CHAPTER VIII

THE OTHER UNIDENTIFIED CHIEFS

In this chapter too, we have grouped together eight such chiefs whose clan affiliation could not be worked out. These chiefs are, Araish Khan, Mulla Muhammad Mazhab, Qazi Jia, Hamid, Haibat Khan gurgandaz, sons of Badruddin, Mahmud Khan and Aulya Ashraqi. Almost all of them appear to be persons of stature during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. At least three of them, namely, Araish Khan, Mulla Muhammad Mazhab and Haibat Khan gurgandaz are categorically mentioned in our sources as amirs of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. Only one of them held an iqtta under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, while another is mentioned as Shiqdar.

We can further infer about the status of these individual chiefs from their biographical accounts given below.

ARAISH KHAN

According to author of Tabagat-i Akbari, Araish Khan was one of the amirs of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. Little is known about his role in the politics of the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. On the basis of a reference to him in our sources in the context of Mughal-Afghan conflict in 1529, we can surmise that during the later years of

1. Tabagat-i Akbari, Persian text, Vol. ii, p. 10. Earlier he was in the service of Nasiruddin Shah the ruler of Malwa. After the death of Nasiruddin Shah, Araish Khan was instrumental, along with Medini Rai in raising Prince Mahmud Khan (later styled as Sultan Mahmud Shah II) to the throne. Subsequently, his relations with the Sultan severed and he joined Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, see I. H. Siddiqi, Mughal Relations with the Indian Ruling Elite, (Delhi, 1963), pp. 38-39. see also U. N. Day, Medieval Malwa (Delhi, 1965)p.287.
Ibrahim Lodi's reign he was not happy with Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. For, in the beginning of 1526, when Babur Shah was encamped near Jaswan Dun he received an envoy, named Shah Imad Shirazi, from Araish Khan and Mulla Muhammad Mazhab with letters conveying their good wishes for the success of Babur's campaign and expressing their allegiance towards him. In reply, Babur also sent farmans to Araish Khan and Mulla Muhammad Mazhab expressing his favour. When we next come across a reference to Araish Khan we notice him fighting for Babur in the dast-i chap-i ghul in the battle of Kanwah against Rana Sanga. In the context of his services in the battle of Kanwah he is mentioned in the fathnama of Shaikh Zain as Umdat-ul Azam-wa-al-Ayan, Khan-i Muazzam.

Araish Khan also accompanied Babur in his expedition to Chanderi in January 1528. When Babur besieged Chanderi he sent Araish Khan, who was a friend of Medini Rai, along with Shaikh Ghuran for negotiations. Through Araish Khan, Babur offered Shamsabad to Medini Rai in place of Chanderi. But Medini Rai did not accept the proposal.

In 1529, Araish Khan had a boat built and offered to Babur. Babur named the boat Araish. It seems that Araish Khan remained loyal to Babur ever since his submission to him.

MULLA MUHAMMAD MAZHAB

The author of Tabagat-i Akbari tells us that Mulla Muhammad Mazhab was one of the amirs of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. But very little is known about his role under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. We first come across a reference to him in the context of Babur's advance against Ibrahim Lodi in 1526. Marching against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi when Babur was encamped near Jaswan, he received arzadashts from Mulla Muhammad Mazhab and Araish Khan, conveying their good wishes for the complete success of Babur's campaign. In response Babur sent encouraging farmans.

Later on, it seems that Mulla Muhammad Mazhab joined Babur's service. After the battle of Kanwah he was sent as an envoy to Bengal. On December 31st, 1528, he came from Bengal and waited upon Babur. He gave information to Babur about the attitude of the Bengalis, which was reported to be submissive.

CAZI JIA

Qazi Jia appears to have been a notable person. Nothing is known about his role during the reign of Ibrahim Lodi. We first notice him only after Babur's victory over Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. After defeating Sultan Ibrahim Lodi when Babur occupied Agra, Qazi Jia along with Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli, Firoz Khan Sarang Khani and Mahmud Khan Nohani came and waited upon Babur. Babur showed kindness and favour to him and conferred upon him an assignment of 20 lacs from Jaunpur.

In 1526, Qazi Jia was appointed by Babur along with several other Hindustani amirs, namely, Firoz Khan Sarang Khani, Mahmud Khan Nohani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli in the expedition sent to conquer Etawa from Qutab Khan. But later on this expedition was recalled and Qazi Jia was ordered to join Humayun's campaign against the eastern Afghans, namely Nasir Khan Nohani and Maruf Farmuli. After the conquest of Jaunpur by Humayun when Humayun was recalled by Babur from the east.


2. Baburnama, op. cit., p. 530; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 420b; Akbarnama, op. cit., p. 258.

3. Baburnama, op. cit., p. 531; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 421a-b; Akbarnama, op. cit., p. 258; Tarikh-i Alfi, Hindi tr. Rizvi, Mughal Kalin Bharat, Babur, p. 640.
the prince appointed Qazi Jia along with Shah Mir Husain and Sultan Junaid Barlas in Jaunpur in accordance with Babur's plan.

In January 1529, when Babur was at Dholpur, he received a letter from Qazi Jia redirected by Khalifa from Agra, from which Babur came to know that Sultan Mahmud Lodi, son of Sultan Sikandar, had taken possession of Bihar. Qazi Jia was in attendance upon Babur in 1529 and rendered him military service in the battle of Ghagra.

After the battle of Ghagra in 1529, Qazi Jia along with other amirs, including Mahmud Khan Nohani and Taj Khan Sarang Khani, was appointed by Babur to pursue Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farduli and prevent their crossing the Ganges at Chunar. It seems that Qazi Jia remained loyal to Babur throughout.

HAMID

There is only one reference to Hamid and that, too, in Babur's service. It is in the context of the military expeditions which Babur sent in different directions from Sikri before engaging Rana Sanga in the

3. Ibid., p. 668; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, ff. 507a-508b.
4. Ibid., p. 682; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 516a.
battle of Kanwah. Babur says that as he had little faith in Hindustani amirs, he despatched Hamid with his brethren along with other Hindustani amirs, namely Makan, Qasim Sambhali and Muhammad Zaitun towards Sambhal, which was then threatened by Mian Bibban Jilwani. This is the only reference to Hamid and after that we do not hear about him.

HAIBAT KHAN GUR-ANDAZ

Haibat Khan was one of the amirs of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. He was surnamed as gurzandaz (the wolf killer). He was a master in fox tricks. He seems to have been a loyal amir of Ibrahim Lodi. In Babur's time he is mentioned only once in our sources. From this solitary reference to him it appears that he joined Babur's service sometime before the battle of Kanwah. But when Rana Sanga marched against the Mughals in 1527 and several Hindustani amirs deserted Babur, Haibat Khan gurgandaz also deserted him on this occasion and went to Sambhal. Thereafter, we do not know about his activities.

BADRUDDIN'S SON

There is only one reference to Badruddin's son during the period under review. We do not know his


name. During the time of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, Badruddin held an igta in Kalpi. In 1528, on his march towards Chanderi when Babur was near Kachwa, he, after encouraging the people of that place, bestowed Kachwa on Badruddin's son. This is the only reference to Badruddin's son and after that we do not know about his activities.

MAHMUD KHAN, THE SHIQDAR

The person under reference was the Shiqdar of Sikandarpur. He is mentioned by Babur in the context of his attempt to cross river Saru in April, 1529, against the Bengalis. Babur says that on this occasion Mahmud Khan, the Shiqdar of Sikandarpur, sent an arzdasht to him saying that he had collected about 50 boats at Haldi passage and had already paid them the wages, but that the boatsmen were scared on hearing of the advance of the Bengalis. This is the only reference to Mahmud Khan, the Shiqdar, from which it appears that he was loyal to Babur. Nothing is known about his position and role under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi.

AULIYA KHAN ASHRAQI

There is only one reference to Auliya Khan Ashraqi in the contemporary sources during our period. It seems that before 1529 he was in alliance with the eastern Afghans. He submitted to Babur only after the

3. Baburnama, op. cit., p. 668; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 508a
conclusion of peace between Babur and the Nohani Afghans of Bihar in May, 1529. On May 21st, 1529, he, along with several other Afghan amirs, namely, Ismail Jilwani and Alaul Khan Nohani, came and waited upon Babur. Thereafter, we do not notice him in the period under review.

**A RESUME**

The preceding biographical account reveals that there is hardly any worthwhile information about the role of these chiefs under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. From the fact that Araish Khan and Mulla Muhammad Mazhab sent an envoy to Babur before the battle of Panipat expressing their support to him against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, we can infer that these two chiefs, too, were not happy with Sultan Ibrahim Lodi despite their being amirs of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi.

We have no evidence regarding the iqta of the above mentioned chiefs held, if any, under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. It was only Badruddin about whose iqta we know. As mentioned above in the account of his sons, he held an iqta somewhere within or near the territory of Kalpi during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. Another chief, Mahmud Khan, was the Shigdar of pargana Sikandarpur in the environs of Bihar.

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We now pass on to Babur's relations with the above mentioned chiefs. As pointed out earlier, only two of the above mentioned chiefs, namely Araish Khan and Mulla Muhammad Mazhab, had expressed their allegiance to Babur even before the battle of Panipat. Next to submit to Babur was Qazi Jia, who submitted to him soon after his occupation of Agra in May 1526. Hamid and Haibat Khan gurgandaz also seem to have submitted sometime towards the end of the year 1526 or early 1527 as both of them are noticeable in Babur's service before the battle of Kanwah. Badruddin's son is first noticed in Babur's service in the month of January 1528. The remaining two chiefs, Mahmud Khan, the Shigdar, and Aulya Khan Ashraqi are first mentioned in contact with Babur only in May, 1529.

It may be noted that most of these chiefs having once submitted to Babur seem to have remained loyal to him. Only Haibat Khan gurg-andaz deserted Babur soon after his submission. The only chief of doubtful loyalty was Hamid. Araish Khan, Mulla Muhammad Mazhab and Qazi Jia, in fact, distinguished themselves in Babur's service.

Many of these chiefs rendered valuable military services to Babur. Araish Khan fought for Babur in the *dast-i chap-i ghul* in the battle of Kanwah against Qutab Khan of Etawa in August, 1526 and, later on, served under Humayun against Nasir Khan Nohani and Maruf Farmuli in the same year. In 1529, Qazi Jia fought for Babur in the battle of Ghagra and later on in the same year was attached to the expedition sent in pursuit of Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli. Mahmud Khan, the *Shiqdar*, of Sikandarpur, also rendered military service to Babur in the battle of Ghagra in the year 1529, while Hamid was attached to the expedition sent against Mian Bibban Jilwani towards Sambhal before the battle of Kanwah. The following table gives the details of their military services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Particulars of the expedition</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Araish Khan</td>
<td>In <em>dast-i chap-i ghul</em> in the battle of Kanwah; accompanied Babur in Chanderi expedition.</td>
<td>B.N.ii/565,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qazi Jia</td>
<td>Against Qutab Khan of Etawa; later under Humayun against Nasir Khan Nohani and Maruf Farmuli; also in the battle of Ghagra and against Bibban and Bayzid in 1529.</td>
<td>B.N.ii/530,531, 668, 686.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahmud Khan, the <em>Shiqdar</em></td>
<td>In the battle of Ghagra</td>
<td>B.N.ii/668.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamid</td>
<td>Against Mian Bibban Jilwani before the battle of Kanwah.</td>
<td>B.N.ii/547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two of the above mentioned chiefs also acted as Babur's emissaries. For example, Araish Khan was sent by Babur to Medini Rai for negotiations with him before his attack on Chanderi. Mulla Muhammad Mazhab also acted as Babur's ambassador to the ruler of Bengal. He was sent by Babur as his envoy to Bengal after the battle of Kanwah and returned to Babur in December 1528 bringing information about the attitude of the Bengalis.

However, only two of the chiefs discussed in this chapter were favoured by Babur through revenue assignments. These were Qazi Jia and the son of Badruddin. Qazi Jia was conferred an assignment of 20 lac tankas from Jaunpur, while Badruddin's son was bestowed the pargana of Kachwa near Kalpi. Besides, Mahmud Khan, the Shiqdar of Sikandarpur, also seems to have continued as Shiqdar of pargana. Sikandarpur, obviously through the favour of Babur. The following table shows the assignment conferred by Babur upon the above mentioned chiefs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>The name of pargana/ territory</th>
<th>The value of assignment</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qazi Jia</td>
<td>Jaunpur</td>
<td>20 lac tankas</td>
<td>B.N.ii/527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badruddin's son</td>
<td>Kachwa</td>
<td>not mentioned</td>
<td>B.N.ii/590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahmud Khan</td>
<td>pargana of Sikandarpur</td>
<td>value not mentioned</td>
<td>B.N.ii/668</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In short, the chiefs grouped in this chapter rendered valuable services to Babur. In particular, Araish Khan, Mulla Muhammad Mazhab and Qazi Jia figure prominently. Araish Khan had even a boat built and offered to Babur which was commissioned by Babur in his service and used in the battle of Ghagra. Babur named the boat as "Araish", i.e. ornament.