

The Land-for-Peace Deal

The serious question arises over the next and indeed the final step — the final status negotiations. Spoon-feeding by the US President as was done in Wye River negotiations cannot continue and may not yield the optimum results in the 'Final Status' negotiation. There both parties will have to proceed with very open mind and vision.

THE most powerful man on earth the President of the United States, invested 85.5 hours of his precious time to produce the interim Middle East Peace Agreement — the Peace-for-Land deal between Palestinians and Israelis, which was signed in the evening of October 23, 1998 at the East Wing of the White House. It is probably a unique instance of direct diplomacy by the US President that not only broke the log jam but also brought considerable confidence among the feuding parties. It was President Clinton's statesmanship, determination and firm commitment that led to the success of this negotiations between two foes — Netanyahu and Arafat — at Wye River Plantation in Maryland. An excellent job done.

In the Signing ceremony, indeed, the long hand shake between Netanyahu and Arafat reflected the success and satisfaction for both — Netanyahu giving a muted and somewhat hard to understand expression as usual, gave an extended long smile expressing deep satisfaction over the deal after a long stalemate. The interim agreement would undoubtedly be the basis for the 'Final Status' negotiations which should start soon. The world must also acknowledge the untiring efforts and negotiating skill shown by a lady — Secretary of State Albright who spent all nine days in the Wye River and worked hard to resolve seemingly unsolvable issues. The world must also appreciate the important role played by King Hussein of Jordan who has been ill for sometime and indeed jumped out of his sick bed when SOS call reached him to join the negotiation. The role played by President Mubarak and other leaders from distance was also considerable.

The overt role played by the CIA director was an undeniably interesting but seemingly a loaded one. The presence of CIA in anything poses problem for many people around the world and particularly those in the Middle East, but as it seems, CIA Director's supportive role in the negotiation brought confidence among the Israeli negotiators. Without CIA's assurance the issue of security for Israelis would have created further problems particularly after the bomb blasts in Beersheva, south of Jerusalem, during the

negotiations. Indeed, in the final status negotiations even bigger support would be needed from CIA and other US establishments which can give security guarantees to the Israelis. Indeed, the security guarantee has really to be given by the US and not by Arafat. Arafat's security guarantee would be somewhat symbolic as his establishment is yet to be made ready for such operation and that also against Israelis.

The specific provisions in the Palestinian Charter on 'destruction of Israel' can be increased by consensus or majority vote but this cannot be removed from the heads of many who have been suffering for years. The arrangements must be in place to guard against them until they reconcile with the idea of living as neighbours, otherwise the accord cannot be implemented successfully.

cent of the West Bank land. The establishment of a committee with Palestinian and Israeli members to discuss a third withdrawal.

- Opening of the Palestinian airport in Gaza.
- The guarantee of safe passage — road link for Palestinians between Gaza and other Palestinian territory.

As it seems the entire Middle East, barring only the rightists and the radicals in both camps, gave support to the peace deal. The Jewish settlers protested against the deal as, according to them, nobody has any right to give away the land God promised to them and created serious law and order situation. Recent poll shows 74 per cent of the Israelis gave support to the peace accord. Similarly, the radicals in the West Bank and Gaza protested and burnt US and Israeli flags, but a great ma-

nal step — the final status negotiations. Spoon feeding by the US President as was done in Wye River negotiations cannot continue and may not yield the optimum results in the 'Final Status' negotiation. There both parties will have to proceed with very open mind and vision. Arafat may probably survive that test as he probably does not bother much about the situation on the ground but not Netanyahu as he has serious mental reservation over the issues relating to peace with the Palestinians. As Netanyahu faced serious agitation and indeed violence from the settlers and ultra-rightists on arrival at Israel he described the Middle Eastern deal as 'painful for Israel' and the best that could be achieved under bad circumstances. He even suggested that "his arms had been twisted to the breaking point before he agreed to it."

"This is very painful. It is very difficult, and for every one of us, every mountain, every valley every hill is a part of the history of our people and speaks to us. To hand over even a centimeter of the Land of Israel (the Palestinian authority is very difficult). We fought with all our strength, like lions, in order to reduce the size of the territorial concession made. Even if one sees this as an attempt to calm public anger this does reflect his attitude towards peace with Palestinians. Therefore it is difficult to expect much from him in the Labour negotiations. There Labour is expected to show greater flexibility and as such its return to power should be welcomed by those who want peace in the M-E. However, this would certainly depend on the people of Israel."

May 4, 1999 should remain as the deadline for resolving all major issues including Palestinian statehood so that Arafat would not have to resort to unilateral declaration of Palestinian state. As the world could see, like all others he also seems to be quite conscious of his health situation and he may not like to leave things in the hands of others. As 'others' are quite unknown and somewhat uncertain, it may not be safe for any party either. Therefore, every effort should be made to conclude the final deal as quickly as possible. May 4, 1999 is not far off.

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Spotlight on Middle East

Muslehuddin Ahmad

Even Netanyahu, apart from using security often as political ploy, is obsessed with idea of security threat from the Arabs. This is why he still opposes Palestinian State. He says there are enough threats from countries like Syria, Iraq and also Iran and he feels that a Palestinian State would only add to the security problem. Netanyahu is apparently wrong in his assessment as the Palestinian State, if achieved without further bloodshed, could indeed work as a buffer and help solve other Israeli problems with the Arabs.

The last minute obstacle on the issue of release from jail of Jonathan Pollard, a US citizen who spied for Israel, had held up the signing of the Accord for several hours, but ultimately the agreement was signed on a review assurance from President Clinton. The Land-for-Peace deal consists mainly of the following:

- An Israeli release of over 750 of the 3000 Palestinians held in Israeli jail.
- A security plan under CIA supervision to arrest the alleged terrorists and confiscate weapons.
- An Israeli troop pullout from an additional 13.1 per

cent gave support to the peace deal. Hamas leader Sheikh Yassin continued to speak against any deal with Israelis until they vacate Palestinian land.

It would, undoubtedly be difficult to implement the peace accord as the radicals will create all obstacles at every stage including committing violence. Already some Israelis and Palestinians have been killed in the violence that erupted immediately after the deal was signed. The radicals in the Knesset moved no confidence motion against Prime Minister Netanyahu but failed to oust him as Labour supported the deal. But the process would undoubtedly continue. The opposition Labour, though they support the peace deal, may try to take advantage of the situation for an early election. Labour see a good possibility of its return to power as peace process it initiated has gained wide support among the Israelis. Labour should, however, take into account the changed situation with Netanyahu; he has crossed the bridge through his hand was firmly held by the President of the United States.

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ME Agreement: An Appraisal

by Barrister Harun ur Rashid

Both parties will have to ensure that violence does not occur, and it can be difficult in an environment where trust has disappeared between them. The next final step of a permanent peace settlement between the parties will depend on the bonafide and scrupulous compliance of the provisions of this interim agreement.

ON Friday, 23 October, an interim peace deal was signed between the Israeli Prime Minister and the Chairman, Palestine Authority at the White House in the presence of President Clinton and other dignitaries including King Hussein of Jordan. The agreement was an outcome of a long, tough and difficult negotiations for almost non-stop nine days. President Clinton put in 78 hours for 7 days with his incredible persistence to ensure that the talks did not fall. He enlisted the ailing King Hussein of Jordan who acted as a conciliator between the two parties. What makes the King important was his relationship with the hawk of Israeli politics, new Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, a soldier-politician who championed extensive Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. President Clinton also called Vice-President Al Gore in the negotiations because the Vice President was considered one of Israel's strongest supporters in the US Administration.

What do the parties achieve?

Both parties had to make compromises in the deal. Put simply, Palestinians got 13 per cent more land in the West Bank in exchange of its security guarantees to the Israelis backed and supervised by the US. The Israeli troop withdrawal will be carried out in three stages over a 3-month period from the 13 per cent land. The deal included that 750 Palestinian prisoners would be released by the Israeli authorities, two safe passage corridors be allowed between the West Bank and Gaza for the free movement of the Palestinian people and the opening of a Gaza international airport and seaport in the southern Gaza strip. Further deployment of troops by Israel was incorporated in the interim agreement.

Israel got iron clad security guarantees from the Palestinian Authority which would be verifiable, a commitment from Chairman Arafat to fight terrorism in close collaboration with Israel and US authorities, arrest of 30 people accused by Israel of terrorism, confiscation of weapons from militant Palestinians with the assistance of the US agency (CIA) and the revocation of the

clause relating to the destruction of Israel from the 1964 Founding Charter of Palestine Liberation Organisation by the Palestine Central Council (110 member body) in which President Clinton would be present. This agreement is called an interim one because the four difficult questions needed to be resolved in future as per Oslo Accord of 1993 and these are (a) question of Palestine Statehood as an independent nation side by side with Israel, (b) the status of Jerusalem city (will it be divided between the two? or will the whole city belong to Palestinians?), (c) repatriation of Palestinian refugees living in other countries and (d) the status of Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank since 1967. These are tough and sensitive questions and the commencement of the discussions on the issues will depend on the implementation of this interim agreement by both the parties.

As I said earlier the agreement was a compromise one. Their original demands were more robust. Israel had agreed to Israel wanted extradition of Palestinian suspects and Israel would pull back its troops starting with only 1 per cent from the West Bank in future. Palestine Authority wanted Israel to disarm Jewish settlers on West Bank and they refused to annul PLO Charter by convening the Palestine Central Council because they claimed that they had effectively done this. Palestine side wanted firm commitment from Israel that all the unresolved issues should be completed by next May 1999 as per Oslo Accord.

Why did they agree to this interim agreement when the demands of both sides were not fulfilled? In particular why did Netanyahu agree to sign this peace deal after 18 months of political sophistry? There could be several reasons which compelled the parties to reach this agreement.

There were extreme pressures on both sides to make headway on a peace deal, more so on the Israeli side. Israeli Prime Minister's equivocation to sign a deal was being perceived by the US as a clear-cut violation of the provisions of Oslo Accord and the Clinton Administration was losing its patience with Israel; even the Israeli supporters in the

Congress felt that time had come for Israel to clinch a deal. In a strategic move Netanyahu appointed a leading right-winger as Foreign Minister who would be able to protect the Prime Minister from the hawks in Israeli politics. Netanyahu signalled to the right-wingers that the US proposal was the best possible deal Israel could achieve and Sharon could be the bad guy to the deal. Yet another fact was that if no deal was reached by Israel on the basis of the US package, the international repercussions could be extremely adverse for Israel and dangerous for Netanyahu's political future. Another important factor was that Netanyahu feared that without a new interim accord, the Palestine leader Yasser Arafat would carry out his threat to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state in May next year, the deadline for the end of negotiations. Finally, the ill health of the Palestine Leader must have been taken into consideration because there could be chaos among the Palestinians without him.

On the Palestinian side, the credibility of Yasser Arafat as a leader was in question as he had to reshuffle his Ministers who were accused of corruption. The rate of unemployment among the Palestinian youths is nearly about 40 per cent and Mr. Arafat was extremely worried about it because the more unemployed youths were, the more attractive the options for them appeared to be to join the militant groups (Hamas), thus derailing the peace efforts as called for in the Oslo Accord. The opening of Gaza international airport and a seaport, the free movement of the Palestinians between the Gaza and the West Bank and the possibility of the construction of the Joint Industrial Park with the assistance of the European Union in the context of the peace deal would generate considerable employment among the Palestinian youths. The interim agreement envisages not only more lands in the West Bank (40 per cent of the West Bank will be in the hands or control of the Palestine Authority) but also the prospects of economic resurgence in the Palestine area.

Possible reactions from the hardliners to the new agreement

Political analysts believe that on both sides there are likely to be deep frustrations and resentment on the deal in the context of the peace deal hardliners including the Jewish settlers will perceive Netanyahu as a betrayer of their interests and the right wing political parties in Israel will try

to bring Netanyahu's government down. They may feel that terrorism by the Palestinians will not go away and the "terrorists" will be right next to their major cities. They may ask the question how do they know that the additional lands given to the Palestinians do not become bases for terrorism? Further the involvement of US agencies (CIA) in the verification of security guarantees by the Palestinians is perceived to be the surrender of Israeli sovereignty and they fear that if the US is satisfied with the security arrangements, then Israel has to be satisfied with such plans.

On the Palestine side, the Hamas may challenge the peace deal. Furthermore, the agreement is likely to be viewed with extreme caution and scepticism by the average Palestinians as they do not trust that the Israeli Prime Minister will comply with the provisions of the agreement. There is a view that they suspect that the nuts and bolts of the agreement will not be taken to the field. About 3000 Palestine prisoners remain in Israeli jails and only 750 out of them will be released. They maintain that out of 750, many have already served their sentences and will be released anyway.

Conclusion

The interim agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians ushers in a new chapter in peace. It constitutes a forward movement after 18 months of stalemate of talks between them. The full weight and prestige of the US Presidency was brought to bear on the negotiations and they had little choice but to reach for an accommodation. For President Clinton, it was a great boost politically as he could claim that the recent scandal did not divert him from the accomplishment of a very important foreign policy objective. Nothing could be satisfying for his Democratic Party which would contest the Congressional elections in the first week of November with an inflated image.

Both parties will have to ensure that violence does not occur, and it can be difficult in an environment where trust has disappeared between them. The next final step of a permanent peace settlement between the parties will depend on the bonafide and scrupulous compliance of the provisions of this interim agreement. Friends of both parties will be happy if they adhere to the letter and spirit of this historic agreement reached due to President Clinton's passion for peace.

The author is former Bangladesh Ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

John Forbes Nash: Paranoid and Schizophrenic but Nobel Laureate

by Md. Asadullah Khan

Nash's Nobel-winning thesis on game theory was the product of his second year at Princeton. Game theory was the invention of Von Neumann and a Princeton economist, Oskar Morgenstern. Characteristically, Nash picked a problem for his thesis that had eluded Von Neumann.

JOHN Nash's rise to fame is a terrible story with a happy ending. Born in 1928 in West Virginia in an educated family, John Nash made his mark as a prodigious scholar, more so as a mathematician, particularly in the field of game theory. He won Nobel Prize in 1994 for his Ph.D. work on "game theory" written almost half a century ago at the tender age of 21. The award was a miracle. It wasn't that Nash, one of the mathematical geniuses of the post-war era was getting the award for a slender 27 page Ph.D. thesis. The real miracle was that Nash, 66 in 1994 was alive and well enough to receive the prize. For John Nash was stuck in a schizophrenic schizophrenia for more than three decades.

In a word, his life was full of agony and ecstasy. After a brief interlude as an instructor in Princeton and as a consultant in Rand Corp., the cold-war think tank, Nash moved on to teach at MIT in 1951 and for eight years dazzled the mathematical world. No sooner had "Fortune" magazine of the US singled him out in July 1958 as America's brilliant young star of the new mathematics that the disease had devastated Nash's personal and professional life. At the age of 30, he had to be confined to a mental asylum. For the next 30 years he was in and out of mental homes, unable to work and incapable of relating to people, a hostage to the demons in his head, paralysed by fear and paranoia. What he often did was to wander in Fine Hall's quadrangular hallways occasionally dashing into empty classrooms to scribble equations with lightning speed on blackboards.

As P. Ordeshook narrates, "Nash described a general method for locating the outcome which came to be known as "Nash equilibrium". In the words of Ordeshook, "whether we are analysing a candidate's election strategies, the causes of war, agenda manipulation in legislatures or the actions of interest groups, prediction about events reduce to a search for and description of equilibria. Put simply, equilibrium strategies are the things that we predict about people." This "equilibrium" and "Nash bargaining" solution became standard tools of modern economic analysis. He was described in 1958 as "most promising young math-

ematician of the world. Put in the words of Nash: "The staff at my university, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and later all of Boston were behaving strangely towards me. I started to see cryptic communists everywhere. I started to think I was a man of great religious importance and to hear voices all the time. I began to hear something like telephone calls in my head from people opposed to my ideas."

In about 1969 hopefully, the awful fires that fed the delusions and distorted his thinking began to die down. He started to talk to other mathematicians and began to talk on mathematical problems. Although he did not take any job after he resigned in 1958, but now with partial remission of his mental disorder, he started to learn new things like using computers for his research. That hardly happens with schizophrenics. Many people with the disease can no longer sort and interpret sensations or reason or feel the full range of emotions. Instead they suffer from delusions and hear voices.

During the period he stayed in MIT, Nash met Alicia, an extremely beautiful and intelligent El Salvadoran physics student who took advanced calculus from him and they were married in 1957. Just after one year of his marriage with Alicia and at about the time when Alicia happened to be pregnant, Nash became mentally unstable. Freudian psychologists of the 50s claimed that his wife's

pregnancy in the early days of 1959 had tipped him over the edge. It was almost shocking to lay blame on a woman already stressed to the edge by her husband's collapse. The marriage ended but so deep was Alicia's regard for Nash's merit and genius that she housed him back in Princeton. The loyal wife stood by him when she no longer was his wife.

In Nash's case, the tragedy got the added dimension of his early genius being recognised by his family, friends and former colleagues who wrapped themselves protectively around Nash and provided him with a safe haven while he was ill. Together they made sure that Nash did not wind up, as so many victims of schizophrenia do as patients in some hospitals or as some homeless nomads with a strong inclination for suicide. Shockingly, schizophrenia usually strikes people in their teens or early 20s, often without warning just as they are about to spread their wings. Nash was struck when he had already begun to soar.

About Nash's early schooling, as his sister Martha Nash Legg says, "John was a prodigy but not a straight-A student." She adds, "John was always looking for a different way to do things". In elementary school one of his teachers told John's mother that her son was having trouble in math. He could see ways to solve problems that were different from his teachers.

In 1945, Nash enrolled at Carnegie-Mellon then Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh. It was there that the label "genius" was first applied to Nash. His mathematics professor called him a "young Gauss" in class, one day, referring to the great German mathematician. His graduate professor R.J. Duffin recognised Nash's extraordinary talent and genius. Duffin recalled that Nash came to him one day and described a problem he thought he had solved. Duffin realized with some astonishment that Nash, without know-

ing it had independently proved Brouwer's famed theorem. The professor's letter of recommendation for Nash had just one line, "This man is a genius."

In 1948 the year when Nash entered the doctoral programme at Princeton with a fellowship, the place was arguably the centre of the mathematical and scientific universe. Other than having the Institute for Advanced Studies and Albert Einstein, there was John Von Neumann, the charismatic mathematician who helped develop the modern computer as well as the mathematical theory behind the H-bomb. Nash quickly became one of the brilliant young men who performed mental pyrotechnics in the common room of Fine Hall. Soon after he arrived, he invented an extremely clever game that was played with markers on hexagonal bathroom tiles. An instant fad at that time, it was called "Nash" or "John". Parker Brothers marketed it later by the name "Hex".

Nash's Nobel-winning thesis on game theory was the product of his second year at Princeton. Game theory was the invention of Von Neumann and a Princeton economist, Oskar Morgenstern. Their 1944 book "The Theory of Games and Economic Behaviour" was the first attempt to derive logical and mathematical rules about rivalries. The cold war and nuclear arms race meant that game theory was an idea whose time had arrived.

Characteristically, Nash picked a problem for his thesis that had eluded Von Neumann. Briefly, Von Neumann only had a good theory for pure rivalries in which one side's win was the other side's loss. Nash focused on rivalries in which mutual gain was also possible. He showed that there were stable solutions — no player could do better, given what the others were doing — for such rivalries under a wide variety of circumstances. In doing so, he turned game theory, a beguiling idea,

into a powerful tool that economists could use to analyse everything from business competitions to trade negotiations. And really so, in the mid 1950s when he got tired of mathematicians, he would wander over to the economics department to talk to Solow and another Nobel laureate Paul Samuelson.

By the late 80s his mental illness seemed to be in partial remission and he could be seen pacing the yards of Princeton University absorbed in his own thoughts. Professor Kaushik Basu and Professor Jorgen Weibull, visiting Princeton at that time found it unbearable that the man behind the "Nash equilibrium" which they talked about so much in the class was the solitary figure out there. So, with the perseverance of "Weibull", says Kaushik, "we managed to set up a lunch appointment with Nash". It was an unremarkable afternoon. "We were tense, given his genius. He was too, probably because of his shyness... He seldom made eye contact with us. He spoke softly and seemed sad and vulnerable."

By the early '90s, the Nobel Committee began deliberating whether it should give Nash the economics prize. Was he well enough to receive and appreciate the honour? Some argued he was essentially not a mathematician and so should not get the economics prize. Others argued that though his passion was for mathematics, his contribution had turned out to be too important for economic theory for him to be denied the award. In 1994, the announcement came. John Nash along with two other game theorists — John Harsanyi and Reinhold Selten — had been conferred the Nobel.

Sylvia Nasar in her article on John Nash published in the New York Times portrays Nash's obsession with intellectual excellence to the exclusion of everything else and the tragedy of his long confinements in mental homes. The

book documents the role of his family members especially women members namely his mother Margaret, his divorced wife Alicia and his sister Legg who helped Nash recover from his fearful delusions and came out of this isolation.

The miraculous remission was due to Alicia's compassion, strength and receptivity. Alicia believed firmly that Nash should stay at home and study in the context of the mathematics community even when he was not functioning well. So says his sister Legg, "In a place like Princeton, if you act strange, you're special." When Nash's insanity and rudeness to everybody including Alicia became unmanageable, she had no other option but to divorce him. She did so but could not abandon him. She took him back into her house as a live-in guest. Nash still stays in the mathematics community even when he was not functioning well. So says his sister Legg, "In a place like Princeton, if you act strange, you're special." When Nash's insanity and rudeness to everybody including Alicia became unmanageable, she had no other option but to divorce him. She did so but could not abandon him. She took him back into her house as a live-in guest.

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Let me conclude with what Nash said about himself in his autobiography made public on June 26, 1998. Nash said, "Statistically, it would seem improbable that any mathematician or scientist at the age of 66, would be able through continued research efforts, to add much to his or her previous achievements. However I am still making the effort and it is conceivable that with the gap period of about 25 years of partially deluded thinking providing a sort of vacation my situation may be atypical. Thus I have hopes of being able to achieve something of value through my current studies or with any new ideas that come in the future."

The writer is Controller of Examinations, BUET.

Bihar Women Pick up Arms in Self-defence

BUHAI Devi, a poor woman, was paraded naked through her village after she was caught stealing four potatoes from a field; a pregnant Ganita Rajak was gangraped by 16 men and then left to bleed to death.

Ever since the Indian state of Bihar, one of India's most impoverished and lawless states, such crimes against women are commonplace more so if the women happen to belong to lower castes. Statistics on rapes which have more than doubled over the past eight years in state, are alarming. While 639 women had been raped in 1991, the number jumped to 819 the very next year. In 1994, the number of rapes reported were 830 which increased exponentially to 1,034 in 1995, 1,209 in 1996 to 1,318 last year. Till August this year, 847 rapes have been committed in Bihar, the Pioneer newspaper said.

Living under a constant threat of being brutalised, thousands of women in Bihar, are now picking up arms in self-defence. Neelam Devi, a lower caste woman in 40 districts of Bihar are training to wield weapons so they can ward off assaulters, particularly landlords who belong to the upper castes. The Times of India newspaper reported.

The landlords, who have a running feud with landless labourers, arising from a decades-old class antagonism, have a militia called the Ramvir Sena, which has massacred over 300 lower caste people, called Dalits, and burnt down their huts in attacks in the past two years. The most recent such massacres was in December last year when 61 people, including 27 women and 16 children, were gunned down by the Sena militia in Lakshmanpur-Barthe village in the Jehanabad administrative district of the state. Following the attack, the Dalit

women of the village decided to receive firearms training from the women's wing of a private army constituted by lower caste people, called the Dalit Sena. They learnt to wield rifles in 15-day-long camps held in remote forested areas.

"Ever since we have acquired them (rifles), we are feeling much more confident," 35-year-old Bhujia Devi, a mother of four, was quoted as saying. She added that the attitude of the landlords towards them has also changed. "Earlier we were not allowed to draw water from the well and suffered a great deal of sexual harassment. But that is a thing of the past now," she said.

Leela Devi of Nawadha village, 70 kilometres from state capital Patna, echoed that sentiment. "I don't get intimidated by these upper caste men any more. Earlier, they didn't spare any opportunity to insult us. Now, they have learnt to remain silent," Leela Devi told the paper. Confidence levels are also high among women of Gohin village who recently established their hold over 150 acres of land after the state administration ruled in their favour in a dispute where they claimed the land had been unlawfully grabbed by landlords. Said Lalita Devi, commander-in-chief of the Dalit army's women's wing, "It is because of the total absence of law and order that we have been forced to arm ourselves."

"What are women living in rural areas expected to do when they are attacked?" asked Satyanand Sharma, a former state minister who is a senior functionary in the Dalit army now. Knowing how to use a weapon is the only deterrent they have, he claimed. Rifles were bought by the Dalit army and distributed among women who had been taught how to use them.

—India Abroad News Service

