

9, 1907, and was succeeded by his son Mohammed Ali Shah. When the latter came to the throne, the people were in a state of expectancy. His father had been a Liberal, and his mother's father had died a martyr to the cause of reform. But though the Constitution had been sanctioned by his dying father, there could be no reason to believe that in itself it would be more agreeable to Mohammed Ali Shah than similar restraints upon the authority of an absolute monarch would be to any Oriental sovereign.

After a few months of discord, Mohammed Ali Shah called back from exile in Europe the former Prime Minister Ali Askar, giving him his former title *Attabeg*, and appointing him Minister of the Interior with power to select Ministers for the other Departments of State. During the two previous reigns, *Attabeg* had risen to the highest post in the service of the state and wielded the strongest single personal influence of the court. Of his capability there was no question.

About half-past eight in the evening of August 31, 1907, he was shot and killed as he came out of the gate of the National Assembly grounds. Many secret committees had come into existence with one general committee to represent them all. Some time in August a dozen or fifteen men representing these secret committees waited on *Attabeg* and demanded certain things of him. What it was they demanded of him was not made public; but he was told that he was marked for death unless he complied with their conditions. Other prominent men were also notified that they were marked for death unless they complied with certain conditions. Occasionally a bomb was thrown in an unsuccessful attempt to kill some one, and now and then one was left at the door of some man with a note attached as a warning.

On the day of *Attabeg's* assassination, the eight mem-