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Current

BOLDEST NATIONAL WEEKLY

- * Why did he not use his three company cars?
- * Why was he treated badly by his own wife and by Md. Yunus?
- * Why did the Anand family deny knowledge of the death at night when they were informed at 4 p.m.?
- * Why did the ex-PM's house deny knowledge of the death throughout the night?

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Col. Anand's mystery death

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A FEW minutes before 8 p.m. on Thursday June 2, 1977 a .32 revolver was put to Lt. Colonel Tejender Singh Anand's right temple as he lay prostrate on a cart-track separating his field from his brother-in-law's in Punjab Khor village, on the outskirts of Delhi.



Congress election debacle. This picture contrasts vividly with the bold and confident image of the man during Emergency when he was invited to every diplomatic party with his wife. He is not known to have been a heavy drinker. In fact, in his recent fit of depression he had taken frequent recourse to barbiturates.

The other factor which at least one friend insisted that the police should investigate is the way in which he was treated by caucus members like Mohammad Yunus and his own wife, Mrs. Anteshwar Anand (Anteshwar Cour as she called herself, Cour being an English corruption of the Punjabi Kaur).

Brain behind the

financial deals

Mrs. Anand is understood to be the brain behind the financial deals. Where they had nothing to show but land (about 300 acres in Madhya Pradesh, the farms in Delhi, etc.) the Anands amassed vast fortunes which enabled them to purchase a luxurious bungalow at Jor Bagh from housing magnate and Sanjay associate Sagar Suri.

Col. Anand was reportedly more subdued than his wife who besides hailing from a landed family was Sanjay Gandhi's mother-in-law; which fact enabled her to rope in one-year contracts for the magazine which she owned and published: Surya India.

"She wore the pants in the house," said a friend of the Colonel, conveying a definite

The hand that pulled the trigger to send the .32 (or .38) calibre bullet blasting through his brain has been eluding Delhi's ace crime investigators ever since.

Did the colonel himself pull the trigger?

Police do not rule out the possibility that Sanjay Gandhi's father-in-law who was in low spirits following the Congress defeat might have committed suicide.

The post-mortem report refers to the death as resulting from "cranio-cerebral injuries caused by a bullet which penetrated the skull through the right temporal area and went through the left frontal area of the skull."

The description in the post-mortem report with which an eminent professor

OR

p.m. as house rent, a free car with petrol costs, company-paid chauffeur and a servant, as consultancy charges for a Birla concern: Shree Services and Trading Company. The Narangs paid the colonel as much, every month, if not more.

He was also a consultant to Toshiba Anand whose MD

D

SUICIDE ?

of forensic medicine from the AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) Dr. Jagdish Chandra was associated with the suicide theory. But it supports the murder thesis as strongly.

Mystery surrounds the circumstances of Col. Anand's death. He left his posh Defence Colony residence on the evening of June 1. According to one report he walked all the 60 kms to his Punjab Khor farm which he reached around dawn the next day.

According to the police, villagers had confirmed that on many occasions the Colonel visited the farm by bus. While he was leaving home for the last time, he is said to have borrowed Rs.

5 from one of his maid-servants. Police retrieved Rs. 5 (Rs. 4 in notes and the balance in small change) from the dead man's person.

Exclusive

Why did a man who had at least three company cars at his disposal and who drew four-figure consultancy packets from as many companies (if not more) travel by bus to his farm and borrow from his maid?

K. K. Birla alone paid him Rs. 2,200 p.m. with Rs. 650

is reported to have rubbed his hands with glee after he had successfully roped in Sanjay's father-in-law in his business activities. Among the other concerns to which the Colonel was consultant was Demag on whose account he had a free trip to Europe last winter. (Sanjay had an arrangement with this German firm for supply of trucks and heavy cranes).

Why should a man who was rolling in money behave like a penniless beggar?

The answer, according to some of his friends, could be found in two major factors:

Col. Anand was terribly depressed over the post-poll happenings. Friends noticed that he was withdrawn, almost nervous, and generally avoided company after the

impression that Col. Anand was a henpecked husband. Col. Anand who wore a turban and a beard till the date of his daughter's marriage to Sanjay, had a haircut and a shave later on.

Were there frequent feuds between husband and wife?

The answer could perhaps be found in the strange behaviour of his family between June 2 and 4. The decomposed corpse was seen by the late Colonel's brother Lt. Col. Dr. S. S. Anand around noon on Saturday June 4.

According to Maneka's brother Veeran, the family came to know about the tragedy around 4 p.m. When reporters contacted the family members late in the

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AROUND THE STATES

Goa shows the way

Janata Wave has abated

A CURRENT Report

THE real victor in the Goa Assembly elections is the Congress Party. The Janata was routed. The MG Party which had an impressive strength of 18 members in the outgoing assembly was reduced to holding just 15 seats.

Shashikala Kakodkar cannot form the government with her present strength. The elusive independent legislator from Daman, Makambhai Bhatela, has obviously refused to be bribed. Or perhaps he is angling for the speakership of the assembly which was held by the other independent, Narayan Fugro.

Shashikala is not going to give up power and would not mind sacrificing one seat from her bag of 15 to get an MG man elected speaker. If this happens, she still has only 14 members in a house of 30 and if, by chance, the Congress (10), Janata (3), and the two independents combined to vote on any one bill, her government will collapse.

All eyes are therefore on Lieutenant Governor S. K. Banerjee who holds the key to this muddled tangle. He is also keeping the most crucial evidence in the Siddarth killing in his personal custody.

Congress leader, A. N. Naik's various allegations in

the Siddarth case together with the serious charges of corruption against Shashikala have played an important role in bringing the Chief Minister on to her knees. These two factors have eaten into the majority that she enjoyed.

Soft-spoken, debonair advocate Leo Velho's kidnapping has roused the conscience of Goa. The MG Party has always been known for its terror tactics and goondaism. Mrs. Velho's allegation that her husband has been 'forcibly removed' by MGP hoodlums should come as no surprise. Shashikala is desperate to get the additional seat she requires to return to power.

She has obviously mistaken the advocate's liberal ways for sympathy to her party. But in fact, Velho is a committed Congressman and his conscience would not permit him to join hands with the Bandodkar dynasty.

Velho was abducted by Shashikala henchmen and spirited away for "discussions" which were nothing

but physical threats of torture. Velho pretended to succumb and was coerced by MGP General Secretary Pushpasheel Kerkar to issue a statement saying he had joined Shashikala.

He had not. The moment he was freed, he said the statement was made under duress and that he remained a loyal Congressman.

All eyes are now on Bhatela as he has withdrawn support to the MGP and is planning to cross over to the Congress.

Red rule in W.B.

THE Janata may also lose West Bengal. Our Calcutta correspondent reports:

It can be safely predicted that West Bengal is once more swinging in favour of complete red rule. A senior Marxist leader believed that the CPM alone would bag 155 seats. The rest would be captured by the other members of the Left front.

North Bengal and Midnapore are two bad spots for the Marxists where they do not expect much gains. But one thing is sure: the 33 per



Mrs. Shashikala Kakodkar

cent Muslim voters in West Bengal will vote the Left front and not the Janata. Muslims are angry that their chosen candidates were replaced by Janata leaders with people whom they do not know. This is the main reason apart from other factors which include the complete lack of coordination

The Janata, despite this, has an edge but the distribution of tickets has angered its two main constituent units — the Socialists and the Jan Sangh. Their main complaint is that tickets have been given to CFD and the Cong-O men who had defected only a few weeks ago.

The internecine squabbling should not affect the Janata's chances. It should form the next government especially because the Congress is still dominated by the discredited Emergency faces.

Cong., Janata chances dim

MGR rules the roost in Tamil Nadu and he will prove to be the giant-killer in the state. Most Janata and Congress candidates are bound to bite the dust in this State.

An AIADMK victory will shut the door in the face of the Janata and it might lose the South forever. The aging actor-politician has capitalised on three factors which dominate the current election scene:

(1) Both the Congress and the Janata claim Kamraj as theirs. The former says Kamraj wanted the Congresses to merge in Tamil



Jyoti Basu

with grassroot agricultural workers and Janata leaders. This is one place where the Marxists have scored heavily.

E. M. S. Namboodiripad in an exclusive interview in Calcutta on June 5 said he had warned his workers not to take things for granted as they had done in Kerala. They had to be cautious, and according to him the order of voter preference will be first, the Left front, followed by the Congress and then the Janata.

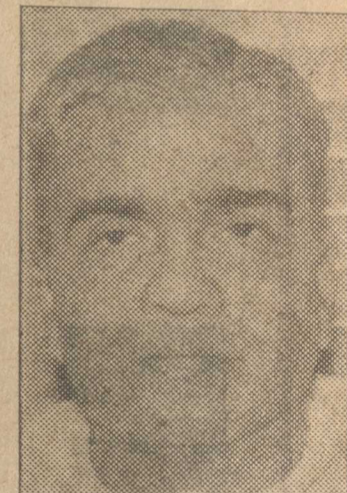
He felt the Janata cannot hope to have any significant victory in this state. He also said that in the event of a Left front Government in West Bengal, there would be no conflict with the Centre unless the Centre wanted a conflict.

Congress internecine quarrels seems to have come to an end. Temporary rivals Nurul Islam and Pradeep Bhattacharya joined hands a few days back and even had dinner together. PCC General Secretary Saugata Roy has demanded an All Party Committee to prevent rigging. This had made Jyoti Basu more than happy as he has been demanding such a committee for a long time.

Basu told CURRENT that rigging could be totally eliminated in this state if the "Governor, the IGP and the Home Secretary were determined to make the elections fair and free. Rigging depended entirely on Government officials."

Janata govt. in M.P.

IN Madhya Pradesh, the Congress has all but ceased to exist. There are more Congress rebels than the Janata and both parties face an uphill task with as many as 1,304 of the 1,993 candidates being independents fighting for the 320 seats.



P. Ramachandran

Nadu. The Janata leader and Energy Minister, P. Ramachandran claims the opposite view. He states that Kamraj was against Indira Gandhi and wanted the Cong-O to retain their identity. Recently Morarjibhai made an identical claim.

(2) The Congress is virtually split. The Nedumaran faction is holding the upper hand and this was proved by the sudden resignation of TNCC Chief Kurupiah Moopanar — and its sudden withdrawal.

(3) In the absence of the DMK, MGR has become the defender of the South and of Dravidian culture. The actor also holds tremendous mass-appeal especially among the women. In fact, he will be the next Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu unless he decides to appoint a puppet.

The Illustrated Weekly of India

JUNE 12, 1977

THE PRESS THAT FAILED

The Indian Press, which the public—from their experience of the freedom struggle—expected to be fearless, shamelessly propagated the myths of the Emergency and remained silent on its many disgraces. What is worse, they did this not because they were anxious not to break the laws, but because of their over-anxiety to please the powers that were. The many sins of omission and commission are highlighted by Soli J. Sorabjee, who fought many a legal battle for the freedom of the Press during the Emergency and is now Additional Solicitor-General.

"THE JUDGEMENT"

Kuldip Nayar exposes the excesses of the Emergency and the reign of terror enforced by imprisonment and torture. Concluding instalment of excerpts from his new book.

WILL THE JANATA SWEEP THE POLLS AGAIN?

Ayub Syed, Editor of "Current", writes on the election prospects in different States and highlights the controversies over funds and infighting.



THE MAN WHO SWAYED THE MUSLIM VOTE

An exclusive interview with the controversial Shahi Imam, Syed Imam Abdullah Bokhari. By Khushwant Singh.

CHUGHTAI'S IQBAL

Pakistan's eminent artist gives his interpretation of the most eminent Urdu poet of modern times. Colour reproductions from a lavish new book.

SRINGARA—THE EROTIC IN INDIAN DANCE

Shanta Serbjeet Singh brings out the sexual innuendos in various schools. Photographs in colour.

THE BIKE

Story by Samir Datta

Strength of social purpose marks B. R. Chopra's films

Our Special Correspondent

He is a member of that rare species... a journalist who has made good as a film-maker.

Born on April 22, 1914 in Ludhiana, B. R. Chopra took his Master of Arts Degree with English Honours, and later became a journalist. He ran his own modest film monthly magazine from there. (That magazine still exists!) It is being brought out from Delhi for many years now, by another veteran film-journalist... but that is another very interesting story).

When political upheavals rent the country asunder, the Chopras found themselves in Bombay with little else but a dogged determination to make good. They had lost everything. But, like The Three Musketeers, there were three of them too... and, says B. R. Chopra reminiscently now, 'unity was really strength, for us all.'

The three were the eldest, B. R. Chopra himself, Dharm who later blossomed into one of the nation's leading motion-picture cinematographers and youngest brother Yash who in those days, literally began at the lowest rung of the ladder by learning a new craft along with his brothers.

"It depresses me to conjure up and retell our early struggles in Bombay," Chopra told me. "But we went through hard times. When you are uprooted it takes a lot of time to regain your mental equilibrium. So I did this, that, and the other, without making any headway."

Struggle-filled early years

"If journalism is a poorly-paid profession even today, you can imagine how horrible it must have been in the forties! I did try with the idea of starting a film magazine but found that things just wouldn't work out."

One thing led to another and one day B. R. Chopra was asked why he didn't think of becoming a film director? The man who gave him this advice was moved by only one consideration—the fact that B. R. Chopra was a highly educated man (holding an M. A. Degree in English) and thus, there is every chance that once he mastered the mechanics of the new medium, he would in time raise the general standard of the Hindi cinema.

As matters turned out, the person who gave B. R. Chopra this advice was proved correct, though Chopra himself initially didn't think so!

Why? "Because my early years in films were all struggle-filled years and those pictures which I directed during my apprenticeship period as a director didn't fare well and I said to myself: surely there must be a better way of earning a living than this."

For the record, the first picture which B. R. Chopra directed, way back in the forties, was a film named 'Karwat.' It didn't fare too well, but his next one, 'Afsana' did.

"As a matter of fact," Chopra confessed to me, "if 'Afsana' hadn't clicked, I might have given up the line and become a Government servant at something equally uninspiring!" Luckily however, 'Afsana'



B. R. Chopra

was a superhit. It starred Ashok Kumar, Kuldip Kaur and Pran. Based on a melodramatic tale of vendetta, arising from a wife's infidelity, "Afsana" was something which Hindi filmgoers had never dreamed possible on the Indian screen. The film established B. R. Chopra as a new young film-maker who placed strong emphasis on good stories.

It is reputation which B. R. Chopra enjoys to this day. It is the establishment and emergence of B. R. Films which added another dimension to that reputation—the dimension of social purpose to that of strong themes.

But that was to come later. Before B. R. Chopra could establish his own B. R. Films he directed three other movies which enjoyed varying degrees of box-office success: "Shole," "Saahil" and "Chandni Chowk."

A voracious reader, a keen student and a dynamic social thinker, B. R. Chopra decided that the time was ripe to make films with strong social messages. The early Indian cinema had undoubtedly done this but the war years, brought in a wave of putrid, inconsequential song-and-dance movies.

Dose of realism

B. R. Chopra decided that the nation's cinegoers, while craving for entertainment (as always) could do with a dose of social realism too.

Situated in the spacious grounds of Kardar Studios in the quietest areas of Parel (the Studios, alas, is now no more), B. R. Films made their first film 'Ek Hi Rasta' a theme too daring for its times—widow remarriage.

'Ek Hi Rasta' proved to be a hit.

"It indicated my faith in the taste of the cinegoers," Chopra commented, "I knew that the time was ripe to strike a bold new trail."

The film-history of the fifties is one which is stud-

ded with B. R. Chopra. Silver Jubilee hits... and each one a Socially Conscious theme on celluloid.

'Ek Hi Rasta' tackled the theme of widow remarriage. 'Kanoon' a daring songless movie, dealt with Law and the Scales of Justice. "Sadhana" concerned itself with the uplift of the fallen woman. "Naya Daur" tackled the modern, social maladjustment between man-and-machine. "Gumrah" was an in-depth probe into marital relations and the husband-wife relationship. "Dhool Ka Phool" made a strong plea for orphans and the unwanted children of modern society. "Dharmputra" depicting the human problems consequent on the Partition, made a strong plea for national integration. "Gumrah," "Waqt" and "Humraaz" each dealt with contemporary social problems while "Ittefaq," B. R. Chopra's second songless film, blazed a new trail in the suspense genre. "Aadmi Aur Insaan" dealt with labour and vexations problem of corruption at all levels of contemporary social life.

The list, over the years, is an impressive one.

And during those years, B. R. Films in the spacious grounds of Kardar Studios, became the focal point for all the most exciting talent in the movie industry. It's best writers were all at one

time or another writing scripts for B. R. Chopra.

Its most progressive poets were at one time or another, all writing socially significant lyrics for his film. And in those years, Dharm Chopra emerged in B. R. Films as a top-notch cinematographer and Yash Chopra as a top-notch director, in their own rights.

Time marches on. Today, B. R. Chopra's son Ravi too has become a director. With "Zameer" and C. V. K. Sastry's "Tumhari Kasam" already to his credit, he is now in the planning stages of a superbig, multi-star spectacular movie about a burning train hurtling with a full

his trusted, pint-sized lieutenant C. V. K. Sastry and say: "Two things. Planning and a complete Script."

Chopra includes Sastry in the planning part of it. Rather, let us say that it might be the other way round! Sastry is the backbone of the strong and financially viable production concern named B. R. Films, a banner which like only a few others, has remained constant over the years. Otherwise, in films, the banners change from movie to movie, and no institutions are ever built in the industry.

With the release of "KARM," his latest film, B.



Shabana Azmi, Rajesh Khanna and Vidya Sinha in 'Karm'.

load of passengers head-on for disaster.

What's B. R. Chopra's essential secret of Success?

Ask him this question and he will cast a sure glance at

R. Chopra is at peace with himself. Over the years he has grown in respect to become a very senior pillar of the Indian motion-picture industry.

and his film "MAUSAM". Maybe, "Kinara" and "Meera" will continue the award tradition without a break.

Right on top

DHARMENDRA'S terrace garden was brightly lit and the star, dressed in a bath gown, chatted away with his few friends who had come to see him off for his ten days' London holiday. Wife Prakash and children had already preceded him to London and he was extremely happy at the prospect of being with his children again.

Yet it was a small gathering at his residence and those who came, including Gulshan Rai and Yash Chopra, did not stay for long. Producer Baldev accompanied him to the airport in the early hours.

After "Dharmaveer" and "Chacha Bhatija", Dharmendra is back at the top, having overtaken Amitabh with rapid strides.

Earlier in the day, we joined him in the preview theatre at Natraj where a Bengali film, an Uttam Kumar-Kaveri Bose starrer, was specially screened for his benefit. The movie, to be directed by Shakti Samanta, is being re-written for the Hindi screen by Sachin Bhowmik and Kamleshwar.

Changing colours

THE spacious bedroom of Manoj Kumar which, for all practical purposes, is also his living room, writing room and business headquarters, has a new pink touch, with his charming and gifted wife Shashi Goswami making it acquire the aura of a rose garden.

The tastefully done furnishing and the exquisite colour scheme give the room a distinctive touch and is a surprise replacement for the familiar green which surrounded Manoj in that room for so many years. Now one can truthfully tell Manoj—and mean it to be a compliment—that "you have changed your colour!"

Filmi Baaten

Sunil on film making

DURING an exclusive meeting with CURRENT, Sunil Dutt talked about his college going son Sanjay who is often seen driving his father's Fiat around Bandra. "We should have one unified system of education", he said with strong feelings, referring to Sanjay seeking admission in Bombay after completing his schooling in Simla.

About today's film making, he said: "There is no fun in working without conviction or making a film without enjoying the experience. I lost quite a packet in 'Reshma Aur Shera', but I do not regret it a bit I shall always carry fond memories of it." Incidentally, in that film Sunil Dutt introduced a lanky, tall, awkward actor and turned him into a star. His name was Amitabh Bachchan.

Son to direct

RAJENDRA Kumar hosted a cosy party in his extensive terrace overlooking the garden and the posh new preview theatre that he is building. Amidst the splendour of the nocturnal surroundings and a plentiful serving of Scotch, the star and his wife Shukla said that they were thrilled with

By SCORPION

the idea that their son Bunty (real name-Manoj) was being trained as a director with no less a film maker than Raj Kapoor to whom Bunty is an assistant.

So, those in the film world who are expecting Rajinder Kumar to direct a film, may one day find the son stealing a march over his father!

"Meera"

IN spite of the rumours which had it that producer Premji, after the colossal failure of the Salim-javed script "Imaan Dharam" had become panicky and dropped Gulzar's "Meera", the movie went on the sets on May 25.

Gulzar, returning home late in the evening for a discussion with producer Pranlal Mehta about the June 10 release of his "Kinara", surprised us by announcing that he had already completed the first day's shooting with Hema Malini on the sets. Vinod Khanna acquires a change of image in "Meera" and, may be Gulzar would prove to be as lucky and image-changing a director for him as he proved for Jeetendra and Sanjeev Kumar.

Two days later, Gulzar won the Filmfare award for "Mausam" as the Best Director of the year; this coveted honour came to him in the wake of the National Awards and the awards from Bengal and U.P. Journalists associations for him

The note said:

SANJAY'S WORRIES ARE BECOMING UNBEARABLE

(Continued from Page 1)

evening the same day, they denied any knowledge of the murder.

Around 7 p.m. the same evening Sanjay Gandhi rang up Delhi IG to report that something was amiss. Secretarial staff at his Willingdon Crescent residence however continued to put out denial or no-knowledge stories throughout the night.

At about 8 p.m. after Sanjay's intimation and wireless messages from the local police, IGP Bhawanimal, DIG G. S. Mander visited the scene of the crime. Dr. S. S. Anand accompanied them. According to some sources, Mrs. Anand went around 10.30 p.m. But none of the family members including son-in-law Sanjay Gandhi were seen at the site by reporters who visited the site around midnight.

Sanjay, Yunus at

Anand residence

A day earlier on June 3, when a servant had arrived at the Defence Colony residence in the small hours of morning to report the disappearance of Col. Anand from the farm, Mrs. Anteshwar Anand despatched her driver Gurdev Singh to the village to make inquiries. The driver remained there on June 3 and was one of the first in the search party that stumbled on the stinking corpse of his master the next day.

Mrs. Anand, however, remained in Delhi and was reportedly visited by Mohamamad Yunus and Sanjay Gandhi at her residence on the evening of June 3. Did they meet to discuss the disappearance? If so, why didn't they inform the police?

On another occasion, Mrs. Anand had come around midnight looking for her husband in the village. That was about a fortnight earlier. On finding that her husband was at the house of Sher Singh, a friend, she left for Delhi the same moment, without taking him with her.

Strange

coincidence

While reconstructing the last few hours of Col. Anand's life through friends and villagers with whom he had spent June 2, it emerged that he was unduly depressed. The torrid summer heat and the power shut-down made it worse. The children in Bhim Singh's house where he was relaxing brought him an old newspaper to fan himself after the lights had gone off.

Even as he fanned himself, three pictures caught Col. Anand's attention. He is reported to have gazed repeatedly at the pictures of Bansilal V. C. Shukla and Sanjay Gandhi and looked pensive as he read the news-item about the expulsion of Bansilal from the Congress party.

It is a strange coincidence that the newspaper on which his head bled to death also contained a news-item about the likely expulsion of Bansilal. It was the Times of India dated April 26, 1977 in which a front-page news-item captioned 'Move to expel V. C. Shukla and Bansilal' ended with Mr. Borooah telling newsmen that the "Committee would not only review the poll debacle but award punishment to those guilty of actions of omission and commission which led to the debacle."

That night Col. Anand turned down Bhim Singh's dinner offer saying he was expected at Sher Singh's. Instead he went to his farm where he discussed threshing problems with his servant Pyarelal. Then around 7.30 p.m. he was gone ostensibly to have dinner but in real fact to meet his end.

While keeping their options open on the murder/suicide question, police will have to unravel these mysteries:

* Col. Anand had been treated in mid-May at Sharma's clinic in Greater Kailash, New Delhi. He had wanted to receive treatment at Safdarjang Hospital but his friends persuaded him to get treated privately instead. Was he being treated for depression? Or was he, according to an unconfirmed report, recovering from a stab wound?

The missing

pistol

* The pistol was not found by police when they arrived at the scene of murder. This led them to suspect murder, especially because the victim was lying in a supine position on his back, his legs and hands stretched straight. His head was turned slightly towards the right and there was a gaping hole where the bullet had blasted its way out through his brain. The wound was blackened and burnt where the bullet entered thus proving that the pistol was held to the temple and fired.

Since the police arrived on the scene about 48 hours after the event it was not possible to study the facial expression in detail. Said DIG G. S. Mander, "The face was heavily swollen." This made it difficult to determine the exact calibre of the shot and the revolver.

When doctors examined the wound it measured 4 inches. Since the body was swollen the width of the wound would also expand. The bullet had therefore to be less than 4, that is either a .32 or a .38.

It is understood that Col. Anand had a .32 semi-automatic. Mander disclosed that enquiries were on to determine whether Col. Anand owned a .32 and had a licence. A bit of the bullet found in the skull is being examined while a metal detector is covering the area of death.

As an ex-army officer it is not unlikely that Col. Anand had a pistol. A senior police officer explained the reality of the

* Was Col. Anand recovering from a stab wound?

* Did he own a .32 semi-automatic?

* Who informed the police, the spraying team or the anonymous caller?

* Why was his white kurta not stained?

have been removed from the scene by some cunning villager. In the north where unlicensed weapons are toted about freely, a .32 can fetch as much as Rs. 3,000.

* Even though no marks of injury or blows, no scratches were discovered during post mortem except a clean shot through the head, murder cannot be entirely ruled out.

The Delhi police rejected suggestions that the associates of notorious dacoit Sundar might have been responsible for the murder. They will have to go back to the late Colonel's treatment in a private clinic for an answer to the riddle. Whether he was treated for depression or stab injuries could make all the difference between suicide and murder.

At one stage newspapers capitalized on the feuds bet-

track.

One of these little boys was the son of Umed Singh, a friend of Col. Anand. He went home and informed his father who formed a search party which ultimately found the body. According to the FIR the information came from none of these, but from an anonymous caller. The search party came on the body around 3 p.m. But the police got the anonymous call only around 7 p.m.

The anonymous

telephone caller

Where did the anonymous caller place the call from? The village itself does not have telephone connections. Was he a friend of the dead man? Or was he the killer? Did he remove the pistol? These and many more questions are begging for answers.

* The discovery of a note in the pyjama pocket and a carton containing a newspaper near the dead body have provided two major clues to the police. Both items, it is understood, appear to reinforce the suicide thesis.

While the police have been tightlipped over the contents of the note, it is understood that it contains a reference to Sanjay Gandhi and also gives an indication to Col. Anand's state of mind. It is reportedly the size of an envelope and has just one sentence which says, "Sanjay's worries becoming unbearable." If it is a suicide note, then it must be said to the credit of the Delhi police that they have been proceeding in the case with laudable caution.

Suicide not

ruled out

The discovery of the cardboard carton with a newspaper in it was initially not given much importance. In the first flush of investigation some loud thinking had been done about the possibilities of murder at another site, and the body being planted near Mohinder Pal Singh's field.

His white kurta was not stained, as it should have been if he were shot standing.

The newspaper in the carton suddenly assumed greater significance. Crime experts are examining the newspaper to determine whether the pistol could have been wrapped up in it and brought to the scene.

Experts including Dr. Bami of the Forensic Science Laboratory who visited the scene of the crime on June 4, have not ruled out suicide.



The huge bloodstain where the victim's head rested. Wheat has been harvested. The policeman is sitting on Mohinder Singh's land.

situation: Police and army officers are entitled to wear a revolver as part of their uniform. So long as it comes from the official stores, there is no need for licence. But a licence, which is issued without payment to such officers, is necessary for any firearm which is not drawn from the army stores.

But in normal practice many officers carry their private weapons without licence even after they have quit the services.

While considering the incident as potential suicide, police will have to explain the disappearance of the suicide weapon from the scene.

The victim might have made a pact with a servant close to him to either shoot him or after he had shot himself to remove the weapon. Mander remarked that every possibility was being investigated, including this one. What is equally likely is that the weapon might

been Mrs. Anand and her brother Mohinder Pal Singh. The corpse was in fact found with its head close to the border of Mohinder Pal Singh's wheat field.

* The riddle of the anonymous caller who tipped off the police about the decaying corpse also needs to be solved. It now emerges that people in the village knew about the corpse on June 3 itself but did not speak about it out of fear. The spraying team was in fact directed away from the spot by urchins grazing buffaloes who told them that a dead body was lying across the

IOC SHAKEN

The Indian Oil Corporation is visibly shaken by our story on the DODSAL PIPELINE DEAL.

It has sent us a detailed note clarifying its position which will appear in our next issue.