

## A lost war?

This is apropos of Mazhar Abbas' letter '*The misadventure*' (Febraury 7). I found certain things mentioned by the writer of the letter to be untrue and would like to correct them.

First of all, a detailed study is carried out, and all pros and cons deliberated on, before starting any military operation. Nevertheless, no commander can predict victory over the enemy irrespective of his military's preparedness. While criticising the army for the 1965 war we forget a positive aspect of that war. Our men valiantly fought an enemy that was three times bigger than our army. During the war, I was posted at the Wagah border and know very well the contributions of Gen Sarfaraz, the then GOC Lahore, to the war. He was not "sleeping cosily" when the Indian Army attacked Lahore. He was very much awake and had also taken certain initiatives well in advance. Under his command, the attack was halted by the troops of 10 Division which was deployed all along the border while the rest were ready to take the field at a short notice of two hours. Indian intelligence had miserably failed about the deployment of Pakistani troops on borders and thought that their forces would face no resistance whatsoever and easily capture Lahore. It was meticulous planning on the part of the GOC 10 Division that the enemy was stopped at the border.

As for the current debate on Kargil, I wonder what prevented Shahid Aziz from resigning from the various important posts that he held when he knew the truth. Why did he accept the promotions given to him by Gen Musharraf? It is my sincere advice to all military commanders to have some pity on the country and the institution they belong to. Lastly, one thing that has become very clear as a result of the ongoing debate is that the system of promotions in the army is highly faulty and needs drastic changes and revision.

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