

Nayyar Alvi

Senior Pakistani journalist, Nayyar Alvi, 62, died on 29 September 2001.

Alvi was born in the North Indian hill town of Dehradun. He started his journalistic career as a sub-editor in *Jang*, Rawalpindi and worked later with a number of other dailies *Jasarat*, *Sun*, *Anjam*, and *Nawai-e-Waqt* before he joined *Express* in 1998. He was also an author, translator and copywriter.

Shuhrat Bukhari

Former director general of Iqbal Academy, Lahore, Shuhrat Bukhari, 75, died on 11 October 2001. As an accomplished poet and a prose writer, Bukhari belonged to 'Halaqa Arbab-e-Zauq', a literary circle. He had retired as head of the Urdu department, Islamia College Civil Lines, Lahore, Pakistan.

Ozzir Zuby

Renowned Pakistani sculptor, painter and calligraphist Ozzir Zuby, 80, widely regarded as the last surviving icon of Punjab school of painting, died in Karachi on 1 September 2001. Spanning a career of more than 50 years, Zuby was unmatched not merely in sculpting and pen drawing; he also pioneered the art of three-dimensional calligraphy and turned calligraphy into a form of painting as well.

Rehavam Zeevi

Israeli minister for tourism and leader of the far right Moledet party, Rehavam Zeevi, 75, died on 17 October 2001. He had been shot dead in the corridor of the Hyatt Regency where he had been staying for the Knesset session. Responsibility for the killing was claimed by someone said to be speaking on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) whose leader Abu Ali Mustafa (Obituary, *Impact*, October 2001) had been assassinated by the Israelis on 27 August 2001. It is difficult though to assume that the assassin was not only able to reach his target in a secure place but was also able to escape unnoticed.

A former Major-General in the Israeli army, Rehavam Zeevi, had been an ultra Zionist from his young days when he was a member of Jewish terrorist outfits like Palmach and Haganah. Like many Zionists, although son of a Hasidic rabbi, he was not religious.

His solution to the Palestine-Israeli conflict was simple: 'Let the Arabs go to

Mecca', and that the Palestinians should be expelled from both the West and East Banks of Jordan. He told his cabinet colleagues that they must 'find the [Palestinian] weak, painful spots' and 'press them until they come to us begging on all fours'. Yasir Arafat, he said, was a 'wicked liar' who should be assassinated or deported, and when President Bush Snr tried to resist Israeli demand to underwrite the expansion of West Bank settlements, Zeevi called him a 'liar' and 'anti-Semite'.

Rehavam Zeevi had resigned from the cabinet on Monday; he was assassinated on Wednesday.



Michael Mansfield

Michael Joseph Mansfield, 98, was Montana senator (1952-77) and senate majority leader (1961-67) during JF Kennedy

and Lyndon Johnson presidency and US ambassador to Japan (1977-89), during Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan years.

He was born in New York to an Irish immigrant hotel porter. He dropped-out of school at the age of 14 and joined the navy. Pushed by his wife, Maureen Hayes, he went back to study and took a BA degree. He wanted to be a teacher, but being a Roman Catholic he was refused the job; so he joined university and in due course became a full professor of Far Eastern and Latin American history.

His naval and army career brought him in touch with the Philippines and China that gave him an abiding interest in the region. Mansfield was the one who advised President Harry Truman in 1945 to retain Hirohito as emperor after the defeat of Japan in 1945.

But another sensible advice which he gave to John Kennedy not to get too involved in propping up a corrupt and tottering regime in South Vietnam went unheeded. Mansfield then had to caution Kennedy's successor, Lyndon B Johnson, against the 'massive costs' of expanding US commitment in Vietnam. Fearing that the US was 'close to a point of no return in Vietnam', he suggested a diplomatic offensive to neutralise Southeast Asia. That was in November 1964 but Johnson did not want 'to lose Vietnam' and be 'the President who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went'.

In November 1969, Mike Mansfield advised Richard Nixon to 'get off the hook' in Vietnam, and told him how to

do it: 'blame the war on his Democratic predecessors and clear out as fast as possible,' to quote Lord Longford in his study of *Nixon* (1980). But Kissinger favoured a hard line. Mansfield believed that the war in Vietnam was 'of dubious origin' and its continuance endangered the future of America. In 1973, he co-sponsored the War Powers Bill limiting the president's authority to involve the country in an undeclared war.

The Vietnam war finally came to an end in April 1975. The discomfiture that Vietnam turned out to be would have been avoidable if the successive administrations had listened to the senate majority leader's advice in the first place. But like George W Bush today Nixon, too, was being told by some that the future of western civilisation was at stake. In 1970, Mike Mansfield had also counselled Nixon against getting militarily involved in the Middle East [on the side of Israel] and like his previous advice on Vietnam, this too was not heeded.

Peter Shore

Leading British Jewish politician, Peter Shore, 77, once seen as prospective prime minister, died in London, 24 September 2001. Peter Shore joined the Labour Party in 1948 as a researcher and became a member of parliament in 1964 and served as a minister under both Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan. However, in 1980 he lost to (now Lord) Michael Foot in his attempt to win the leadership of the party. He quit the House of Commons in 1997 and was appointed to the House of Lords, the upper chamber.

A committed pro-Israeli as he was, Peter Shore, however, did not shirk from serving his large Bangladeshi Muslim constituency in Bethnel Green and Bow which he represented in the Commons. Therefore, the condolences came not only from Christian and his own Jewish community but also from a large number of Bangladeshi Muslims. To them he was 'our Peter'.

Peter Shore achieved such acclaim by using his focused understanding of his constituency and the changes that were taking place around him. Many in the community vividly remember his famous observation on the occasion of the opening of the new East London Mosque in 1985. 'This new Mosque is a testimony that Bangladeshi Muslims have finally struck their roots in the British soil,' he said.

Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin