuddin Aibak. After the later's death in 1210 A.D. Qubacha set out to Uchh and captured Multan, Siwistan and Debal as far as the coast of Arabian sea and occupied all the cities and forts of Sind. He brought the whole region under his effective control as far as Tabarhinda, Kuhram and Saraswati. The ruler of Ghaznin, Tajuddin Yelduz, wanted to capture some portions of Qubacha's territory, but he failed to do so. However, Qubacha brought Lahore several times but he could not keep it under his control as Yelduz's vazir Khwaja Muidul-Mulk Sanjari, succeeded in dislodging him from there in 1215 A.D. and finally he was forced to live within the territory of Sind.

During the Mongol raids a large number of Muslim scholars who had fled from the Muslim countries took shelter in Sind. Multan at the time was a great centre of Islamic learning and culture and a number of distinguished and eminent ulama and scholars had made it their permanent abode. It served as the gateway of India at that time. During this period Qubacha became the independent ruler of Sind until the accession of Iltutmish to the throne of Delhi. At the same time he was facing the Mongol onslaught who had penetrated deep into his territory.

1. Minhaj, I, p.419, See also Tajul Masa'ir, fol.263a,264b.
2. Tajul-Ma'asir, fol.272a, Minhaj, I, p.419.
in pursuit of Jalaluddin Minkobarni. Sultan Jalaluddin of Khwarizm had crossed the Indus and proceeded towards Debal and Makran in 1221 A.D. After capturing the Nandanah fort in 1224 A.D., the forces of Turty Nuin the Mongol prince, besieged the strong fort of Multan for forty days. During this siege Qubacha approached and sought the assistance of Shaikh Bahāuddin Zakariya, Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki and Shaikh Jalaluddin Tabraizi who visited Multan at the same time. Shaikh Qutbuddin handed over an arrow to Qubacha to throw it at the enemy. The Mongols withdrew the next morning. The Mongols found the hot climate of the region and retreated to Ghaznin. Qubacha sustained heavy losses, but faced the situation with courage and boldness. He helped the people generously to repair their losses and minimize their miseries. Minkobarni had planned to invade Qubacha's territories and sent an army towards Uchh in the darkness of night. Qubacha's army could not withstand the sudden attack and fled to Multan.

1. Nandana is a place of antiquarian interest located in Pindadan Khan Tehsil of Jhelum District, 14 miles west of Chujha Saidan Shah in the outer Salt Range. There is a ruined fortification of an ancient fort. A graveyard is also located in a corner of the fort.

2. Raverty, (p.536) gives forty two days.

3. Mir Khurd, Siyar-ul-Auliva, Delhi,1885, p.50.


Minkobarnl demanded a huge sum as tribute and price for the return of the soldiers. Qubācha accepted the demand and the invader agreed to spare Qubācha's territories. After a while passing through Multan he asked Qubācha to pay nal-baha (Shoe-money). Qubācha refused to oblige and came out to face him. After some minor skirmishes, Minkobarni attacked Uchh and set it on fire.

In the beginning of 1226 A.D. Malik of Ghor made a common cause with Qubacha against the Mongols. In the same year an army of the Khalji tribe attacked Mansura and Siwistan under the leadership of Māli Khan. Qubācha set out from Uchh and met the Khalji forces. After defeating Khalji Malik he returned to his territory.

Accession of Iltutmish to the throne of Delhi had created many problems for Qubācha. Relation between the two rulers had never been cordial inspite of the fact that both were related to each other as the son-in-laws of Qutbuddin Aibak. But as kingship knows no kinship, Iltutmish had a desire to extend his authority up to the frontier provinces of Sind. According to Minhaj Iltutmish always regarded Qubācha his rival and was seeking an opportunity to dislodge him from Sind. Keeping this aim in view, Iltutmish secured his position at Delhi and consolidated

his power over the neighbouring regions while unlucky Qubācha struggled hard to save his territories from Mongol onslaught. Iltutmish planned to take full advantage of the difficulties of Qubācha and annexed Lahore in 1217 A.D. Qubācha was in no position to resist the advance of Iltutmish who inflicted a crushing defeat on him in the battle that followed.

In 1228 A.D. Iltutmish decided to take the final step against Qubācha and ousted him from Multan and Uchh. Qubācha also made preparations for the showdown and stationed his forces before the gateway of the town Amrut along with his fleet of boats. Iltutmish sent his vanguard towards Uchh under his vazir Nizamul Mulk Khwaja Muhammad Junaidi and Taj-uddin Sanjar-i-Kazlak Khān. He also instructed Malik Nasiruddin Aitum, then Governor of Lahore, to proceed towards Multan. Iltutmish himself set out by way of Tabarhind towards Uchh. The imperial army decided to attack the fort of Uchh on 19 February 1228. Nizamul Mulk was directed to capture the fortress of Bhakkar where Qubacha was then encamping. After a siege of three months Iltutmish finally captured the fort of Bhakkar on Saturday, 5th May, 1228 A.D.

On hearing the fall of Uchh, Qubacha sent his son 'Alāuddin Muhammad Bahram Shāh to Iltutmish for negotiation. The Sultan

received him with courtesy but he was restrained to leave Bhakkar while the hostilities continued. This greatly alarmed Qubācha and in desperation he wanted to escape. He instructed his vazir 'Ainul Mulk to follow him with treasures. However, while crossing the Indus his boat sank in the river and Qubācha was drowned on 30 May 1228 A.D.

This brought to an end the twenty two years rule of Nasiruddin Qubācha and with him ended the independent role of Multan on the political map of the region. During his rule Multan and Uchh had become great centres of political, socio-cultural and literary activities and His court had become a popular rendezvous of deposed rulers, eminent scholars, distinguished poets and renowned ulama who had gathered there from far off regions like Khurāsan, Ghaur and Ghaznin. In this connection the names of Muhammad 'Aufi, Shamsuddin Muhammad al-Katib Balkhi, Fazili Multani, Ziauddin Si̇jāi are worth mentioning. Shamsuddin was a renowned calligraphist of his time whom 'Aufi compares with Ibn al-Bawwab and Ibn Muqlah. In 1226 A.D. eminent historian Minhāj-us-Sirāj came to the court of Qubācha. The Sultan received him with honour and appointed him as the principal of the Madrasa-e Firozis at Uchh, and the Qazi of his son's army.


3. Minhāj, I, pp. 420, 446.
While Sultan Nasiruddin Qubācha was a patron of scholars, his prime minister Ainul Mulk Husain Ashari was also a patron of art and literature and his court was famous for men of learning. Sadiduddin 'Aufi came at the court of Qubācha in 1220 A.D. and was appointed as the royal Imam and Waiz (preacher). After some time, he was promoted to the rank of Chief Qazi. He translated into Persian the famous Arabic text of al-Paraj bad al-Shiddat of Qazi Abul Hasan b. Ali Muhammad b. Daud (d. 994 A.D.) and dedicated it to Qubācha.

Another book written by the same author under the patronage of 'Ainul Mulk Husain al-Ashari is Lubāb-al-Abāb which is generally held to be the earliest known anthology of the biographies of Persian poets. He was asked to compile another book named Jawame al-Hikayat wa-Lawame al-Riwayat by Sultan Nasiruddin Qubacha. But, it was completed after the author had joined the court of Iltutmish. Similarly, the important Arab history of Sind commonly known as Chach-Namah was translated into Persian by Ali b. Hamid b. Abi Bakr al-Kufi in 1216 A.D. during the reign of Qubācha. The book was dedicated to Ainul Mulk Husain al-Ashari.

1. E.G. Browne, *A Literary History of Persia*, II, Cambridge, 1951, p.477. The book was edited first by Browne and Qazwini and was published from London in two volumes. It was re-edited by Professor Saeed Nafisi and published from Tehran in 1335 S.H.

It is evident from the sources that Qubācha took keen interest in literary and academic activities. It was in pursuance of their policy that Minhāj was appointed as the principal of Madarsa-e-Firozia at Uchh. He had established another college and serāi at Multan for Maulana Qutbuddin Kāshānī, one of the most eminent scholar of Islam during that period. As a result of this personal interest and the patronage extended to the scholars and the literati that a very favourable climate was created for the development of religious and literary sciences in the region and a very significant contribution was made in various branches of learning.

MULTAN AND UCHH AS PROVINCE OF THE DELHI SULTANATE:

After the fall of Qubacha, the province of Sind was annexed to the Delhi Sultanate and brought under its direct control. Its administrative divisions were Multan and Uchh. The fact that the region was constantly exposed to the Mongol onslaught and had to bear its brunt had imparted a kind of prominence in the contemporary politics. As it happened to be the frontier province of India, the Sultans always paid special attention towards its administration and only trusted and capable men were appointed as its governors. Because of the crucial importance of the region, the governors used to wield enormous influence at Delhi. After its annexation to the Delhi Sultanate

during Iltutmish's reign Izzuddin Kabir Khan Ayaz was appointed as the governor of the province along with its dependencies. After some time he was transferred to Lahore, and Multan was assigned to Malik Ikhtiyaruddin Qaraqash Khan Aitekin. The region of Uchh was entrusted to Tajuddin Sanjar Kazlak Khan. He was a Turkish slave purchased at Baren by Iltutmish during the reign of Qutbuddin Aibak. He served as Châshnicîr and Amir-i-Akhur of the Sultan and later on, he was appointed governor of Uchh. The new governor died in 1231 A.D. The region was then assigned to Malik Saifuddin Aibak. Minhaj calls him Aibak-i-Uchh. He was also a trusted Turkish slave of the Sultan and prior to this appointment, had held the fief of Narnul, Baran, and Sunam.

Iltutmish died on 29 April 1236 and his eldest surviving son, Ruknuddin Firoz Shah, ascended the throne of Delhi. He was an incompetent Sultan. This led to a widespread rebellion in his dominions, specially the governors of far off provinces.

2. He was another senior slave of Iltutmish. He belonged to Qara Khata-i-Turks and in the beginning of his career was the cup bearer of the Sultan. He served the Sultan in various capacities including the governorship of important provinces. Like Kabir Khan Ayaz, he also became an influential courtier. He was killed in a revolt in 1246 A.D., Minhaj II, pp.19-20.
4. Ibid., p. 8.
repudiated their loyalty. A confederacy was formed among the
- Malik Izzudin Khan Ayaz, Governor of Multan, Malik Saifuddin
Kuchi, Governor of Hansi, and Malik Alauddin, Governor of Lahore.
The confederacy refused to accept the supremacy of the new
Sultan and declared independence. Sultan Ruknuddin set out with
a huge army to suppress the revolt. In this chaotic situation
Sultan Razia, daughter of Iltutmish, conspired against Sultan
Ruknuddin and assassinated him on 29 November 1236 A.D. The
situation provided another opportunity for Kabir Khan Ayaz to
rise against Razia. The revolt was suppressed and an accord was
reached among Sultan Razia and the governors. Accordingly, Malik
'Izzuddin was transferred to Lahore and Multan was assigned to
Malik Ikhtiyaruddin Qaraqash. But the assignment did not satisfy
the ambitious governor who again revolted on 16th March 1240
A.D. but later on surrendered on the condition that Multan would
also be given in his control. Throughout her reign Malik Hindu
Khan Mihtar-i-Mubarak held the office of the treasurer and the
territory and fortress of Uchh were in his charge.

Taking advantage of this situation Malik Saifuddin Hasan
Qarlugh, who had come from Buniyan invaded the fort of Uchh after
raising much dust in that part of the country. Malik Saifuddin

1. Minhaj, I, p.457; and Sirhindi, (p.24) records the
same date; Nizamuddin Ahmad (I,p.66) gives 1237 which is
incorrect.
Aibak came out of the fort and faced the enemy with a powerful army. Qarlugh's forces were routed and Saifuddin Aibak emerged victorious. But he was not destined to live long after this. Shortly afterward, he fell from his horse and died.

The short but eventful period of Sultan Razia came to an end when she was disposed and assassinated in 1240 A.D. With a preplanned conspiracy, her brother Muizzuddin Bahram Shah ascended the throne of Delhi. Turkish Maliks took advantage of this changeover and hatched a conspiracy against him. They came to Delhi and captured the Sultan. The Sultan was assassinated on 9th May 1242 A.D. They elevated Alauddin Masud on 10th May 1242 A.D. who too reigned for a short period. This puppet Sultan was also a weak ruler. He acted meekly upon the advice of the nobles.

During this period the relations between the centre and the frontier provinces of north western borders were put to severe strain. The region was constantly threatened by the Mongols who came in wave after wave and posed a serious challenge to the security and prosperity of the region. Those at the centre

1. Minhaj, II, pp.8-9. The date of the encounter and the death of the governor has not been recorded by contemporary or near contemporary historians. It may be presumed that the incident occurred in 1236 A.D. after the death of Iltutmish.

neither had the will nor the ability to extend any kind of help to these beleagured frontiers. During this Hasan Qarlugh appeared before the gates of Multan. Kabir Khan Ayaz, the then governor of Multan, inflicted a crushing defeat on him. But soon after he had to face again another Mongol invasion. In a decisive battle he defeated them as well. These successes must have generated enormous confidence in the mind of the governor about his own capabilities.

The deteriorating political as well as administrative situation at Delhi emboldened the ambitious governor. He declared himself independent and soon after occupied the neighbouring territories including the fort of Uchh. According to Minhaj, Khān-i-ʿAzam Malik Kabir Khan Ayaz was a Rumi Turk and a slave of Malik Nasiruddin Husain whom he had served as Amir Shikar. After the assassination of his master he migrated

1. Hasan Qarlugh had earlier approached the Sultan of Delhi for refuge and had sent his eldest sons Malik Nasiruddin Muhammad, to the Delhi court. Razia assigned him a fief of Baran, but he did not like it. He left to join his father. (Minhaj, II, p.162). As later events show, Saifuddin probably retired to Banian which is situated in the hill tracts of the Sind Sagar Doab, west of the Salt Range. (Reverty I, p.623 fn).


3. Ibid., II, pp. 5-6.

4. Ibid., II, p.6.
towards Hindustan and was purchased by Iltutmish. The territory of Multan was assigned to him and he was given the title of Kabir Khan-i-Minkobarni. He was also called Ayaz-i-Hazar Mardah. After his death in 1241 A.D. his son, Tajuddin Abu Bakr Ayaz, succeeded him to rule Multan and Uchh. Abu Bakr was a young man of good nature imbibed with gentle habits and courage. He followed the policy of his late father and extended his territories and soon occupied a large area of Sind. Abu Bakr's reign was very short, he died in young age in 1245 A.D. During the short and independent rule of Kabir Khan Ayaz and Tajuddin Abu Bakr Ayaz, Sind court was full of literary personalities such as 'Amid Loiki and Qasim Daud Khatib. From 1241 A.D. to 1243 A.D. 'Amid was attached to Tajuddin Abu Bakr at Uchh. After the death of Tajuddin, the poet attached to the court of Alauddin Masud Sultan of Delhi, Qasim Daud Khatib translated the Arabic text of 'Awārif-ul-Maarif into Persian on the advice of Shaikh Bahauddin Zakariya Multani. This is the earliest known Persian translation of 'Awārif-ul-Ma'ārif and was dedicated to Tajuddin Abu Bakr Ayaz. During his reign the Qarlughis once again tried in

1. Minhaj, II, p.6; Raverty, however, reads Mangirni and also gives other variations of the term which is of Turkish origin (Cf. Raverty, p. 725 fn.7).


vain to occupy Multan and Uchh. After his death Uchh and Multan once again reverted to Delhi and were assigned to Malik Ikhtiyāruddin Qaraqash Khān-i-Aetkin.

In November 1245 A.D. Manguta, the Mongol leader, arrived with his army before the gates of Uchh and sacked the city. Sultan 'Alāūddin Masūd Shāh marched rapidly from Delhi, and was joined by Malik Balban-i-Kishlu from Nagore. However, no direct encounter took place, as the Sultan reached the river Beas the Mongol raised the siege of Uchh and returned towards Khurāsan. Malik Saifuddin Hasan had already retired towards southern Sind after leaving the fortress of Multan. In the same period, Sultan appointed Malik 'Izzuddin Balban Kishlu Khan to look after the Multān affairs.

The Turkish Amirs and Maliks dethroned and imprisoned the ruling monarch on 10th June 1246 A.D. and elevated Nasiruddin Maḥmūd Shāh on the same day as the new Sultan of Delhi. Soon after his accession, Mongols again invaded the territory of Multān under their experienced leader Sali Nuin. Hearing about this, the Sultan, accompanied by Ulugh Khan, marched with a huge

1. Minhaj, I, pp.471, 484, II, p.37; See also Ḍ̣̂mid, pp. 102-9.
2. Ibid., II, p.170.
3. Ibid., II, p.37.
4. Ibid., I, p. 471.
army towards the bank of the Indus and reached there in December 1246 A.D. The Mongols had already left the scene after extorting large sums of money from the people and capturing many prisoners. They had besieged the fort for fourteen days. This created an acute scarcity of the food provisions in the fort. The governor of the region requested Shaikh Bahāʾuddin Zakariya to approach the Mongols for raproachment. The Shaikh negotiated with the Mongols through Malik Shamsuddin Kurat. The Shaikh offered 100,000 dinars to the invaders and persuaded them to raise the siege.

In 1247 A.D. Malik ʿIzzuddin Balban Kishlu Khan requested the Sultan to bestow upon him the governorship of Uchh and Multan as well. The Sultan accepted his request on the condition that the governor would relinquish the charge of Siwalik and Nagaur. Kishlu Khan occupied Uchh and Multan but did not surrender Nagaur. The Sultan accompanied with Ulugh Khan proceeded towards Nagaur to punish the defaulting governor. After much negotiation, however, Kishlu Khan submitted to the Sultan and agreed to make over Nagaur and proceed towards Uchh.

2. Sṣyf bin Yaqub Harawi, Tarikh Nama-i-Harat, ed. M.Zubayr, Calcutta, 1944, pp. 157-58. The author calls the governor Jankar Khan which seems to be the copyist's mistake as no other contemporary or near-contemporary source records this name and the other confusion is of dirhams (Minhaj) and dinars (Yaqub).
Saifuddin Hasan Qarlugh again invaded the region of Multan in 1249 A.D. and invested the fort. Kishlu Khan rushed from Uchh with a band of his fifty choicest horsemen. During this encounter which ensued Hasan Qarlugh was slain and Kishlu Khan entered the fort. The Qarlugh kept the death of their leader secret and continued fighting under the command of Hasan's son, Malik Nasiruddin Muhammad, and fought so vigorously that Kishlu Khan had to patch up peace with the invaders. The Qarlughs compelled Kishlu Khan to surrender Multan. Qarlughs then occupied the fort of Multan.

The Qarlughs too were not to retain the possession of the Multan fort for long. After some time the governor of Taberhinda, Malik Nugrat-al-Din Sher Khan Sungar, attacked Multan and occupied the fort. He appointed Ikhtiyaruddin Kurez as his deputy and himself returned to his territory. He ruled Multan for a long time and was successful in thwarting the Mongol incursions. According to Minhaj he sent in 1250 A.D. a contingent of Mongol prisoners to Delhi whom he had captured during one of the encounters.

These developments again encouraged Kishlu Khan to try his luck to capture the fort of Multan. On Saturday 4 June 1250AD

1. This name has been written variously, Minhaj reads Karbas (I, p.484) & Raverty records other variations.
he set out from Uchh. While he was on his way, Sher Khan inter­cepted and captured Kishlu Khān. However, Kishlu Khān purchased his safety by surrendering the fort of Uchh to Sher Khān and himself retired towards the capital on 10 July 1251 A.D.

Sultan Naṣiruddin Maḥmūd assigned the territory of Badaun to Kishlu Khān and himself proceeded towards Uchh and Multan on 26 December 1252 A.D. The Sultan wanted to punish disloyal Sher Khān who was the governor of Multan and Punjab from 1249 A.D. On 3 November 1253 A.D. Sultan proceeded to Multan. While the royal forces remained on the Šeas, Sher Khan decided not to fight and fled from Sind to Turkistan to Mongu Qaan. On 16th February 1254 A.D. the territories of Uchh and Multan were wrested out of the hands of Sher Khān’s dependents and placed under the charge of Arsalan Khān Sanjar-i-Chasht.

After sometime Kishlu Khān was again appointed as the governor of his former provinces of Uchh and Multan. After the departure of Sultan, Kishlu Khān repudiated his allegiance to Delhi and transferred his loyalty to the Mongols and even received a Mongol agent. Kishlu Khān also presented the whole of Sind to the Mongols. The ungrateful and rebellious governor made it very difficult for Delhi to occupy Sind again.

1. Minhāj, II, pp. 37-38,
Kishlu Khan accompanied with Qutlug Khan marched towards Delhi in 1257 A.D. However, they could not succeed in their design. Kishlu Khan then returned to Uchh. Shortly afterwards, he paid a visit to Hulaku in 'Iraq to invite him to India. Towards the end of 1257 A.D. a Mongol army under Sali Nuin appeared in Sind. The disgruntled governor entered into a pact with Mongols and joined their camp. This development made the situation very grave and required immediate and effective steps to check to invaders. The Sultan left Delhi on 13 January 1258 A.D. and summoned several Amirs and Maliks to join the expedition. The governors of Awadh and Lakhanuti delayed their departure to join the royal camp. However, the Sultan postponed his expedition until 10 January 1259 A.D., Kishlu Khan is said to have ruled the region till 1260 A.D.

Ismi records an expedition against Kishlu Khan led by Balban in 1258 A.D. On the arrival of Delhi forces, Kishlu Khan left his son Muhammad in Multan and himself marched towards Punjab which was under his control. Balban captured the fort of Multan and Muhammad fled to his father. Seeing this Kishlu Khan left Punjab and marched to Buniyan from there he tried to recapture Multan with Mongol assistance. The diplomacy of Balban

2. Ibid., I, 494.
succeeded in mutual non-aggression pact with Halaku and the recovery of Sind was result of cordial relation rather than military action. In pursuance of the new arrangement Mongol emissaries arrived at Delhi in 1260 A.D. and were received with great honour.

After the death of Kishlu Khān the affairs of the region were thrown into confusion. The seat of Multan seems to have remained vacant for a long time as fresh appointment is recorded until the death of Sultan Mahmud on 18 February 1266 A.D. Subsequent events show the name of Sher Khān as the governor of northern regions but we do not know the date of his appointment and other relevant details.

**PRINCE MUHAMMAD AS GOVERNOR OF MULTAN**

After the death of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud, Ghiyasuddin Balban ascended the throne of Delhi on 20 February 1266 A.D. He was an experienced administrator. He introduced several reforms in the administration of Delhi Sultanate. He adopted more vigorous policy to deal with the ever-growing menace of Mongol inroads. The territories of Uchh and Multan were always source of much trouble because of the disloyalty of the governors and the continuous attacks of the Mongols. After a thorough

1. Muhammad Aziz Ahmad, pp. 242, 258.

re-evaluation of the past events and a pragmatic appraisal of the various geo-political factors involved in the situation obtaining there, Balban came to the conclusion that the only solution of the perennial problem of Sind was to entrust its administration to a person who enjoyed his full confidence and whose loyalty could never be doubted. The new incumbent should also be a man of exceptional ability. The only man who fitted the bill was his own son, Prince Muhammad. He, therefore, decided to assign him the territories of Multan, Lahore and entire areas of Sind. Ziauddin Barani does not record the actual date of the appointment of the Prince but as it happened just after the death of Sher Khan, who was a distinguished Khan and a great barrier to the Mongols and who was poisoned by his own cousin, Balban, sometime in 1269 A.D., it may be assumed that the appointment was made in the same or next year.

The career of the Prince Muhammad is recorded by the contemporary as well as later historians. Barani writes that the prince was gentle, courageous, able and learned, adorned with good qualities and patron of letters. The galaxy of literators and poets attached to the court of the Prince included such

1. Barani, p.50.
2. Barani, (p.65) records the episode of poisoning Sher Khan by Balban. It was later repeated with variations by other historians like Sirhindi, Nizamuddin Ahmad, Badaoni, etc. The assertion has been challenged by Raverty (II p. 794 fn.) on chronological and historical grounds.
distinguished persons as Amir Khusrau and Amir Hasan. The Prince is also said to have invited Shaikh Sadi to his court at Multan but the poet could not oblige him due to his old age. But it is said that Shaikh Sadi sent a copy of Gulistān to him in his own handwriting.

The Prince was sent to Multan with all preparations of war along with a body of experienced advisors. The Prince himself used to visit Delhi every year to seek advice of his father. This constant preparedness and caution was necessary as the situation at the frontiers was very serious. The Mongols had made a practice to invade the frontier towns at least once a year to extricate men and money. The havoc wrought by the Mongols was enormous and Balban had to pull every muscle of his resources to effectively check the ever-growing Mongol menace. As a part of the preparations all, the forts in the frontier regions, damaged in earlier raids, were repaired.

Soon after in 1279 A.D. the Mongol troops crossed the river Beas and Balban despatched prince Muḥammad from Multan, Bughra Khan from Samanah and Malik Mubārak from Delhi. The combined forces marched to Beas hunted out the Mongols and obtained several victories over them. Sometimes in 1283 A.D., the Prince proceeded to Delhi to see his father. This proved

1. Barani, p. 69.
2. Barani, p. 81.
to be the last visit to the court. Showing extra-ordinary favour towards his son, Balban appointed him his heir-apparent.

Next year the Mongols again came before the gates of Multan with a force of twenty thousand under the command of Tamer, a Mongol noble of Herat, Qandhar, Balkh, Bamiyan etc. Prince Muhammad came out with a huge army to face the invader. Both forces halted on the either banks of the river which was situated at Sarir garden. A fierce battle took place. The encounter resulted in the defeat of Tamer, but the Prince was killed along with a small contingent of 500 men while offering his Juma' prayer by a Mongol officer who had been laying an ambush near the battle field. The tragic death occurred on Friday 9th March 1285 A.D. The Mongols captured a large number of prisoners including two court poets, Amir Khusrau and Amir Hasan. After

1. Barani, p.70.
2. Ferishta, I, p.82.
3. Nizāmuddin, named this place "Mandi Kilapi". This and other places can not be identified now. Nizāmuddin Ahmad, I,p.98.
5. Barani pp. 109-10. He is however, vague and careless in recording the correct date and gives 1285 A.D. While Mir Hasan the poet and courtier of the martyr Prince and an eye witness of the encounter, records the exact date i.e. Friday Zil Hijja 683/9 March 1285 A.D. The poet who became a prisoner of war along with Amir Khusrau, furnishes a detailed account of the tragedy in the shape of a marsiya. This elegy has been copied by later historians including Nizāmuddin Ahmad (I,p.98) who gives the same date. Badaoni (I,p.13) only gives the month and year. It is rather surprising that Barani does not utilize vital information contained in the marsiya.
the tragic death of his son and the heir apparent. Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban appointed his youthful grandson Kai Khusrau to replace his father and sent him to Multan with a large army to check the Mongol inroad. He ordered that the dead Prince should henceforth be known as Khan-i-Shahid. However, Balban could not bear the sad demise of his son and fell ill. He died in 1287 A.D., after nominating Kai Khusrau as his heir. Court conspiracies led by Fakhruddin Kotwal did not allow Balban's nomination to materialize. The Prince returned to Multan and Kaiqubad, son of Bughra Khan was enthroned with the title of Sultan Muizzuddin.

**PRINCE KAI KHUSRAU AS GOVERNOR OF MULTAN:**

Prince Kai Khusrau as governor of Multan was successful in guarding the frontiers against Mongols. After the death of Balban, he faced difficulties with the centre. In the court of Delhi Malik Nizamuddin hatched a plot against him. Kai Khusrau was called to Delhi and was murdered along with his companions, on his way in the district of Rohtak.

2. Badaoni, I, p.156; Sirhindi, p.52; Ferishta, I, p.83, gives 1286 which is incorrect.
Encouraged by the murder of Kai Khusrau, the Mongols who were waiting for an opportunity to invade the territories of Multan and Lahore. There was no advance guard at Multan to check the Mongols. Malik Bekar was despatched by the Sultan at the head of thirty thousand troops to check the Mongols. He routed the Mongols on the Ravi and took a great number of them as prisoners. He is even said to have pushed the Mongols as far as the Salt Range. The Sultan who wanted to get rid of Nizamuddin, decided to remove him from the court and transferred him to Multan. But he did not proceed to his assignment and was killed later on. The days of the last Ilbari Sultan were also numbered. He was attacked by paralysis on account of excessive use of wine and debentury. The ailing Sultan appointed Malik Husain, an uncle of Jalaluddin Khalji, to govern Multan. The Sultan was done to death in 1290 A.D. and with his assassination ended the Turkish Sultanate of Delhi which ruled the major parts of Hindustan for more than eighty years.

4. Barani, P.173. The Turkish rule in fact came to an end with the fall of the Tughluq dynasty.
THE KHALJI RULE:

Jalaluddin Firoz Khalji ascended the throne of Delhi at Kilugarh on 13 June 1290 A.D. He appointed his son Arkali Khan as the governor of Multan, Uchh, Sunam and Dipalpur. Arkali Khan had already shown his resourcefulness and capability by his achievement in suppressing the revolt of Malik Chhajju.

In 1291 A.D. the Mongols once again appeared at the frontiers with a force of 15,000 under the command of Abdullah, a grandson of Halaku Khan, and encamped at Sunam, a place located close to Multan. Jalaluddin Khalji marched out of the capital to meet the enemy. After some skirmishes the Mongols agreed to withdraw without fighting. The sultan established cordial relations with Abdullah whom he called his son. The Sultan married one of his daughters to the Mongol Chief. After the settlement of 4000 Mongol immigrants, the place was named as

1. See for details Amir Khusrau, Miftah-ul-Futuh, ed. Shaikh Abdur Rashid, Aligarh 1954, pp.6-7; various dates recorded by different historians, see K.S.Lal, History of the Khalijs Delhi, 1980, p. 15,fn.1.

2. Barani, 184, Masumi, p.42.

3. A town then located on Ravi between Multan and Dipalpur. Most of the historians including Barani, Isami, & Haji Dabir named it 'Baram', Badaoni (I, p.172) calls it Sunam. See also History of the Khalijs, p.30.
Mongolpura. Similarly, a great number of them were settled at Uchh and the place was named as Uchh Mughala.

Arkali Khan proved an asset to his father's administration. He served as governor of Lahore, Uchh and Multan. He also acted as regent at Delhi while his father was away on his military campaigns in the South. After the sudden death of his elder brother, he also became the heir-apparent. However, after Jalaluddin's assassination on 20 July 1296, Alauddin proclaimed himself as the Sultan of Delhi. Arkali Khan did not move from Multan to avenge the murder of his father and claim the throne of Delhi. His mother, therefore, proclaimed her youngest son Qadar Khan as the Sultan of Delhi who assumed the title of Sultan Ruknuddin Ibrahim, and she began to rule as the regent of her son. The arrangement did not last long as most of her follower deserted her to join Alauddin. Alauddin marched towards capital. Ruknuddin then tried to check Alauddin's advance, but could not succeed. At last he took his mother and a small band of his

2. Badaoni, I,173, 'A comparatively insignificant part of the modern town of Uchh, it is a small village now, having a total population of about 1500 souls. The ruined tombs and mosques and some low and high mounds in the vicinity reveals the antiquity of the place.
3. Barani (p.220) records the details of the circumstances which led to this treacherous and cold blooded murder. Khusrau, Sirhind, Nizamuddin, Badaoni and Ferishta merely copy Barani's account, but gives minor details as well. For a detailed study of the subject see, History of the Khallig, pp. 55-56.
supporters and left for Multan secretly. Alauddin entered the capital on 20 October 1296 A.D.

Soon after his accession, Alauddin despatched his trusted generals, Ulugh Khan and Zafar Khan with forty thousand forces to invade Multan in November 1296 A.D. Arkali Khan had made preparation to meet the invaders. However his men deserted him and joined the enemy. At last Arkali Khan implored Shaikh Rukn-i-Alam to intercede on his behalf. The Shaikh arranged a truce between them. Arkali Khan and other princes were driven to Delhi. Nusrat Khan brought instruction from Alauddin and took the charge of the prisoners at Aboher. Arkali Khan, Ruknuddin Ibrahim, Alghu and Ahmad Chap were blinded. Their women were arrested and slaves and properties were confiscated at the instruction of the Sultan. Jalaluddin's sons were imprisoned at Hansi, and the sons of Arkali Khan were assassinated. Malika-i-Jahan, and other laides of the harem along with Ahmad Chap were brought to Delhi and imprisoned in the house of Nusrat Khan. Multan was

2. Masumi, p. 43.
given in the charge of Zafar Khan while Uchh, Bhakkar, Siwistan and Thatta were assigned to Nusrat Khan.

Between 1297 and 1299 A.D. two successive invasions of Mongol were made, first under Kadar and the second under Dava and Saldi. These were easily repulsed. The Siwistan invasion was led by Saldi who occupied the fort of Siwistan. Zafar Khan was sent to flush out the Mongols. The valiant general gave them a crushing defeat. It was for the first time that the Mongols were confronted with such an ignominous defeat. Zafar Khan returned to Delhi along with a large number of prisoners of both sexes including their leader Saldi and Dava. Zafar Khan's victory excited people's admiration. The impact of his popularity was such that the Sultan became suspicious and transferred him to Lakhnauti. Meanwhile, Mongols again appeared before the gates of Siwistan with a force of twenty tumas (200,000 horse) and marched upto Kili near Delhi. While the Mongol forces were marching towards Delhi, the royal forces were only hovering round the flanks of the invaders. Zafar Khan was killed in this encounter.

2. Masumi (pp.43-44) records that Nusrat Khan, who had been appointed governor of Sind after the defeat of Arkali Khan, marched against the Mongols and defeated them.
3. The first invasion of Mongols during the reign of Alauddin was in Rabi-ul-Akhir 697/February 1298 A.D. vide Khazain-al-Futuh, p.34, Eng. tr. p.23; See for detailed description see, History of the Khalils, pp. 132-139.
Sultan Alauddin wanted to strengthen his territories and for this purpose he appointed new governors in the provinces. Tajul Mulk Kafuri was appointed to the governorship of Multan and Siwistan, and the region of Dipalpur and Lahore was assigned to Ghazi Malik Tughluq. It was some time in 1304 A.D. that the Mongols once again ravaged Multan. This time the Sultan assigned Multan and Dipalpur to Ghazi Malik with the instructions to deal firmly with the Mongols. Ghazi Malik proved himself equal to the occasion and routed them with terrible slaughter. It happened during the last days of Alauddin. The iqta of Uchh was assigned to Bahram Aiba entitled Khishlu Khan, an influential amir of Khalji court who later on became a trusted friend of Ghazi Malik. According to Ghazi Malik himself, he fought twenty nine battles against the Tatars and defeated them and was given the title of Malik al-Ghazi. When Ghazi Malik was going to over-

3. Amir Khusrau Tughlug-Namah, ed. S. Hashmi Faridabadi, Aurangabad 1933, p.63. It, however, appears that after some time the iqta was transferred to Mughlai, as the latter events would show.
4. Ibn Batuta (p.436) records that Malik Tughluq fixed an inscription on the Jama Mosque built by him at Multan. No trace of this mosque or the inscription is available now. However, the mosque was seen by Ibn Batuta. He also gives the text of inscription. According to him it reads "I have encountered the Tatar on seventy nine occasions, and defeated them, hence I am called Malik al-Ghazi." Amir Khusrau (Tughlug-Namah, p.63) also attests the existence of the Jama Mosque.
throw Khusrau Khan, the usurper of Khalji power, he invited Mughlati the governor of Multan for help. Mughlati refused the invitation. Ghazi Malik then wrote a letter to the officers of Multan who then overthrew the governor and killed him under the leadership of Bahram Siraj, a religious luminary of Multan.

THE TUGHLUQ RULE:

The rise of the Tughlus to power can be traced back from the rise and fall of Nasiruddin Khusrau's rule in the history of the Delhi Sultanate. Qutbuddin Mubarak Khalji was assassinated on Wednesday 9th July 1320 A.D. at the hands of his slave, Khusrau Khan, whom Amir Khusrau calls Hasan Khusrau in Tughluq-Namah. Hearing the news of the murder of the last Khalji Sultan and his innocent brothers, Ghazi Malik invited several Khalji amirs to join him to crush the usurper. These Amirs were Mughlati governor of Multan, Bahram Aiba governor of Uchh, Muhammad Shah Lur governor of Sind, Amir Haushung, governor of Jalour, Ain-ul-Mulk Multani, minister and the governor of Ujjan and Dharwar.

1. The Tughluq-Namah, p.63; Sirhindi, p.89; Badaoni, I, p.222; Isami, (p.366) however calls Aiba Governor of Multan and Uchh, who unhesitatingly joined the forces of Ghazi Malik on his call against Khusrau Khan. He does not mention the name of Mughlati and other details connected with him. See also Nizamuddin (I, p.188) who repeats the story.


3. Ibid., p. 57.
After inviting these amirs Ghazi Malik started towards Delhi while his son, Malik Fakhruddin Juna, had already escaped earlier from Delhi. The combined forces of Malik Ghazi accompanied with the two Khokher chiefs Gulchandar and Sahaj Rai reached and encamped at Indarpath near Delhi. The battle took place on Friday and on Saturday 6 September 1320 A.D. Malik Ghazi ascended the throne of Delhi assuming the title of Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughluq.

Ghiyasuddin Tughluq appointed Kishlu Khan as the governor of Multan and Uchh. During those days the region of lower Sind was only nominally under Delhi Sultanate. Taking advantage of the trouble, at the centre its chief, Amar, had captured Thatta and become independent.

According to Isami during this time Mongols had crossed the Indus under the leadership of Sher Mughal. The Central government sent an army under the command of Malik Shadi, the Naib vazir and other officers. The Mongols were defeated.

After the death of Ghiyasuddin Tughluq his son, Muhammad Tughluq, ascended the throne of Delhi in 1325 A.D. The administration of north west frontier provinces remained under the

1. Ibid., p. 128, Isami, pp. 375, 379, 381.
2. Tughluq-Namah, pp. 143-44.
3. Masumi, pp. 46, 60.
control of the same officers. But certain developments taking place during that time put the relations between the centre and the region under severe strain. The governor of Multan and Uchh, Kishlu Khan, had incurred Sultan's displeasure for having buried the corpses of Bahauddin Gurshap and Ghiyasuddin Bahadur which, while being paraded through the empire, had reached his territories. The Sultan ordered Aiba to attend the court to explain his position, but he refused and revolted.

The date of the Multan rebellion has not been recorded by any contemporary or near contemporary historian, but the circumstantial evidence shows that it must have happened in 1327-28 A.D. When the Sultan ordered for the second time migration of people from Delhi to Daultabad. Accordingly the rebellion broke out immediately after the Sultan had moved to south.

On hearing about the outbreak, the Sultan rushed to the north to suppress the revolt. A new army was raised and the Sultan marched towards Multan. After a fierce battle Kishlu Khan was

1. Ibn Batuta (pp. 482-3) and Badaoni, (p.126) say that Kishlu Khan's revolt was a reaction against the misbehaviour of Sultan's emissary Ali Khato Khati who had come to Multan to take the family of Kishlu Khan to Daultabad. During this altercation, Ali Khati ordered Luti, son in law of Khaslu Khan to be beheaded. He also rebuked the governor thinking that the governor was delaying the departure to Daultabad intentionally. After that Kishlu Khan refused to obey the Sultan's order and revolted. See Sirhindi, p.100; Isami, p.420.

killed and his army was routed completely. For punishing the inhabitants of Multan, the Sultan marched towards the city. A large number of the people were slain. Shaikh Ruknuddin, requested the Sultan and came out bare headed from the "Amkhas" gate and stood there until the Sultan acceded to the request of the Shaikh to pardon the innocent people of Multan. The Sultan also ordered to hang the head of Kishlu Khan over the gate where he stayed during his visit to Multan. In 1333 A.D. when Ibn Batuta came to Multan he also saw the head which was hanging on the gate. Qiwam-al-Mulk Maqbul was appointed as the new governor of Multan and Uchh. Originally, a Hindu of Telingana and called Karan, he was in the service of the Rai of Telingana but had later embraced Islam and joined the service of Sultan Muhammad Tugluq who named him Maqbul. He was an expert in arithmetics and an intelligent administrator. He ruled the territory for about fourteen years, when in 1341 A.D. he was replaced and succeeded by Pakhruddin Bahzad. He was also transferred and replaced with Imadul Mulk Sartez, a senior courtier and had served earlier as the (Arzal Mamalik) commander-in-chief of the imperial army.

The region of Siwistan was ruled by Ratan, a Hindu. He was killed by Wunar and Qaisar-i-Rumi. They captured the government.

1. Ibn Batuta, p.483, Isami, p. 443.
treasury of about twelve lakhs. Wunar who became Malik Firoz mustered a large army to face the situation but he did not consider it safe and fled away. The army then raised Qaisar-i-Rumi as its leader. The governor of Multan Imadul Mulk Sartez, 1 watched these developments and crushed the rebellion.

Sultan Muhammad spent last days in chasing the rebel slave, Taghi, at Gujarat. He fled from there and took shelter in Sind with the help of the Jam of Thatta. The Sultan led an expedition against the Jam of Thatta. But the Sultan died on the way of the bank of the river Indus on 20 March 1351 A.D.

After the death of Muhammad bin Tughluq, his cousin Firoz Shah Tughluq ascended the throne on 25 August 1351 A.D. The governor of Multan Sartez was replaced and the charge was given to Ain-ul-Mulk Multani. However, no specific date of his appointment and stay has been mentioned by any contemporary or later historian. But the manshur which was issued by the Sultan is preserved in the Insha-i-Mahru.

Ain-ul-Mulk was an experienced administrator and he was able to give a new direction to the administration of the province which resulted in bringing peace and tranquility to the region.

The region had suffered for long by the inroads of the Mongols. The reforms which were introduced by Ain-ul-Mulk can easily be seen in his collection of letters. No other assignment had been recorded in the history after the Multan’s assignment.

In 1358 A.D. Firoz Tughluq appointed another experienced general, Tatar Khan, to the post of Shiqdar of the vast areas of the Sultanate extending from Ghaznin to Uchh and Multan. Tatar Khan continued to rule the vast region for a long period extending over 18 years. The Mongols once more started creating difficulties on the frontier and it was felt at the court that some energetic governor was required to meet the situation. With this view Sultan Firoz Shah appointed Malik al-Sharq Mardan Daulat Nasir-ul-Mulk as the governor of the region. Sirhindi and other later historians record that at least three generations

1. Mahru, p. 88.
2. Ibid., p. 9.
4. His real name was Khwaja Ziauddin. He was a grandson of Khwaja Abdullah Ansari Harawi. Ziauddin came to Hindustan in 1353 A.D. and joined the services of Sultan Firoz.
of Mardan Daulat were associated with Multan which would suggest their extra-ordinary success in the region. After his death his son and grandson were appointed successively to administer these frontier territories. Initially he has proved his mettle against Haji Ilyas of Bengal. Impressed by his performance in Bengal, the Sultan gave him the title of Mardan Daulat and appointed him as the governor of Multan.

The rebellious activities of Jam Alauddin Juna, who ruled over the small region of lower Sind, reached such an extent that Sultan Firoz Shah felt it necessary to personally lead an expedition against him. It was a prestigious war for Firoz Shah because Muhammad Tughluq died at the bank of Indus before conquering Thatta. In this expedition Firoz Shah has to undergo much hardship due to famine and other natural claimities. After two and half year of continuous fighting Firoz Shah captured Thatta and took Jam as captive to Delhi.

Ain-ul-Mulk bitterly complained the behaviour of Banbinah who had repeatedly tried to induce the Mongols to invade the country. Mahru also reports that Jam was not so bad, but he

2. Anonymous, Sirat-i-Firoz Shahi, Bankipur, MS. No.VII 547, fol. 41b. He was the brother of the late Jam Umar and Sadruddin Banbinah son of Jam Unar.
was incapable of controlling his nephew and the men around him. 1

Sultan Firoz Shah died on 20 September 1388 A.D. This led a political gap and chaos which resulted in a civil war between the contenders for the throne. The claimants of the throne wanted to gain the support of provincial governors for their own cause. Muhammad Shah seems to have succeeded in securing the support of Malik-us-Sharq Nasirul Mulk, the governor of Multan as we find his fighting on his side in 1389. As a reward, Muhammad Shah invested him with the title of Khizr Khan for his services. 2

In 1395 A.D. a conflict arose between Khizr Khan governor of Multan and Sarang Khan the governor of Dipalpur. In this encounter Khizr Khan lost the battle and fled to Mewat. Sarang Khan occupied the forts of Multan and Uchh. The territory of Uchh was assigned to Malik Ali to govern it on his behalf. 3

1. Sirhindi, p.140; Badaoni, I, p.255.
2. Sirhindi, pp. 146-47.
3. Ibid., p. 147; Badaoni, I, p.259.
4. The historians are not clear about the place of the refuge of Khizr Khan. While Sirhindi, Ferishta, Badaoni etc. do not say anything about his whereabouts after his defeat, Yazdi (I,p.175) relates that Sarang Khan arrested him and put him into prison from where he managed to escape and fled towards Bayana. However the fact that Khizr Khan was appointed as the governor of Multan by Taimur, would go to indirectly suggest that perhaps he had sought shelter with Shams Khan Auhadi the ruler of Bayana (1397-1416 A.D.). Sirhindi, p. 162, Ferishta, 159; Nizamuddin Ahmad, I, p.254.
Meanwhile, Sarang Khan marched towards Samana and defeated Ghalib Khan, the governor of the territory and occupied the fort. Hearing this, Muhammad Shah sent Tatar Khan to deal with Sarang Khan. In an encounter Sarang Khan was defeated on 8 October 1397 A.D. at Kotla and was driven back to Multan.

**TAIMUR'S INVASION:**

After the death of Firoz Shah the centre has been progressively getting weak and the governors of the far off regions were asserting their independence. The political chaos and almost total breakdown of the state machinery was enough inducement for the strong Taimurid state across the border to resist the temptation of the conquest. Consequently Taimur resolved to conquer Hindustan. He assigned the task of invasion to his grandson, Pir Muhammad Jahangir, governor of the provinces of Kabul, Ghaznin, Qandhar and other adjacent territories, and encouraged him to capture the northern part of the country.

Pir Muhammad crossed the Indus in December 1397 and besieged the fort of Uchh. For the assistance of Malik Ali, Sarang Khan sent re-enforcement under the command of Malik Tajuddin, but it was intercepted on its way by the invaders who then advanced towards Multan. Pir Muhammad asked Sarang Khan

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to submit and pay yearly tribute. But Sarang Khan rejected the proposal as he had a large army and numerous elephants at his command. Sarang Khan was also a valiant fighter and was well known for his gallantry and generosity. Pir Muhammad tightened the siege which lasted for six months. In this encounter, Taimur's son-in-law was killed.

Hearing the news, Taimur himself proceeded to help his grandson on 20 September 1398 A.D. Sarang Khan could not resist the fresh attack for long and had to surrender unconditionally. Taimur arrested Sarang Khan along with his near supporters and took them to Samarqand where they were put to death.

Taimur's invasion created a great havoc in the northern frontiers of Hindustan. Return to Samarqand, Taimur appointed Khizr Khan as the governor of Uchh, Multan and Dipalpur in 1399 A.D. Unfortunately, no details are available about his administrative reforms to rehabilitate the people. It appears that much of his time was devoted in consolidating his own position in order to gain supremacy at Delhi. The region was neglected until the time Khizr Khan himself ascended the throne of Delhi as the first Sâlyid ruler on Monday 4 June 1414 A.D.

4. Ibid., pp. 182-83.
Khizr Khan who was appointed as the governor of Multan, Uchh and Dipalpur by Taimur, ascended the throne of Delhi as the first ruler of Saiyid dynasty on Monday 4 June 1414 A.D. He appointed Malik Abdur Rahim, an adopted son of Malik Sulaiman with the title of Ala-ul-Mulk in his own place to govern Multan. The Malik ruled the region for about ten years and died in 1423 A.D. Sultan Mubarak Shah then assigned the governorship of Multan, Bhakkar, and Siwistan to Malik al-Sharq Mahmud Hasan. At that time Shaikh Ali, the Taimurid governor of Kabul was posing a serious threat to the region. On his arrival at Multan his first priority was to strengthen the defences by repairing the old fort which was damaged during the siege of Pir Muhammad. He recruited a large army from the local population and reorganized the civil as well military affairs. The ambitious governor brought back peace and prosperity to the ravaged province. In 1427 A.D. he was replaced by Malik al-Sharq Rajab Nadirah and he was sent to the fief of Hisar Firozah. But the new governor died after two years, and Mahmud Hasan was sent back to Multan with the title of Imadul Mulk. Meanwhile one of the imperial slave, Paulad Turkbachcha revolted at Tabarhindah and invited Shaikh Ali, governor of Kabul, for help. In 1431 A.D. Shaikh Ali

1. Sirhindi, pp. 181-83.
2. Ibid., pp. 183, 201.
3. Ibid., pp. 206, 214.
arrived on the scene and after receiving a large sum of money from Faulad and plundering the territories between Ravi and Chinab, appeared in the suburbs of Multan. The governor sent Malik Sulaiman Shah Lodi to meet the invader but was defeated and killed.

On 15 May 1431 A.D. Shaikh Ali again came to Khusraubad in the vicinity of Multan and attacked one of the gates of the city. Imadul Mulk repulsed the enemy and compelled him to retreat. On 6th and 8th June the invader again tried to occupy the fort but could not succeed. After some time he again tried to capture the fort but was compelled to retreat. In this encounter Imadul Mulk gave him a crushing defeat. Shaikh Ali fled from the battle field leaving his belongings. Two days latter he, again attacked but was defeated and driven back finally.

Meanwhile, the news of Shaikh Ali's attack at Multan reached Mubarak Shah. He sent a strong force under the command of his senior and experienced generals including Majlis-i-Ali-Khan-i-Azam Fath Khan, son of Sultan Muzaffar Gujrat, Majlis-i-Ali Zirak Khan, Malik Kalu Shahnah-i-Pil, Khan-i-Azam Islam Khan, Malik Yusuf Sarwar al-Mulk, Khan-i-Azam Kamal Khan, and Rai Hinw


2. Sirhindi, pp. 218-20.
Zulji Bhatti. The contingent reached Multan on 27 June 1431 and was stationed at Namazgah. While they were moving towards Kotla Alaul Mulk on 13 July 1431 A.D. they gave a final battle to Shaikh Ali who immediately came with his full force. In this encounter the army of Shaikh Ali was completely routed and panic was created among the ranks of Shaikh Ali. They ran away leaving Shaikh Ali alone. The royalist chased him upto Jhelum where he succeeded in crossing the river along with his nephew, Amir Muzaffar. They reached the town of Seor. Shaikh Ali returned to Kabul but left his nephew in the fort of Seor. The royalist chased the fugitive and besieged the fort. However, the siege was abandoned by the order of Sultan.

Imadul Mulk then directed his attention towards the urgent need of revamping the civil administration as well as the rehabilitation of his subjects. But he could not complete his work as he was recalled and Khairuddin Khan was appointed in


2. It is situated between the junction of the Jhelum and Chinab. It is also described by Hiuen Tsang to be 5,000 li in circuit. Nowadays it is revised and has turned in huge mound. The famous Raja Sor laid the foundation of the city. It is bounded on the east by Sutlej, on the west by Indus, on the north by the province of Taki and on the South by Multan. The antiquity of the place may be ascertained approximately by the coins which are found from its ruins.

his place. The good work done by Imadul Mulk and his successful defence of the region against Shaikh Ali had made him very popular in the region and this perhaps aroused the suspicion of the Sultan.

Shaikh Ali seems to have set his heart at capturing Multan but this desire could not materialise as long as Imadul Mulk was there. Hearing the news of his transfer from there Shaikh Ali again set out to capture the territories around Multan and regain his lost prestige. He captured Talumba and imprisoned its leading men and ransacked its environs. Sultan Mubarak proceeded to Samana and encamped there. Seeing this Shaikh Ali retired to Bartol. Again after one year Shaikh Ali appeared towards Tabarhinda but returned back to Seor because of Imadul Mulk's approach. On his way he plundered and sacked Sahiwal and Lahore. Mubarak Shah proceeded towards Dipalpur alongwith Imadul Mulk and Islam Khan Lodi to chase the invader who had already crossed the Chenab on his way to Kabul. This

1. Sirhindi, p.223.

2. Ibid., p.223; Abdul Baqi Nahawandi, Ma'asir-i-Rahimi, I, ed. Muhammad Hidayat Husain, Calcutta 1924, p.422.

3. The name has been recorded by different historians differently. Nizamuddin calls it Balot (I,p.283) while Nahawandi has 'Marut' (I,p.423). For identification and etymological problems, See Elliot III, p.74 fn.1 and Hodivala, I,p.409.

was the last invasion of Shaikh Ali as after it we do not hear
about him again.

Mubarak Shah took keen interest in the administration
of Multan. The region had been disturbed since May 1433 A.D.
The Sultan, decided to pay a visit to the tombs of the celebra-
ted saints of Multan. The Sultan was assassinated on 30 May
1434 A.D. in the new city called Mubarakpur Kotla founded by
him at the bank of Jamuna and his eventful career was closed.
After the assassination of Mubarak Shah, his son Muhammad Shah
ascended the throne at Delhi on the same day. Next year in the
month of November the new Sultan Marched towards Multan and
encamped at a place named Mubarakpur. At the halting place, a
number of dignatories came to visit him including Imadul Mulk,
Islam Khan, Muhammad Khan b. Nusrat Khan, Yusuf Khan Auhadi,
Ahmad Khan grandson of Bahadur Khan Maio, Iqbal Khan, amir of

1. Sirhindi, p.231, Nizamuddin Ahmad, I, p.286; Nahawandi, I, p.425; Shaik Abdul Haq, however records that the
Sultan appointed his brother, Khan-i-Khanan to control the
administration of Multan.

2. Ibid., p. 231; Nahawandi, I,p. 430.

Nahawandi, I,p.426, Perishta, I,p.169, The circumstances of
the Sultan's assassination have been summed up and analysed
in the Cambridge History of India, III, pp. 219-20; See
also R.C. Majumdar's Delhi Sultanate. p.133.

Nahawandi, I,p.426; Perishta, I, p.169.

5. Sirhindi, p.243; Ibid., I,p.290; Ibid.,I,p.430 and Perishta
I,p.170 gives the month Rabi-ul-Awwal.
Hisar Firoza, Amir Ali Gujarati etc. The Sultan treated them kindly and bestowed honours upon them according to their ranks. He also went to pay homage to the saints at Multan and appointed Khan Khanan as governor of the province and himself returned to Delhi.

In 1437 A.D. the city of Multan was disturbed by the Baluch tribe of Langhas. It took a serious turn. The Sultan could not send any force for the help of governor nor he could initiate any punitive action against the miscreants as he was busy in thwarting the attack of Sultan Mahmud Khalji of Malwa. Meanwhile, Bahlol Lodi who had gained immense power and prestige and had indeed attacked Delhi in 1443 A.D. but could not succeed.

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF SHAIKH YUSUF:**

When the disturbances at Multan took a serious turn, the people of the province, having been fed-up with the uncertain situation of the centre, terminated their relations with the centre and elected Shaikh Yusuf, a great grand son of Shaikh Bahaddin Zakariya Multani, to rule the province independently.

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1. Ibid., p. 243; Sirhindi closes his account abruptly at this point.
The last years of Muhammad Shah's rule witnessed rapid decline of the Sultanate. He could not exert himself to take back this frontier region. The Sharqi Sultans of Jaunpur had also penetrated the territories of the Sultanate and pressing him hard. The fact that most of the fief holders withheld their annual payment of the tributes further complicated the situation and made the task of the Sultan still more difficult. The authority of the Sultan did not extend even to the very neighbourhood of the capital itself.

The uncertain and chaotic situation of the Saiyid government was already heading towards total collapse. The dangerously drifting political condition of the region required a capable and energetic administrator to check this downhill trend. But the centre was not in a position to do anything and helplessly watched the worsening situation. Meanwhile Sultan Muhammad Shah breathed his last in 1445 A.D. He was succeeded by his son, Alauddin Alam Shah, the meek Sultan of the Saiyid dynasty. The new Sultan was perhaps the most unworthy ruler of his line. Finding himself unequal to the task he agreed to transfer the power to Bahlul Lodi on 30 April 1450 A.D. The far off regions of the Sultanate took the advantage of the prevailing chaotic

1. Ferishta, II, p.324; Nahawandi, I, p.266.
3. Ferishta, I,p.171; Nizamuddin Ahmad, I,(p.290) records 1343 A.D.
political conditions at the centre asserted their independence. The people of Multan had been studying the situation and had come to the conclusion that in the situation they could not expect any help from any source least of all from the centre. They therefore decided to take the matters in their own hand. They elected one of their own citizens Shaikh Yusuf, a great grandson of Shaikh Bahaddin Zakaria Multani, as the ruler of Multan.

Shaikh Yusuf managed the affairs of Multan and Uchh so efficiently that the province soon regained its prosperity and peace and was set on the road of progress once again. He proved himself to be a good administrator. However, his rule was destined to be shortlived as he fell a victim to a conspiracy hatched against him by a Baluch leader of Langah tribe, Rai Sahra or Sahira who treacherously expelled Shaikh Yusuf from Multan and occupied the fort. The Shaikh then left for Delhi to seek help from Bahlul Lodi where he was received with honour and his son was married to a daughter of Bahlul.

2. He was the father-in-law of Shaikh Yusuf as one of his daughters was married to Shaikh. Sahra sometime came from Siwi to Multan to see his daughter. Shaikh did not allow him to live in the town of Multan, as a matter of safety but Sahra gradually wormed himself in the confidence of Shaikh Yusuf and got his men appointed in the service of Shaikh. One day Rai Sahra hatched a plot against the Shaikh and feigned that he was sick. About midnight he called his armed men and captured the fort. Shaikh fled away and sought shelter in the court of Delhi.
The province had been associated with Delhi Sultanate of more than three centuries, in fact it served as a meeting point of east and west. The whole province of Sind including Multan was a gateway of the eastern territories of India.

Geographically, the region was important because almost all the foreign invaders and travellers wishing to proceed to the centre, either to disturb its peace or to get grace from the throne, passed through Multan.

**LANGAHS RULE OF MULTAN:**

The short rule of Shaikh Yusuf and the usurpation of power by Rai Sahra or Sahira has been recorded by Ferishta, Nizamuddin, Nahwandi, Masumi and Sujan Rai. However, Abul Haq omits the episode and says that, Budha Khan Sindhi, a leader of Baluch tribe of the Langhas, assembled his supporters at Uchh and marched upon Multan. He expelled Khan-Khana and captured the fort. In 1437 A.D., he declared himself independent and assuming the title of Mahmud Shah. He ruled successfully for

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2. Nizamuddin Ahmad, I, p.791 (English tr. )
6. Abul Haq, Akhbar-ul-Akhivar fi Asar al-Abrar, Delhi,1309 A.H. p.183. The date of the foundation of this new ruling dynasty of Multan does not, however, corroborate with subsequent events of the period. If we accept 1443 A.D. as the date of

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well about sixteen years and died in 1460 A.D. Detail about his reign are not available but the achievements of his successor indicate that Mahmud Shah must have been successful in maintaining law and order which ensured peace and prosperity and provided a solid base for his successors.

After the death of Mahmud, his son Qutbuddin ascended the throne. He also ruled for sixteen years and died in 1469 A.D. and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sultan Husain. He was the ablest ruler of the line. He extended his kingdom upto Sorekot, Chiniot, Karor and the whole territory upto Dhankot.

(Continued from the previous page)

Shaikh Yusuf's election, it would not be possible for him to take refuge at the court of Bahlul on his exile after two years i.e. 1445 A.D. As the date of coronation of Bahlul is 1450 A.D. at least six years later than the above date. Further, none of these historians mention the name of Budha Khan Sindi who assumed the title of Mahmud Shah as the first ruler of the dynasty and ruled as long as 16 years. They started their narration with the rise of Rai Sahira who assumed the title of Qutbuddin, in fact the son and successor of Mahmud Shah. Under the conditions, the date will have to be pushed back further during the later days of the last Saiyid ruler Alauddin Alam Shah.

1. The historians are confused about the date, Abdul Haq records 1554 A.D. While Nurul Haq (f.263b) gives the date of his accession 1437 A.D. and records that he ruled for 17 years. This makes the date of his accession 1454 A.D. But, if we take into account the two years of Shaikh Yusuf's reign who ascended the throne in 1443 A.D., the date would be 1460 AD. Shaikh Nurul Haq, Zubdat at-Twarikh, MS. Punjab Public Library fol.263b; as quoted by Ahmad Nabi, p.79.

2. Ferhshta (II,p.325) does not mention Mahmud Shah and begins his account with Qutbuddin.

3. Modern Dinkot located in the District of Mianwali near Kalabagh.
He enhanced his prestige and power after annexing the neighbouring territories in his dominion. The greedy eyes of the Sultan Bahlul were always on the prosperous province of Multan. Soon after his accession Bahlul marched towards Multan. Meanwhile, his own territory was routed by Mahmud Sharqi. After about six years, he again proceeded to capture Multan but had hardly reached Lahore when again he had to rush back to Delhi due to Sharqi interference.

Shaikh Yusuf, the former ruler of Multan, instigated Bahlul Lodi to send expedition against Husain Languah. He sent his son, Barbak Shah Tatar Khan and directed the governor of Punjab to join the expedition. Husain Languah was at that time busy in suppressing the revolt of his brother at Kot Karor. Tatar Khan arrived at the suburbs of Multan and took position at the north of the city. Meanwhile in the night Husain Languah entered the fort before the enemy could assault. Next morning Husain came out of his fort with a contingent of 12,000 and attacked the enemy. The invader fled from the battle field

3. For detailed account of these conflicts, see Cambridge History, III, p.229 fn; The Delhi Sultanate, p.140.
until they had reached at Chiniot where they killed the keeper of the fort and some of his men. This victory made Sultan Husain even more strong and after which Bahlul never dared to attack Multan.

Sultan Husain was a popular ruler among his subject. His neighbours also recognized him as strong ruler. In his reign a number of Baluches, living in Cutch, Makran and Baluchistan region flocked to his court. He assigned them jagirs and stipends and they were allowed to reside in Sitpur and Dhankot.

Bahlul Lodi died in 1488 A.D. and was succeeded by Sikandar Lodi. Husain Shah established cordial relations with Delhi and sent an ambassador to Delhi with condolence message and presents. They negotiated peace and treaty for mutual cooperation and respect for other's frontiers.

The ambitious ruler also made friendly relations with Sultan Muzaffar of Gujarat. They exchanged ambassadors. Ferishta recorded an interesting episode relating to these contacts. It is said that Husain langah sent Qazi Muhammad to the court of Sultan Muzaffar with the instruction to study the

2. Ibid., II, p.326.
imperial palaces of Gujarat, so that the ruler of Multan might built a palace of the same style. On return, the Qazi submitted the report that the entire revenue of the Multan would not suffice to meet the cost of even one palace. Sultan Husain was extremely disappointed by his vazir Imadul Mulk, consoled him "although the kingdoms of Gujarat, Malwa, Bengal and the Deccan could boast of their wealth, yet the land of Multan and Uchh excelled them for the presence of pious men and scholars like Shaikh Bahauddin Zakariya and the Bukhari saints and outstanding scholars like Maulana Fathullah and his pupil Maulana Azizullah."

After a reign of thirty years, Husain langah assigned the government to his elder son, Firoz Khan, and retired. The new Sultan was inexperienced and quarreled with the vazir's son, Bilal. The vazir's son was killed by a slave of young king. The Vazir poisoned Firoz Khan as a revenge. The old Sultan again came and took the charge of the office. He called Jam Bayzid from Shorkot for the help to get rid of the vazir. Jam came and arrested Imadul Mulk and put him into prison. Sultan Husain appointed Bayazid his new minister as well as the guardian of the minor, Mahmud, son of late Firoz, who then was declared the heir-apparent. After sometimes the old Sultan died

1. Ferishta, II, p.327.
on Saturday 13 October 1498 A.D.

He was succeeded by his grandson, Mahmud. The Young Sultan soon fell into pleasure and strained his relation with his faithful vazir. Bayazid withheld his visits to the court and resided outside the city from where he continued to look after the state affairs. However, the disgusted vazir left for shorkot. The Sultan then sent a force, to arrest the vazir. The brave vazir defeated the detachment and declared his loyalty to Sikandar Lodi. He sent an envoy to Delhi and informed the Sultan about the developments taking place in the region. He must have also impressed upon the Sultan the feasibility of conquering the region.

Sikandar was delighted and received the envoy with rare favour, accepted Bayazid as de facto ruler of Sorkot and sent a robe of honour. He instructed the governor of Lahore, Daulat Khan, to help Bayazid at the time of trouble.

1. There is a confusion about the date of his death and the length of his reign. Nizamuddin (III, p.435) gives two dates 1498 A.D. and 1502 A.D. However he confirms the earlier date in connection with the death of his successor Mahmud as 1524 A.D. after a reign of 27 years (Ibid., p.450); Nahawandi confirms these statements and says that he ruled for 30 or 34 years (I, pp.275-281); while Nizamuddin makes it 35 or 36. Ferishta also gives two dates and makes the reign 32 or 34 years (II, p.328) Abdul Haq gives 30 years (p.123). It is supported by Nurul Haq as well (fol270) Abul Fazl (Ain I,p.555) regards it 30 years of reign. It may perhaps be safe to take 1498 A.D. as the date of Husain's death and the length of his rule was 30 years.


Mahmud marched with a huge force towards Sorkot to punish Bayazid and encamped at the banks of Ravi. However, Daulat Khan rushed to help Bayazid. No encounter took place and a truce was made that Bayazid was recognised as the de jure ruler of Sorkot and the river Ravi forming the boundary between them. During Mahmud's reign the prestige and power of Langhas considerably diminished. Shah Husain Arghun the ruler of Thatta proceeded towards Uchh and then marched to Multan. Mahmud collected 80,000 men and faced the enemy in an open field. However, his vazir and son-in-law of Shaikh Shuja Bukhari poisoned the king. The length of his rule was 27 years.

After the sudden death of Mahmud, his mother collected senior officers of the army to review the situation and discuss how to face the enemy. They raised the minor son of the late Sultan with the title of Sultan Husain II. However, the actual power was still in the hands of the vazir, the suspected murderer of Mahmud. They sent Shaikh Bahauddin to Shah Hasan for peace at the camp of Ghera river. It was decided that the river should be made the boundary between the territories of Langhas and Arghuns.

1. Ferishta, II, p.329; Nahawandi, I, p.278.
2. See for details, Masumi, p.152.
3. Ibid., p. 154.
Sultan Husain II proved to be the last ruler of the Langha dynasty. He was young and inexperienced and was unable to control his kingdom. His minister was also equally inexperienced and corrupt. The situation deteriorated to such an extent that the people of Multan wished a change of the ruler. In the closing month of 1526 A.D. Langar Khan approached the Arghun ruler to take over the territory. Arghuns were ready to attack and besiege the fort. The siege dragged for one year. At last Arghuns managed to enter the fort of Multan in January 1527 A.D. The unfortunate Husain langah and his minister both were arrested and put to death.

Thus came to one end, the rule of Langhahs, who ruled the province independently for 83 years with peace and prosperity. The new Arghun ruler, Sultan Husain, handed over the region to Babur in 1527 A.D., who assigned it to Mirza Kamran.

1. Masumi (p. 154) records that the vazir was guilty of some corruption for which Mahmud wanted to punish him and in order to escape, the vazir poisoned him.

2. Masumi, p.159; Perishta (II, p.331) gives 1526 A.D. while Nizamuddin (III, p.543) gives 1526 A.D.