

him. Such are the ghastly ways of Islamic terrorists in Levy's book.

"Who murdered Daniel Pearl?" is the story of an American journalist who, on assignment from the *Wall Street Journal*, is looking into the terrorism network he suspects exists in Pakistan. The author, Bernard Henry-Lévy, recounts Pearl's activities in Pakistan in the form of a novel based on a juxtaposition of real and imaginary events. He adds poignancy to the story by giving the background of the victim and his assassins. Worse, the assassins are not just some goons, but include a well-educated young Muslim from England - Omar Sheikh, a student of the London School of Economics - who can pass off as a perfect Englishman. Omar Sheikh's accomplices, too, are well educated; they have come to Pakistan from Muslim families in Pakistan, Yemen, etc.

What made Omar Sheikh give up his studies and join the company of religious fanatics? What was his motive in killing Daniel Pearl? Lévy unravels these mysteries gradually by combining the "physics of bloody passions and the chemistry of murderous vocation". The novelist even detects a serious error in the videotape recording showing the killer's demand of a huge ransom for Pearl, even though the murder had already been committed and taped. Ransom for what?

For Lévy such disconnects form the reason to travel to Los Angeles (to meet Pearl's parents) and on to Bosnia, England (to find the place of murder and the background of the assassins), Dubai, India (New Delhi) and to the "devil's own home" - Pakistan. In Pakistan, the author ventured to Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi. Thereafter Lévy went back to the USA, before chronicling the events connected with the "demonic assassination."

Pointing an accusing finger, Lévy fixes the responsibility on "this world of radical Islam with its codes and passwords, its secret territories, its nightmare Mullahs breathing madness into souls, its minions, its field marshals." Of the actual killers, we learn only after novelist has analyzed all the events and factors.

But why does the author pick on a particular person for murder? The author is obsessively driven on this and his emotions are so intense that only in the last line of the book he

scene - the airport has no woman, not a Westerner to be seen (there is no major female character in the novel). Danny's kidnapping was not the first of an alien by Pakistan's terrorist groups which are engaged in guerilla warfare with the support of secret services for the last four decades against India, including Kashmir. In 1994, they had kidnapped some foreign tourists at New Delhi. Later, in another kidnapping, New Delhi was forced to exchange three most prominent Harkat al-Mujahideen terrorists, namely Massoud Azhar, Mushtaq Zeger, and Omar Sheikh who had hijacked an Indian Airlines airplane to Kandhar with 155 passengers. (Omar was agent for ISI as well as al-Qaida.

He was one of the most wanted criminals, who had spent five years in jail, in India. He was also a suspect in the attack on the J&K Assembly and later on Indian Parliament. He was also suspected of participating in the attack on the American Cultural Center in Calcutta. In spite of such a record, Omar Sheikh was freely moving on the roads in Pakistan.) How, and the extent to which Pakistan went to help these terrorists, will be best appreciated from Musharraf's remarks. When asked to extradite Omar Sheikh, he said "I would prefer to hang him myself than to extradite him."

Omar's identity was discovered by RAW from his cell phone number that it decoded. The relationship among Jaish e Mohammad, the Lakshar-e-Jhangvi, the Harkat ul-Mujahideen, the Lakshar-e-Toiba, and the Gilani Sect, the whole galaxy of Islamist orga-

the West. The Jihadist believes that he has the right to name 72 of the chosen - the same as the number of virgins waiting for him in paradise - to follow in his ascension. To be safe from harm, Jihadists keep on changing their names. Omar has 17 aliases - Kashmir also figures in his game - he tells the Saudi (Bin Laden) of the heroic struggle of the Kashmiri people and asks him for help.

Levy uncovers the network, the organization, and the methods of the Islamist terrorists. The al-Qaida militant has a price between 2500 and 5000 rupees. The grenade launcher has his 150 rupees per grenade. An attacker of an Indian Army officer in Kashmir profits between 10,000 and 30,000 rupees. And the kamikaze too has his price which is decided ahead of time in an actual negotiation between himself, the organization, and the family. It assures the family of almost decent living: standard 5000 and sometime 10,000 rupees per year for life. There are agencies where suicide attack candidates come to fill out applications for a loan. Foundations - personal to libraries - personal to translation from French is fairly good.

Islam, created by the Pakistani Jamat-e-Islami, assumed responsibility for the killer's families, and madaras are built for raising kamikazes with the family's consent. Martyrdom has a

Pearl was engaged in investigating Muslims of America and the International Quranic Open University, which carried out campaigns on Jehad including martyred Muslim peoples, Bosnia, Chechnya, intellectual resistance to the Zionist lobby, and Jamats - a religious commune. He found such organizations existing in many places - under pretext of protecting members from a materialist world. They also remitted funds to charities which did not reach the needy and instead these reached the coffers of madaras and ultimately to the servers of Jihad.

Levy thinks that Pearl was busy establishing the list of ISI superior officers who were faithful to the Gul line (Gul is the ex-ISI director), that is to the doctrine of the Islamist bomb, and willing to close their eyes to a technology transfer to terrorist groups. He surmises that Pearl was getting ready to give exact locations for the nuclear warheads and launchers of the Islamabad arsenal - and thus prove that the information was within the reach of terrorists. After the Gul and Mahmood trails, Pearl opened the trail of the Father of Pakistani bomb - Abdul Qadir Khan (a member of Toiba) - who he suspected had tried to build a uranium enriching factory in Iraq. Levy also mentions Khan's relations with North Korea.

The question arises that why does not US do anything? Why do they tolerate the "Muslims of America" whose members have attacked the "enemies" of Islam - heretics and Hindus. But nothing was done. Perhaps, because the targets were only Jews or Hindus.

"Who Killed Daniel Pearl?" is a powerful novel that provides inside information about Islamic fundamentalists. It will be a good addition to libraries - personal as well as public. The translation from French is fairly good.

Who Killed Daniel Pearl? - by Bernard Henri-Lévy (translated from French by James X Mitchell), Melville Publishing,

"I assert that Pakistan is the biggest rogue of all the rouge states today. What is taking form there, between Islamabad and Karachi, is a black hole compared to which Saddam Hussein's Baghdad was an obsolete weapons' dump. The stench of apocalypse hangs over those cities. I am convinced that Danny smelled that stench."

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