In 1333, the Afghan nobles at Lahore decided upon sending Alam Khan Lodi and Dilawar Khan, son of Daulat Khan, to persuade Babar to help them in removing Ibrahim Lodi and placing his uncle Alam Khan, on the throne. The reasons given for such a course of action were firstly that Ibrahim was an incorrigible tyrant, of whom the Afghan nobility was thoroughly tired, and secondly, that Alam Khan would be friendly and highly deferential in his attitude towards Babar. With a view to absolving themselves of the charge of treachery, they gave a highly exaggerated account of his evil doings, foolishness, haughtiness and greediness, and painted him in the blackest colour. They promised that they would remain loyal to Babar and act under his command.

The line of action taken by the nobles of Lahore was intended to divert the attention of Babar from Dilawar Khan and his officers towards Ibrahim Lodi, and without making any positive commitments, show their anxiety to co-operate with him in deposing the Lodi Sultan. Such a specious proposal had latitudine enough to lend itself to different interpretations. If Dilawar Khan was cunning enough to keep it vague, Babar was equally clever in not demanding clear elucidation or precision. Babar, however, was convinced that there was no solidarity among the Afghans and the opportunity was favourable for an adventurous drive so far Babar had been thinking of only those districts of the western Panjab which once formed a part of the kingdom of Kabul. Now his vision seems to have included the whole of the Panjab, if not the entire Lodi Empire. If the plan worked well he could revive the achievements of

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I. Memoirs of Babur—Vol. II, King, P. 151
Taimur in India, which would be an adequate compensation for his fail in Central Asia.

Whether Ibrahim Lodi knew or not the details of the negotiations between Daulat Khan and Alam Khan Lodi on the one hand and Babar on the other, he must have got an inkling of these negotiations. He, therefore, decided to send an army under Miban Khan and Mubarak Khan, to capture Lahore. Daulat Khan Lodi had evacuated the town and gone to Multan probably to wait there till the arrival of Babar. The army of occupation was not strong enough, nor its position was so consolidated as to offer a successful resistance. It was easily defeated by Babar, who captured, sacked and burnt Lahore. To take full advantage of the initial and easy success, Babar pushed on to Dipalpur and captured it in 1526. Here came Daulat Khan to pay tribute to him. Babar was pleased to appoint him as governor of Jullundur, Sultanpur and a few other districts. This was not what Daulat Khan had bargained for. He declined to accept the offer. The loss of prestige along with the governorship of Lahore came as a rude shock to him which opened his eyes.

Daulat Khan's hostility and non-fulfilment of his agreement with Babar, was dangerous for Babar's eastward advance. Therefore, he abandoned the idea of conquering India at this stage, especially when he got the intelligence that disorder was prevailing in his own country, on account of his absence. As such, instead of advancing upon Delhi he garrisoned the Panjab with his own loyal troops. Babar deemed fit to advance on Ismael Jilwani, the Afghan Chief of Thara, situated close to the left bank of the Satlej between Ludhiana and Ferozepur who was intending to harass him. While the latter was persuaded to attack the former, Babar was informed in time by Dilawar Khan, son of Daulat Khan, that his father was playing treachery against him in pursuing him to

1. - ol.I , Beveridge, P.
2. - - Vol.III, Briggs, P. 98
3. - - Vol.II, King, P. 151
attack the Afghan Chief of Thiara. Babar abandoned the idea. He threw
Daulat Khan and his son Ghazi Khan into prison, but they were later on
released before he left for Kabul. Babar took all possible measures f
the safety of the Panjab before he returned to Kabul. Babar honoured
Dilawar Khan for the service he had rendered to him against his own
father. He bestowed upon Dilawar Khan the district of Sultanpur, which
Daulat Khan had abandoned, being dissatisfied with Babar's reward.
Dilawar Khan was also honoured with the high title of Khan-i-Khanan.

Babar was almost the master of the Panjáb up to Sirhind,
excluding the province of Multan. As he had to go back to Kabul, he
entrusted his newly-acquired territories to some of his most trusted
officers. Mir Abdul Aksi was appointed governor of Dipalpur and
Muhammad Ali Tajak was appointed governor of Kalanaur, under the
supervision of Alam Khan Lodi. Multan still belonged to the Bilooh
tribe of Langah.

Babar had hardly crossed the Indus on his return, when Daulat
Khan and his son Ghazi Khan revolted. They imprisoned Dilawar Khan and
kept him under close custody and increased their forces rapidly and
defeated Alam Khan Lodi, the governor of Dipalpur, recently appointed
by Babar. Alam Khan Lodi escaped and fled to Kabul. Daulat Khan attack
Sialkot with five thousand Afghan but suffered a crushing defeat.

Taking advantage of such affairs in the Panjab, Ibrahim sent an
army against Daulat Khan to bring him to his knees, but so successful
were the intrigues of Daulat Khan in the imperial camp, that he contrib-
uted to gain over the General of Ibrahim's army with the result that this
army was completely broken up at Bajwara (Hoshiarpur) and the Sultan

to eat an humble pie.

When the news of these developments reached Babar he decided finally to embark on an expedition to India. Freed from the Uzbek menace Babar set out towards the Panjab in November, 1525 and was joined on the way by Humayun with his troops from Badakhshan. Babar crossed the Indus on December 16, 1525 and began to advance to Sialkot by the hill route. He marched in five stages from the Indus, the sixth brought him close by the hill of Jud, below the hill of Rama, on the banks of river (Harur) at the station of Bakial. After crossing the Jhelum he was joined by some officers from his Lahore army. He reached the bank of the Chenab and rode on to Bahlolpur. Next morning he halted at Pasur where Muhammad Ali Jang Jang and Khwaja Hussain waited on him.

Babar left Shah Mir Hassan and some officers to guard Lahore and he himself moved ahead with all possible speed with his troops and reached Kalanaur, 17 miles west of Jardaspur. He was anxious to overtake Daulat Khan Lodi and Ghazi Khan who were now seized with panic and had shut themselves in the fort of Mallot near Hariana, in Hoshiarpur District. He ordered Muhammad Ahmed and Kutlaq Qadam to pursue them and they were strictly instructed to intercept every move into and out of the fort of Mallot so that the garrison might not be able to escape.

Babar crossed the river Beas opposite to Kahmwan, and encamped...
at the mouth of the valley of the Shivalik Hills in which lies the
fort of Mallet. The fort was surrendered after a tough fight which was
searched by Babar personally. He examined Ghazi Khan's library, and
found in it a number of valuable books. Some of these were given to
Humayun and some were sent to Kamran at Kabul. Daulat Khan, Ali Khan,
Ismail Khan and some other leading men were handed over as prisoners to
Kita Beg, who set out with the prisoners for the fort of Mallet, situated
in the District of Jhelum, but Daulat Khan died on the way at Sultanpur.
Babar gave the fort to Muhammad Ali Jang Jang with 300 to 350 troops,
who put his elder brother, Arghun, in charge of the place while he
himself departed with a body of main troops.

Babar continued his advance to Delhi via Dun and reached Rupar. It
was here that Babar had to descend from the hilly route. His army moved
through Kurail to Sirhind, and halted at Banur, where he was informed
that Sultan Ibrahim Lodi was advancing towards Panipat and he also learnt here that Hamid Khan, the Shiqdar of Hissar-i-Firoza, had also adv
against Babar at the command of the Sultan. Babar sent Kita Beg towards Ibrahim's camp to procure intelligence and despatched Atka against
the army of Hissar-i-Firoza to get notice of movements of Hamid Khan.

From Banur, Babar reached Ambala and despatched Humayun with
all the forces under him to reinforce Atka. Hamid Khan was defeated.
Humayun's troops entered Hissar-i-Firoza and sacked it. The town
was bestowed upon Humayun as a reward for the brilliant success he
had achieved in dispersing one section of the army of the enemy.
BATTLE OF PANIPAT - 1526: On three occasions the fate of Hindustan has been decided on the historic plain of Panipat. Owing to its strategic location, on the highroads from Sirhind and Ferozepur to Delhi, Panipat has been the scene of some of the most historic battles in Indian History. In fact, this entire tract embracing Panipat, Kurukshetra and Tarosri (Taraori) has been the cockpit of Indian history. For with a high mountain range on one hand, and the vast stretches of the desert on the other, neither too far away, it forms, as it were a bottleneck through which access to the vast riches of the Gangetic Plain, the culminating point of every invader’s ambition, lies. The area itself is so close to Delhi that whenever, and for so long as, the empire which centred in that city existed as more than a mere phantom, the political fortunes of one were almost inseparable from the other. Astride the successful invader’s highway to the throne of Hindustan at Delhi, Panipat thus inevitably formed an important link in the chain of the marching hordes’ communications with their homeland.

From the strategic background of Afghanistan the path for invaders lay along the lines of least resistance, the Khyber, Kurram, Tochi and Qomal passes on the Panjab Plains, for the Indus has never proved an obstacle to an enterprising general. Checked on the south by the deserts of Rajputana, invading armies were forced to enter the Ganga and the Jamuna Valleys through the narrow bottleneck between the north-eastern extremity of the desert and the foot of the Himalayas.

Babar’s advance towards Delhi was welcomed by the discontented elements in the country. Hearing the news of Babar’s approach, Ibrahim sent two advance parties to deal with him but both of these were defeated and Babar advanced unopposed as far as Sirsawsh. Babar reached Panipat...

2. *Karnal District Gazetteer*, pp.35-36
with his army by two marches on April 13, 1538. Sultan Ibrahim had also reached Panipat with his one lakh army and one thousand elephants. But considering the fact that there used to be in those days a number of camp followers and servants for every incumbent, the effective fighting strength of Ibrahim's army could not have been more than forty thousand. This army of all descriptions and which had been hastily raised on the spur of the moment was divided into four traditional divisions - the advance guard, the centre, the right and the left wings. The armies confronted each other. During the night of 30th April, Babar sent out four to five thousand men to make a night attack which failed. He advanced next morning. Ibrahim ordered his army to march forward at a quick pace, but it had to stop suddenly when it came near Babar's strong defences. "They could not halt, and they were unable to advance with the same speed as before. I sent orders to the troops stationed as flankers on the extremes of the right and left divisions, to wheel round the enemy's flank with all possible speed, and instantly to attack them in the rear and attack them with showers of arrows and press them vigorously." This caused some confusion among Ibrahim's troops. Taking advantage of it, Babar immediately ordered his Talighan-mas to wheel round and attack the enemy in the rear. Ibrahim now ordered an attack on Babar's left wing and found himself in difficulty. Babar quickly reinforced the centre which succeeded in repelling the Afghan's right wing. Now Babar ordered his gunners to open fire. Thus, the Afghans who were surrounded and overwhelmed, found themselves exposed to artillery fire in front and arrows on either flank. The battle lasted from morning till noon. The superior strategy and generalship of

3. "Vol.II, King, P. 186
5. "Vol.I, King, P. 184
6. 7ol.II, Briggs, P. 44-45
Babar put the Afghans on the run. Ibrahim was killed fighting heroically and fifteen to sixteen thousand of his men lay dead on the field. His dead body was discovered amidst a heap of corpses. His head was brought before Babar along with a large number of prisoners and spoils of all kinds.

The success of Babar was due to astute generalship and the strategic deployment of the cavalry and the artillery. The battle of Panipat brought Babar to the end of the final stage of his Indian conquest. It sealed the fate of the Lodi dynasty as effectively as his ancestor Taimur had done that of the Tughlaqs, and told seriously on the morale and already disintegrating organization of the Afghans. The soldiers and the peasantry alike ran away in fear of the conqueror; gates were closed of every fortified town, and people busied themselves in organizing defences everywhere. Guru Nanak, being the contemporary of Babar gives the true picture of that age "the kings are butchers, cruelty their knife; sense of duty has taken wings and vanished."

On the very day of the battle, Babar pushed forward two detachments, one to Delhi and the other to Agra, to prevent lawlessness and plunder and to take possession of the public treasuries in those cities. He himself followed and reached Delhi on the third day after the battle. He moved swiftly to Agra after sealing up all the treasuries at Delhi.

MIR YUNIS ALI - 1527-1530: After the first battle of Panipat, Babar could not pay his full attention to the affairs of the Panjab, as anarchy was prevalent everywhere beyond Delhi and Agra. The frontier provinces of Kabul and Qandhar were already given to Mirza Kamran. Babar appointed Mir Yunis Ali as the governor of the Panjab in 1527, who had accompanied him in all his Indian campaigns. Mir Yunis Ali was devoted to Babar and

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2. Var Kajh, Mahala, J. Sahloki, 17(1)
4. Baburnama - Vol.I, Beveridge, PP. 278, 368
was sincere and one of the most trusted, daring and experienced generals who had fought with great intrepidity in the battle of Panipat. Even before this, when the rebellious Afghans, under the command of Hamid Khan of Hissar-i-Feroza fought with Humayun, Mir Yusuf Ali was one of those who fought bravely and had defeated the Afghans. Being a great military general and capable administrator he succeeded in keeping the Punjab under perfect control when Babar was heavily engaged in the conquest of the unsubdued provinces of northern India. He was thus destined to play a dominant role during that formative period of the Mughal suzerainty.

At the representation of Qasim of Samana, Mir Yusuf Ali was informed of the depredations wrought by Mohan Mandahar, a Hindu chief near Kaithal. He instantly issued instructions to Ali Quli Khan Hamdani to take three thousand horse and crush the evil doers. Due to the intensity of the cold, the royal archers were unable to pull their bows and thus could not withstand the onslaught of the inhabitants of the village of Mohan Mandahar, who had been warming themselves beside fire. He deputed Tarse Bahadur and Narang Beg to reinforce Ali Quli Khan and to attack the Mandahars who were relaxing on their oars and were making merry. The Mandahars suffered a crushing defeat. A tower was erected of the skulls of those who were killed in the encounter. Upto this day the village which is in Kaithal tehsil of Karnal District remains deserted. The punishment meted out to the inhabitants of the village terrorised the people of that area.

1. Memoirs of Babur-Vol.II, King, pp.185
2. Humayun Badshah-S.K. Banerji, pp.53-56
3. History of India-Vol.II, Erskine, pp.7-9