Chapter III

Relations between Mysore and Bijapur: Rise of Shahji in Mysore.

Importance of the 17th century: The commencement of the 17th century witnessed tremendous changes on the political horizon of India in general and of Mysore in particular. It was a period of great personalities and unforgettable events. Great political leaders, unconquerable heroes, empire-builders and sagacious statesmen emerged on the political scene with abiding historic purpose to achieve; they played their role most amazingly, shaped the destiny of the kingdoms over which they ruled and left the scene with indelible impression on the minds of their generation and the generation to come.

Political condition: The Moghal Empire which had been striving hard to set its foot on the soil of the South ever since the reign of Akbar was, by the beginning of the 17th century, successful in securing a foot-hold; and the newly conquered provinces of the South went under the designation of "the Deccan." The two Shahi kingdoms namely Bijapur and Golkonda remained, however, unconquered. The kingdom of Ahmadnagar passed out of existence in 1633 A.D. and just three years later, the wars for the dismemberment of the Ahmadnagar spoils between the Moghals on the one side and the Sultans of Bijapur and the Marathas on the other, came to an end by the definitive treaty entered into between the parties arranged for by the
Emperor Shah Jahan. As a result of this treaty, the ambitious designs on the part of the Sultans of Bijapur and Golkonda to project their schemes of conquests further northwards were definitely checked; and on the contrary they were set free to extend their arms into the South. The European nations, almost simultaneously, were becoming prosperous in their commercial enterprise, while the Vijayanagara Empire under Venkata II was setting its foot on the brink of dissolution due to the weakness of the central control and the disloyalty of the subordinate viceroys.

The 17th century also saw the precipituation of the collision between Mysore and Maharashtra on the soil of the former. For the first time in 1639 Kanthirava Narasaraja of Mysore and Shahji of Maharashtra stood face to face on the Karnataka territories. It also witnessed the emergence of the Maratha kingdom in Mysore with Bangalore as its capital.

Tirumala Nayaka of Madura was declaring independence; Virabhadra Nayaka of Bednur was carrying fire and arms into the territories of the neighbouring palagars; Immadi Kempe Gowda of Bangalore was administering his kingdom most efficiently putting a check to all the territorial designs of the surrounding chieftains.

Having in our mind the political condition of India in general and of Mysore in particular as a background, we shall now proceed how the stream of Muslim invasion that penetrated the South brought Shahji into Mysore.
The method of Muslim invasion: The Muslims adopted a special method in their expeditions of Southern India. Usually they started their expeditions every year in autumn from their capitals to the nearest Hindu States across the frontier. As there was no closer cooperation and mutual goodwill among these Hindu states, they were easily subdued, paradoxically with the military aid of the neighbouring Hindu chieftains and the "victors returned to their capitals before the commencement of the rainy season, laden with the plunder of the forts and the promise of tribute".  

Ruinous policy of the Hindu Rajas: Unfortunately South India was not able to present a strong bulwark against this advancing tide of the Muslim invasion. Vijayanagara Empire had passed out of the scene as a strong military power in the South. Taking advantage of the slackening of the central control, several subordinate Hindu chieftains of the Empire tried to assert their independence. They began to work for their selfish ends forgetting the supreme needs of the hour. That passion for absolute local autonomy and unwillingness to evolve a common federation for the greater end of national self-preservation was ever present in South India.

The insane personal rivalries and territorial aggrandizement of the vassals did not end in the declaration of independence alone; on the other hand they went to the extent of inviting the 

support of the Muslim sovereigns of Bijapur and Golkonda
alternately to put down his rebellious neighbour "dreaming that
the latter would march back after overthrowing their former
Hindu overlord." ¹

It was this ruinous and short-sighted policy that was
mainly responsible for the intervention of the Muslim States in
the affairs of the South.

Causes of the invasion of Ikkeri: This was what exactly
happened in the Karnataka. Hanumappa Nayaka,² a Hindu chief of
Basavapatna was not on good terms with Virabhadra Nayaka of
Ikkeri. Govinda Vaidya³ says that Hanumappa Nayaka was hostile
because the boundary dispute was not settled to the full satis­
faction of either parties. Realising that he was not strong
enough militarily to crush Virabhadra Nayaka, Hanumappa Nayaka
went in person to Bijapur to solicit the aid of the Sultan.⁴

2. He is referred to in K.N.V. as Kengeendra; in persian sources
   as Kenge Nāyaka; in Annals as Hanumappa Nayaka.
4. Ibid Verse 2; Shivaji Nibhandavali Part II,
P.40; Annals I. P.72 and K.N.V. XI, V.2 say that Hanumappa
   Nayaka sent his minister Venkatapati Dec to the Bijapur
court with presents of 30,000 varahas and costly Jewels
desiring him to bring the padshah to crush Virabhadra.
According to Linganna Kavi, Venkatappa, the chief of Tarikere apparently another recalcitrant feudatory of the ruler of Ikkeri seems to have had a hand in the venture of the Sultan's Karnataka expedition. In the present state of our knowledge, it is rather hard to find out the political relations of the chieftain of Tarikere to the Sultan of Bijapur.

Muhammad Adil Shah (1626-1656 A.D.) of Bijapur began to fish in the troubled sea of Karnataka politics. What should have been the aim of the Sultan in launching forth the Karnataka expedition? Muhammad Namah gives the answer in the following way:

"As the countries of Karnataka and Malnad were not conquered before by any Muhammadan King of the Deccan, Muhammad Adil Shah thought of bringing them under his sway in order to strengthen and glorify the Islamic religion in the dominion of the Hindus." 3

Subsequent activities of the Muslims in the Karnataka definitely indicate that the Sultan's motive in undertaking the expedition was to squeeze the Karnataka of its accumulated wealth.

The open invitation offered by Hanumappa Nayaka of

1. Ke. N.V. P.97.
Basavapatna and other recalcitrant feudatories, the innate desire on the part of the Sultan to propagate his religion in the dominions of the Hindus, ambition to plunder the accumulated wealth of the Kamataka and last but not the least the definitive treaty dictated by Shahjahan to Bijapur were some of the important contributory causes in inducing the Sultan to undertake the Kamatak expedition.

Muhammad Namah says that "Ranadulla Khan, son of Farhad Khan, was honoured with the title of Rustam-e-Zaman and was made the commander-in-chief of the army and was sent to punish Virabhadra."¹

Shahji took part in the invasion: At the head of 40,000 troops, Ranadulla Khan set out to conquer the Kamatak. Malik Rehan was the joint commander. Shahji also took a leading part in this campaign. This formidable Bijapur army was further reinforced by the levies of Hanumappa Nayaka. When the whole army reached the boundary of Malnad, Hanumappa Nayaka interviewed

1. Shivaji Nimbhandavali, pp.96-97; Keladi Wripa Vijaya appears to distinguish Ranadulla Khan from Rustam-i-Zaman. There is no such distinction. The Bhumalapura copper plate grant (1676 A.D.) of Ranadulla Khan (vide Mysore Archaeological Report 1922, pp.122-123) refers to him as Ranadulla Khan Khan-e-Azam and further we have got Muhammad Namah which says that Rustam-e-Zaman is the title of Ranadulla Khan. Therefore both refer to the same. Wilks (Vol.I, p.31) calls him "Rendi Dhoola Khan, Muhammad Namah calls him "Ranadulla Khan." Hereafter I will call him Ranadulla Khan.
2. Rise of Maratha power in the South as stated in Shivaji Nimbhandavali, p.40.
the commander-in-chief and said:

"I will help you in conquering the whole country; but you should first invade the fort of Ikkeri. I will show you a path by which you can reach Ikkeri quickly and Virabhadra will not be able to get the scent of your arrival and you will gain an easy victory over him."¹

Having Hanumappa Nayaka as the guide, Ranadulla Khan reached Ikkeri.²

**Destruction of Ikkeri:** Virabhadra Nayaka was horror-stricken at the sudden approach of the Bijapur army. In the battle that was fought on December 30th, 1637³ Virabhadra found it difficult to resist the stupendous army, consequently he sought refuge in the neighbouring hill fortress called Bhuvanagiri durga also called Kauleudurga.⁴ The investing Muslim army took possession of the capital, broke the heads of the images of gods, plundered the town, polluted the sanctity of women and slaughtered cows.⁵ Then the combined Bijapur-Basavapatna army laid siege to the fort of Bhuvanagiri where the king had taken refuge. Though he offered

---

¹ Shivaji Nibandavali, P.97.
² Ibid, P.97.
³ Ke.N.V. Ch.IV, P.98 mentions the date of the attack as Sr.1560 Isvara Pushya ba 10 (30th Dec.1637). The Muhammad Namah assigns 1030 A.H. (1630 A.D.). This is too early for the expedition. See Muhammad Namah in Shivaji Nibandavali, P.96.
⁴ Muhammad Namah calls it Kasnauldurg. see Ke.N.V. P.98.
stubborn resistance to the Muslim army, at the end he sued for peace, realizing the futility of further resistance. According to the terms of the treaty, Virabhadra offered the Muslims 18 lakhs of buns along with half of his territory.

Ranadulla returned to Bijapur with heavy booty and presented them to the Sultan. Having rejoiced at the brilliantly successful campaign, the Sultan honoured Ranadulla Khan heartily.

Sardesai in this connection says: "The poor peaceful citizens of a once prosperous kingdom either lost their lives or their homes. In order to preserve their honour Hindu women killed themselves by jumping into wells with their children. The whole territory similarly ravaged & subjugated. It was the first experience which the peaceful populace of the South had of the havoc fire-arms could inflict."

1. Dr. Salatore in his article on, "General Ranadulla Khan's Ikkeri expedition" (proceedings of the I.H.R.C. XVI Dec. 1939, P-51) says that Virabhadra took to diplomacy only with the object of ultimately defeating the Bijapuris. But the detailed study of the sources available on this period do not mention anywhere the ambition of Virabhadra to defeat the Bijapuris; on the contrary, we have got evidences to prove Virabhadra's desire to defeat chieftains of Tarikere and Basavapatna who were responsible for the disaster.

4. Ibid. 8.
Ranadulla Khan's Invasion of Mysore
1638-1639:
Role of Shahuji.

Ranadulla Khan's invasion of Mysore forms an important chapter in the interstate relations of Mysore and Maharashtra. This advancing tide of the Muslim invasion had not only struck terror into the heart of Mysore but planted Maratha colonies and settlements on the northern borders of Mysore as well. Shahji, the father of the Great Shivaji, who was sent second in command of the Bijapur army under the renowned general Ranadulla Khan to effect the conquest of Mysore, carved out a new Maharashtra Kingdom in Mysore and played a significant part in the changing politics of South India in general and Mysore in particular.

Causes: The main causes of the invasion may be traced to the lack of patriotism in our Hindu chieftains. Firstly there arose some misunderstanding between Kempe Gowda, the ruling chieftain of Bangalore and the chief of Somuki Bamur. The latter chieftain, most unpatriotic that he was, unmindful of the consequences of his suicidal policy, went to the court of Bijapur and sought the military aid of the Sultan to crush his enemy.  

---

Secondly, according to Govinda Vaidya, it was the objective of the Sultan of Bijapur to exact tribute from Mysore and annex Srirangapatna to Bijapur.¹

Thirdly Chennalah, the chieftain of Nagamangala was deposed and disgraced by Chamaraja Wodeyar of Mysore. The former unable to bear the utter humiliation went to Bijapur and took up service under the Sultan as a Mansabdar of 200 horse. Gurikara Channaiah as he is often called told the Sultan:

"Tanthirava Narasaraja, the present ruler of Mysore has incurred the displeasure of his subjects by assassinating a powerful Dulvoy, Vikrama Raya and conferring the office on Thimmappaiah. As the party feeling ran high in Srirangapatna, it is the opportune moment to effect its conquest."²

Therefore Channaiah of Nagamangala was the author of the scheme. Further he offered to render his service if an expedition was fitted out to Srirangapatna.

Fourthly it was the inordinate passion on the part of the Sultan to increase the prestige of his country by putting down the Hindus, dismantling the Hindu temples, breaking the images of gods and goddesses and carrying off the hidden

¹ K.N.V. XI, 67-70: XII, 92-93.
² Annals, I. P.73.
treasures of the Hindus to Bijapur. ¹

Lastly the spoils of the war that was carried from Ikkeri to Bijapur in the recent Karnataka war tempted the Sultan. Pleased with Ranadulla Khan, the Sultan appointed him the supreme Commander-in-chief and sent him at the head of a vast army with instructions to attempt the immediate acquisition of Srirangapatna. ² In this expedition Ranadulla Khan was expected to take the full guidance of Channaiah of Nagamangala who was supposed to have known every nook and corner of Mysore. Shahji was appointed second in command of the army. Having Shahji, Hanumappa Nayaka, Gurikara Channaiah as the chief advisers and guides, Ranadulla Khan set out with an army of 40,000 horses, 40 elephants and 1,00,000 foot. ³

Ranadulla Khan crossed the river Tungabhadra and decided to deliver an attack on the fort of Tarpatri. Having scented the plan of R.D.Khan the neighbouring Raajas, conveyed a message secretly to Hanumappa Nayaka as follows:

"If the fort of Tarpatri falls in the hands of the Muhammadans, the whole country will be easily over run by them. So you should make an effort to dissuade them from coming to this side." ⁴

² K.N.V. XI, V.8.
³ C.Vam, P.57.
⁴ Muhammad Namah in Shivaji Nibhandavali, II, P.98.
Accordingly Hanumappa Nayaka played a trick in preventing Ranadulla Khan from invading Tarapatri.

Alliance of R.D.Khan with local powers: The huge army encamped in the neighbourhood of Basavapatna after a tedious journey from the Tungabhadra. The army of Puvala Hanuma joined the Bijapur contingent.

Govinda Vaidya says:

"Arriving in Basavapatna, Ranadulla Khan received reinforcements from Hanumappa Nayaka and started his journey southwards. On his way, the forces of the lords of Harapanahalli, Kanakagiri, Sondur, Rayadurg, Turugere(Turuvekere), Belur, Narasimhapura (Hole Narasipura) palupare, Miriyur and Chikkansayakanahalli joined the army of Hanumappa Nayaka."

Hanumappa's proposal: Before leaving the place, Hanumappa Nayaka interviewed the Commander-in-chief and told thus:

"It would be proper to attack the fort of Bangalore where Kempe Gowda was reigning in pomp, pelf and pride." In return for his service, Hanumappa Nayaka demanded the restoration of Sira for himself in the event of its conquest by the Bijapur army. R.D. Khan accepted the proposal hesitatingly and proceeded in the

1. K.N.V. Chapter XI, Vs from 11 to 43. All these places are in Mysore State.
direction of Bangalore being guided by Channaiah, Hanumappa and Shahji.¹

**Sira taken:** R.D.Khan sent his able general, Afzal Khan in advance to conquer the fort of Sira which lay en route to Bangalore. Kasthuri Ranga, the chieftain of Sira was taken by utter surprise at the sudden approach of the huge Muslim army. Nevertheless Kasthuri Ranga fought heroically; but ultimately was defeated by the Muslim army. Receiving solemn promise on sacred oaths that his life should be spared, Kasthuri Ranga came to interview Afzal Khan, where the latter seized his person and murdered him in cold-blood. The wealth of the city was plundered and booty was carried off to the camp. Sira was given over to Hanumappa Nayaka according to the promise.² In the R.D.Khan's restoration of Sira to Hanumappa Nayaka, influence of Shahji was great.³

**Tumkur taken:** Highly elated at the success, R.D.Khan proceeded further. Disheartened by the plundering expedition of the Khan, the chieftain of Tumkur took flight from his capital and entered the dense forest nearby. R.D.Khan stormed the capital and carried away great riches from there.⁴

---


² M.N. as referred to by Sarkar in Modern Review, 1929, P.9; M.N. in Shiv.Nib. II, P.98; Sardesai: N.H.M. Vol.I, P.72; K.N.V. XI, V.43. The murder of Kasthuri Ranga must have left a deep impression on the mind of Shahji who was also in the Bijapur army. Having learnt the treachery of Afzal Khan, Shivaji, son of Shahji after 20 years entrapped Afzal Khan and murdered him in the celebrated interview of 1659.

(for Foot-note 3 and 4 please see next page)
Govinda Vaidya says that villages and towns fell into the hands of the enemy like house of cards. Fearing the cruel atrocities and brigandages of R.D.Khan, the inhabitants of Karnataka fled in different directions, some to dense jungles and others to Coorg and other hilly regions.1

The conquest of Bangalore: According to the instructions of Hanumanapa Nayaka, R.D.Khan entered the Morasu kingdom.2 The inhabitants were cowed down by the pillaging activities of the Muslims, promising protection to those that submitted to him, R.D.Khan led his army and soon encamped in the neighbourhood of Sivaganga, situated to north-west of Bangalore.

Immadi Kempe Gowda: Immadi Kempe Gowda was the prominent ruler of Bangalore. He ruled the kingdom most ably and dexterously for 55 years. He shone himself as the greatest builder of the day. Villages, towns and temples were constructed newly and administered most efficiently. A great conqueror that he was, Kempegowda went, saw and conquered Magadi and Savandurga in 1623. The territories round about Magadi were administered by a Vijayanagara Viceroy. Taking advantage of the slackening of the central authority, an opportunist named Talari Gangappa

(Foot-note No.3 and 4 refers to previous page)


4. K.N.V. XI, V.44. W.N.makes no mention of Tumkur in this expedition. According to it Tumkur was captured very late.

1. Ibid, XI, Vs. 45-55.

2. It refers to Bangalore district.
Nayaka made a sudden dash on the Vijayanagara Viceroy and usurped his province and title. Kempe Gowda collected a huge force, pounced upon the enemy and took possession of all the territories belonging to him. This famous exploit of Kempe Gowda spread his fame far and wide.

The siege: On hearing the encampment of R.D.Khan, Kempe Gowda, a mighty conqueror that he was, collected his forces and determined to face the enemy. In the sanguinary action that followed for three days, the Muslims fought stubbornly, defeated the army of Kempe Gowda and entered the city with a view to capture all that was available there. However Kempe Gowda stood invincible. As he was the cleverest and the most tactful ruler, he cast his net, won Kenge Nayaka to his side and was prepared to fight the enemies. When this instrument of divide-and-rule policy was employed in the confusing war by Kempe Gowda, R.D.Khan began to tremble. As there was no other means except drawing Hanumappa to the Muslim camp, R.D. Khan went to Hanumappa's tent and won him to his side by holding out prospects of royal favours and booty. Thereupon Hanumappa told Khan as follows:

"It is not advisable to try to take this fort at this time because most of us are wounded and exhausted while the enemy is greater in number. I will negotiate with the Rajah and bring him out of the fort."

3. Ibid.
It was exactly at this time that the notorious prince Sriranga Raya who revolted against the Emperor Venkatapati II of Vijayanagara came to render valuable military service to R.D.Khan against Kempe Gowda. Supported and backed up by Sriranga Raya, and other generals, R.D. Khan declared war again and took easy possession of Bangalore, putting to flight Kempe Gowda. Paramananda says: "The Rajah of Bingrool (Bangalore) was expert in the art of fighting and after a bold stand lasting for many days, he surrendered the fort of Bangalore."  

**Shahji brought about a treaty:** Shahji who acted as the great saviour of Hinduism intervened in the affairs of Bangalore and soon brought about a treaty between R.D.Khan and Kempe Gowda. According to this treaty: (1) Kempe Gowda gave the fort of Bangalore with all the property contained therein; (2) Kempe Gowda gave his son as a hostage to the Khan; (3) R.D. Khan promised to offer protection to the chieftain; (4) Having obtained protection Kempe Gowda returned to Magadi; (5) Kempe Gowda agreed to pay annual contribution to Bijapur.

1. R.Satyanath Ayyar: Tamilkham in the 17th century, P.37  
2. K.N.V., XI, Vs.58, 59, 60.  
3. Shiva Bharata, 9, 43; Sardesai (N.H.M., Vol.I, P.72) says that while Afzal khan was occupied with Sira Shahji proceeded against Bangalore and captured that fort from its keeper Kempe Gowda. But a detailed study of the available sources reveal that the entire army proceeded against Bangalore and took possession of it.  
Kempe Gowda resided in Magadi under the protection offered by Savandurg. He ruled there for 18 years more, paying the annual contribution to the conquerors of Bangalore. From that time onwards Kempe Gowda and his successors came to be familiarly known as "Magadi Kempe Gowda." 1

Bangalore was conferred upon Shahji: After the conclusion of the Bangalore treaty, R.D.Khan felt the necessity of placing one of his generals in charge of the conquered city and the choice fell on Shahji. In accordance with the instructions of the padshah of Bijapur, the Khan conferred Bangalore on Shahji and marched on with his political programme. 2

Ramagiridurga taken: Though Bangalore was conferred upon Shahji, the latter's presence in the Bijapur army for the conquest of other Karnataka kingdoms was found essential; therefore R.D.Khan placing Shahji in the forefront left Bangalore towards the middle of December 1638 and arrived at Ramagiri durga. 3 He took possession of it without encountering any opposition. Thereafter R.D.Khan proceeded in the direction of Kunigal sime. 4

Several chieftains joined R.D.Khan: The chieftains of Ramagiridurga, Ballapura (Dodda Ballapura), Kolala (Kolar),

Bijjavara, Chikkabala pura (Chikkaballapura), Holavanahalli, Hosakote, Bavaluru, Hosuru, Masti, Devandapura (Devanahalli) and Siddalghatta (Sidlaghatta) all these joined the Bijapur army agreeing to deliver whatever they had possessed to R.D. Khan.¹

Deliberations for the conquest of Srirangapatna: Then R.D. Khan concentrated his attention on the conquest of Srirangapatna. As the conquest of the latter city was not an easy matter, R.D.Khan thought day in and day out about the means by which the ruler could be brought round. He thought thus: "If the capital city is seized and taken possession of, it will be very easy for us to annex gradually the other territories."²

R.D.Khan held a council of war in his tent and gave the Vazirs a true picture of the firm resolution and fortitude of Kanthirava as well as the loyalty of his generals of the army and the ministers of the state. Probably R.D.Khan gathered this information from Channaiah. He told his Vazirs as follows:

"No opponent on the face of the earth can stand up in arms against the commanders of his (Kanthirava's) army. So you must move with all care and caution accompanied by a vast force."³

1. K.N.V., XI, Vs.61-65. All these places are in modern Bangalore, Tumkur and Kolar districts.
2. Ibid. XI, Vs.68: Đoreyidda pattanavanu muttige yikkı Bharadinda seleđoğe battle Arasa kaṭṭidirāṭa mugidantı mikkını puravemmı Kaivasavahudı.
3. K.N.V., XI, V.78: Ātana manneyarölū sangarakidi (contd)
Review of the forces: Instructing the Vazirs thus, R.D. Khan expressed his desire to review the forces which several chieftain had brought to the battle field. Among those generals, Shahji was commanding an army of 6000 horse, 7 to 8 thousand foot and 10 elephants.¹

After holding a review of his forces, R.D.Khan ordered the entire army to march against Srirangapatna. The army, marching by way of Channapatna reached the environs of Srirangapatna, plundering the villages and carrying off whatever that was available to them on the way.²

Having came to know of the encampment of the Muslim army in the vicinity of Srirangapatna, Kanthirava Narasaraja made tremendous preparations to meet the enemy.

Envoys were sent to the court of Mysore: Tremendous preparations were made on either side. R.D.Khan sent his envoys to the court of Kanthirava of Mysore. The envoys told the king as follows:

"Obedient to the orders of the Sultan of Bijapur, we took possession of many kingdoms in the Karnata. Hearing the news of your prowess,

---


² Ibid, XII, V.9.
we felt happy. Making friendship with and taking tribute from you, we will proceed with your army for further conquests. These are the words of our lord."¹

Having heard the utterances of the envoys, Kanthirava gave a spirited reply:

"We do not pay tribute nor agree to make friendship with you either. However if you want to know our stuff, ask your lord to go to war with us together with all his forces. Has he come to lay siege to our city thinking that he would accord the same treatment as he had accorded to the poor kings of the surrounding kingdoms? His prowess is dried up."² So saying the king sent them back.

R.D.Khan asked the envoys who had appeared before him as follows:

"What is the opinion of the king, peace or war"³

When the envoys disclosed all that happened in the court, R.D.Khan became angry. Very soon R.D.Khan held a council of war with his Vazirs and decided that the ultimate resort would

---

¹ K.N.V., XII, Vs. 92-93.
² Ibid, XII, Vs. 95-96.
be to storm the fort. ¹

The decision was immediately carried through. The Vazirs of the Khan immediately rushed and surrounded the fort. The dins of war, uproar of elephants, the blowing of the trumpets, beating of the war-drums surcharged the whole atmosphere of the battle-field with the doom that going to fall on the fort of Srirangapatna.

Although R.D.Khan reviewed the huge Mysore army from a convenient angle, he was not perturbed. On the contrary he had determined to put in action the project of storming the fort.

Hanumappa advised R.D.Khan: Having came to know of the firm resolution of the commander, Hanumappa Nayaka interviewed the latter and said:

"Why do you persist on laying siege to the town? Make peace (honourably)." ²

By this time Hanumappa Nayaka realised the futility of waging war with the Mysorean army. But his advice became a voice in wilderness. R.D.Khan hurried up to commence the assault. ³

Dalavoy Nanjarajendra made full preparations to meet

---

² Ibid, XIII, V.4: Yintarpa purava lagege bidabēkamba Pantavētake ninageega Santava madikol.
³ C. Vam, P.57.
The enemy at his own level.

The army of Bijapur: The besieging army was composed of miscellaneous rabble extending from 40 to 50 thousand horse, 3 to 4 lakhs foot and between 500 and 1000 elephants. It consisted of two divisions: the original Bijapur army headed by R.D.Khan and Shahji; and the remaining army was the composition of various forces of the Karnataka chieftains under the command of Hanumappa Nayaka.

The army of Mysore: The army of Mysore consisted of the contingents of the chiefs of Hura, Channapatna, Maddur, Satyagala, Heggadadevanakote, Channarayapatna, Kikkeri, Bukana Kere, Piriapatna, Talakad, Malavalli and Nagamangala, besides the forces raised by the officers in-charge of Srirangapatna and Mysore.

The siege: On January 18, 1639, R.D.Khan laid siege to both the forts of S.R.Patna and Mysore simultaneously, but the army was repulsed with heavy slaughter. On the first day the defeated Bijapur army retreated and encamped at Palya. Apart

2. K.N.V., XI and XII: The important generals that commanded the different divisions of the main army of Bijapur were, Parat Khan, Kairiti Khan, Balavant Khan, Mustafa Khan, Abdulla (Afzal) Khan, Akalas Khan, Ambar Khan, Siddirahima, Vedoji, Raghava Pandita, Ankusa Khan, Siddi Mallick Khan of Sholapur, Adam Khan, Jilhar Khan, Muhammad Khan and Fateh Khan (XI, 83-97; XII, 43-66) (compare). For Karnataka Chiefs see XI, 63-65, 99-105; XII, 67-68. There were also Mullukas Gujaratis, Kanaujis, Khorasanis and pathans, etc.
from this army, there were other divisions of the Bijapur army which scattered over the surrounding places of Mysore and Srirangapatna.

Dalavoy Nanjarajendra took the clue of the precarious position of the besiegers and made a night attack. A section of the Mysore army fell on the enemies encamped at Arakere and cut off the noses of those that fell into their hands; another division pounced upon the Muslims at Hosaholalu; another division surprised the Muslims at Yadavagiri (Melkote). Thus the Mysore army perpetrated horrible cruelties and brigandages in several encampments of the Bijapur army in the dead of night. In spite of the successive reverses at various places in Mysore and the vehement opposition of his own men, R.D. Khan never budged an inch from his decision.

R.D. Khan selected reputed generals and posted them in right places in order to raze the fort to the ground. The war commenced more vigorously than before. The Khans and Vazirs immediately surrounded and began to climb up the ramparts of the fort. Yakalas Khan, Mustafa Khan and others were climbing up the walls tactfully on one side; on the other Karithi Khan, Shahji, Afzal Khan were climbing up the walls.

Having seen the determined efforts of the Bijapuris, Nanjarajendra ordered his generals to deal with the besieging army. The Mysore generals fought heroically, slaughtered mercilessly those that fell into their hands, and repulsed
the remaining army from the surrounding place of the fort.\textsuperscript{1}

The merciless slaughter and the defeat sustained at the hands of the king of Mysore had shattered to pieces all the high hopes of the Bijapuris in making head-way in the kingdom of Mysore. In his hour of peril, R.D.Khan summoned all the prominent generals of his army and deliberated thus:

"It is impossible to prolong the war against Kanthirava Narasaraja who is very powerful. It is right that we should make peace with him somehow or other." \textsuperscript{2}

Channaiah of Nagamangala, who was largely responsible for the invasion of Mysore, was bewildered at the increasing difficulties; and fearing that he would be put to shame if the proposals of R.D.Khan were carried through, appealed to the commander-in-chief not to make peace with the king of Mysore. He said:

"Do not make peace today. I will get into the fort of Srirangapatna, understand the secrecy and send word to you to get into the fort."

\textsuperscript{1} K.N.V., XIV.
\textsuperscript{2} Annals, I. P.74: Maha parakramasali ga\textsuperscript{\textfinal{s}}\text{ada yi Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyavarodane nau yuddha ma\textsuperscript{\textfinal{d}}\text{uvudu asakhya. Hegadaru sandhi ma\textsuperscript{\textfinal{d}}\text{ikon}\text{d}u hoguvudev namage uchitavu.}
Accordingly Channaiah entered the fort on Saturday, the 19th of January 1639 and sent word to R.D.Khan to rush into the fort. R.D.Khan who had been waiting like an eagle to fall upon the enemies, made an entry into the fort and began to fight.

Nanjarajendra met the besiegers at their own level. It was a terrible battle where hundreds of Muslims had either lost their noses or breathed their last. The remaining army, having lost its balance to stand in the battle field, took to flight. Thus it was a glorious victory to the king of Mysore. Having freed the great historical fort from the clutches of the Bijapuries, the Mysore army stood around the fort to prevent any possible attack from the aggressors.¹

Night attack: The Bijapur army which suffered heavy losses in men and materials encamped at a distance of three miles from the city.

Dalvoy Nanjarajendra reported to the king all that happened at the fort and requested the king further, to take note of the golden opportunity that offered itself to drive out the enemies from the country before day-break.² Kanthirava Narasaraja went to the battle field in person. Dividing the army into two sections: one under Nanjarajendra and the other under Lingendra, and having both of them on either sides,

¹ K.N.V., XIV, Vs. 24-97.
² Ibid, XV, Vs.6 and 10: Yidu vēle jiya kagoleyā kalagadalli Madamukha khanāna balava Sadadebbisa bēkenāga dalapati Muda mige binnavisidantu.
Kanthirava marched to the encampment of the Bijapur army on the 20th of January 1639.

When Nanjarajendra delivered night attack on the camp of the Muslims, they perplexed. R.D.Khan who was a resourceful and enterprising General did not lose his balance at the shock of the night attack. He did all possible effort to thwart the danger that befell upon them. By mobilising all the scattered elements of the army and awakening all the soldiers from their deep slumber, the heroic general stood and faced the overwhelming Mysore army. Then R.D.Khan who got up his horse, was at the cross road of his destiny which called upon him either to face extermination or mastery of the situation. All the Khans and Vazirs made desperate effort in withstanding the onslaught of the Mysore army. The arrows discharged from the Muslims caused horror on the field of battle. In the uproar, the whole atmosphere was thrown into confusion. Confusion and chaos reigned supreme in the dead of night in which hundreds and thousands of persons on both sides were either wounded and killed.

The Muslims cried out "Thinking that we have suffered enough at the siege of the city, you have come to attack us, yet we are quite prepared to give you battle and take off your heads."

Despite the stout resistance, the Muslims had to yield to the superiority of Mysore arms. Fortune smiled on the Mysoreans and they were successful in putting the entire Muslim army to flight. Many were the dead bodies left on the field of battle. Thus it was a disastrous battle to the Muslims.\(^1\) Kanthirava returned with the wreck of the army to the city, happily. The spoils of the war were presented before the king Kanthirava\(^2\) who, rejoicing at the success of the army, gave gifts to all the prominent and eminent chiefs and warriors.\(^3\)

R.D.Khan who had lost hundreds and thousands of best soldiers and some trained horses and elephants on the field of battle could not endure that infamy. With great agony and pain, he returned to Hanumappa Nayaka and expressed his grief and folly as follows:

"Oh! Nayak! what you have said before is true, since my departure from Vijayapur(Bijapur) up to this day, nay, ever since my birth up to this day I have never seen a hero of this type."

Saying thus R.D.Khan returned to Bijapur with his heart heavy, on account of the calamity that befell on him.

Kanthirava Narasaraja Vijayam,\(^4\) Chikkadevaraja Vamsavali,\(^5\)

---

2. Ibid, V.113.
3. Ibid, V.117.
5. pp.35-36.
Annals of the Mysore Royal family. The Raja Kathavali
all these kannada works categorically state that the Bijapur
army was defeated.

Apart from these literary sources, we have got epigraphi-
cal evidences to substantiate the statement. A record of 1639,
issued shortly after the event refers to KanthirAVA Narasa "as
the destroyer of the demons, the race of yavanas." Another
record refers to Kanthirava "as God Narasimha incarnate, born
on the earth to destroy the Turushkas" and record: that "when
he went forth to war, the Mlechchas fell down in a swoon."

Historians of South India like Wilks and S.Krishnaswamy
Iyangar, relying on the more or less above sources, had
accepted that the Bijapur army was repulsed with heavy slaughter
and Kanthirava won a brilliant victory.

We shall now turn to other sources bearing on this event.
Muhammad Namah, a contemporary persian source gives the following
informations "Rustam-e-Zaman (Ranadulla Khan) himself started
to punish the Rajah of Srirangapatna, named Kanti Rai (Kanthirava).

He besieged the fort for one month and then the Raja
sent his ambassador with a message, saying "Leave this fort to

1. I. pp.72-76.
2. Ch.XII, 470-472.
3. Epigraphia Carnatica, III (1) Nj.198.
4. Ibid, III (1) Sr.103 (1647)
6. Ancient India, pp.292-293.
me and I will give you 5 lakhs of huns as an indemnity."

Rustam-e-Zaman granted this request.¹

Shiva Bharata, a sanskrit poem by Paramananda, published from the manuscripts in the Tanjore Palace Library says:

"Kanthirava, the Raja of Shrirangapatna was very cruel and was subdued by Shahji, which act of valour was much appreciated by Ranadaulah".²

Marathi source³ says that Shahji took tribute from Kanthirava of Mysore.

The last three sources supply with definite informations that Kanthirava Narasaraja was completely defeated by the invader.

Treaty of Jan.21, 1639: Ranadulla Khan, at the submission of the king of Mysore, reassured him with promises of Adil Shah's favour. At the same time, R.D.Khan received an express message from the Sultan of Bijapur⁵ urging him to return immediately. There upon a truce was arranged mainly by the

2. Chapter IX, Verse 39 and 44; see also source book of Maratha history by Pathwardhan and Rawlinson, Chapter 5, P.12.
3. Shiva Kalin Patra Sara Sangraha, II, P.171; see also Marathi Riyasat by Sardesai on Shahji; see also New History of the Marathas Vol.I, P.72 by the same author.
influence of Shahji between R.D.Khan and Kanthirava of Mysore according to which (1) the territory lying to the south of Cauvery should go to the possession of Kanthirava and (2) right to the revenues of the territory lying to the north of the river should belong exclusively to the Sultan of Bijapur (3) and the revenues should be paid regularly after deducting necessary expenses incidental to its management.

As R.D.Khan had to leave the place in a hurry, he entrusted the duty of taking delivery of the tribute from the king of Mysore to Qazi Said and the Hindu chieftain Hanumappa Nayaka and returned to Bijapur with remnant of his force. Hanumappa Nayaka was entrusted with the additional duty of seeing the proper working of the terms of the treaty. To secure safety to the Hindu chieftain, guards were also stationed. When the tribute came into the hands of Qazi Said, he left for Bijapur.

By this treaty signed on January 21, 1639, Mysore lost her new conquests in the province of Jagadeva Rayal. Though Kanthirava Narasaraja agreed to the humiliating treaty in his distress, he seems never to have thought of fulfilling it, as his subsequent attitude would clearly show.

2. Annals, I. pp.75-76.
3. Muhammad Wamah in Modern Review, 1929, P.502; see also Shiv.Nib. II, P.100 for the same work.
4. Annals, I. pp.75-76.
Ranadulla Khan’s adventure during his return journey.

Venkatapati Raya was much perturbed for the unpatriotic way of his nephew Sriranga. He never expected even in his dream that the prince of Vijayanagara Empire which stood as a bulwark against the advancing tide of the Muslim invasion for more than 2½ centuries would ever render a military help to Ranadulla Khan, the Bijapur general in his conquest of the Karnatak. Venkatapati grieved heavily at the conduct of the prince and appealed to all his subordinate chieftains of the South for help. Madura promptly responded; and its Nayak detached Ramappaiyan, a reputed general, at the head of a large force. The huge army reached Bangalore passing by way of Dindigal, Trichinopoly, Srirangam, Arni and Vellore, took interview with Venkatapati Raya, assured him to do all possible help to crush Ranadulla Khan. Feeling difficulty of encountering the Bijapur army, Ramappaiyan made an alliance with the Nayak of Ikkeri; and by mobilising all the resources and making tremendous preparations, he stood before the fort for its defence.

According to Ramappaiyan Ammanai, Ranadulla Khan, who was retreating to Bijapur with his army encountered the huge Hindu army at Bangalore and was completely defeated. ¹

¹. Tamilkam in the 17th century, pp.38-39. I greatly doubt the validity of the story as no change had come about in the ownership of Bangalore. Shahji continued to be the Governor of Karnatak Bijapur Balagat with his residence at Bangalore. Secondly kannada sources maintain discreet silence on this point.
Having suffered this discomfiture, R.D.Khan returned to his homeland. On the way he stepped on the soil of Chikkanayakanahalli which was then, governed by Immadi Bhairava Nayaka (1613-1646). Cautioning at a distance, R.D.Khan sent word to the chieftain for some help. But the chieftain replied that it was not possible to send any help as they invaded the Mysore kingdom whose ruler was his ally. The reply enraged R.D.Khan, but he was helpless. Postponing the conquest of Chikkanayakanahalli to a future date R.D.Khan retreated to Bijapur.¹

Importance of the event: R.D.Khan's invasion of Mysore was an important event in the history of Mysore Maratha relations. For the first time Shahji came into armed conflict with the raja of Mysore. Shahji understood the special features of the Mysorean warfare namely, surprise night attacks and the "cutting of noses." The gallant defence of the fort by the Mysorean army during the siege was most amazing and this imprinted on the mind of Shahji.

Though Shahji fought and defeated a Hindu, yet he restored his territories by actively mediating and proposing a treaty between his army-chief and Kanthirava Narasaraja. It was in this campaign that the seeds of enmity between Mysore and Maharashtra were sown.

¹. M.S.Puttanna: Nagalavadi Paleyagars, pp.14-16. The date given in this work for the conquest of S.R.Patna and other places is wrong.
Above all it was this stream of invasion that brought Shahji to the Mysore Kingdom and established him at Bangalore which in course of time developed into a great centre of Maratha activities.