

MY APOLOGIES; ONE TIME MORE:

This volume-IV mainly encompasses the real facts of corruption, financial and intellectual both, done by Pakistan's ruling elite, Bhutto's poor and deprived party PPP and its associates – but never mind it was all done in the name of democracy.

Equally important topic engulfed in the coming pages is related with [so called?] national honour and *ghairat* [killing others mainly the women over flimsy traditions] of Pakistan's general populace, but how their successive rulers behaved like slaves before their foreign masters just for peanuts, those too not for the poor people but to be sent directly to their family Swiss accounts. Also see details of Osama Bin Laden's killing inside.

Let us take start from few years back;

Wherein, after general elections of 1977, when Z A Bhutto's dubious National Assembly met in Islamabad on 28th March [1977], only the PPP members had shown up. Mr Bhutto floated an offer to enter into a dialogue with the opposition thinking that it would settle for increased representation in the Assembly's session but miserably failed.

Soon after, Mr Bhutto declared a national emergency and used '*Defence of Pakistan Rules*' under which all the opposition leaders were arrested. He called for his political opponents to negotiate a solution but they did not trust Bhutto and the demonstrations continued throughout April till June 1977.

Tired of the strikes and agitations, once Mr Bhutto called an emergency meeting, where Gen Ziaul Haq and Gen Faiz Ali Chishti were also present amongst other key persons, and said:

'Gentlemen, I've decided to resign; Brother Ziaul Haq would take over.'

In the meeting, Gen Chishti had the courage to say:

'Sir, I'm personally your humble servant but cannot guarantee the behaviour of jawans who believe that the elections were vastly rigged.'

Gen Ziaul Haq stood up with his right hand on chest; little bowed down and said that:

'Sir, Army is with you; you are Fakh e Asia, have been the Chairman Islamic Summit Conference [1974]; you will not resign whatsoever.'

The irony of fate: Mr Bhutto was confident that with the allegiance of the Pak - Army under Gen Ziaul Haq he would be able to control the situation, but he was at fault to understand the General's inner side. The result was that Mr Bhutto was first sent to prison and then to the gallows; a chapter closed.

Another page from two years later when the Pak - Army Generals unilaterally decided to pose their nose into the affairs of others – when they decided to jump into Afghani sand-grave; those army Generals named Ziaul Haq, Akhtar Abdul Rehman and some others could not conceive that if they were going to spread bullets and gunpowder in their neighbouring country, the same kind of stuff would also be seen in their own regions of Pakistan.

Later the poor people of Pakistan had to go through the same burning fires along with two more versatile nuisances; Kalashnikov culture and drugs in abundance. Pakistan's present youth has taken birth amidst the whiffs of the same two menaces of killing devices; they have never breathed the clean air as available to the rest of the world.

That group of few Army Generals had decided at their own, purportedly on behalf of the nation - only that ruler would occupy the presidency in Kabul to whom they would give the clearance chit, to whom they would allow to pass through the green signal; how innocent [***do not say them fools***] they were.

They were wise enough to handle the bags full of American dollars which were continuously pouring in their villas in the name of 'war money'. Their few families were happy but they had pushed their *jawans*, JCOs & Commissioned officers of Pak-Army and the next generations into the hell of miseries, gloom, and depression amidst showers of blood and arson.

The above were the stratagems and deceptions which brought Pakistanis to see huge paintings pasted on the walls of global village. A leaked **Wikileaks** cable **of 4th February 2009** suggested, citing a briefing prepared for the US embassy in Islamabad by US special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke that:

'.....being a failed state, Pakistan is facing rough and tough challenges. Pakistan army is facing shortage of weaponry while the president Zardari is blind to key challenges his country is countering.'

Late Richard Halbrooke had not declared Pakistan a 'failed state' in 2009 but in 2011, while giving statement before the Abbotabad Commission, Pakistan's ISI Chief Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha openly admitted on record that Pakistan, though not a [complete] failed state yet but **'a failing state'** – meaning thereby that 'failing process' was in progress.

Another script;

Pakistan's contemporary history seems exhausted while narrating the stories of Lawyer's **Long March dated 15th March 2009**, supposedly escorted by Nawaz Sharif of PML(N) from Lahore, at the end of which Chief Justice Iftikhar M Chaudhry and his team were saddled back into their seats. Let us peep into the phases through which that reinstatement process had been moving.

In June 2008, there had been efforts for the restoration of the deposed judges in the name of achieving the ultimate objective of an independent judiciary and the move also came from Gen Musharraf. Some of the deposed judges were ready for a compromise to accept the PCO judges as their colleagues in return for their reinstatement.

'Some top lawyers' leaders, too, in their off-the-record discussions, talk of having no option but to accept the PCO judges whereas the champion of the pro-Nov 2 judiciary, the PML-N, also seems to be showing some flexibility on its principled stand.

..... some of the deposed judges are frustrated to get back to their chambers at any cost; these deposed judges are willing to serve alongside the PCO judges.

The compromise solution appears strange because the deposed judges would work with the PCO judges, who would be in a majority in a 29-member full court. The role of the restored judges would also be limited through some person-specific amendments to be made in the Constitution'.

(Ref: **The News London 19th June 2008**)

Though the deposed CJ Iftikhar M Chaudhry, who had symbolized the ongoing struggle for an independent judiciary, had rejected the continuation of the PCO judges upon reinstatement of the deposed judges, but the PML(N), which had gained a lot of popularity for its clear stance on the judges issue, had started reflecting vague notions.

While PML(N) leader Nawaz Sharif was categorically stating that he would not accept the PCO judges, his lieutenants were talking of a possible compromise as acceptable. Astonishing enough, it was then confirmed that the proposal to increase the strength of the Supreme Court judges was given by the PML(N) and that his party would completely support the Finance Bill, including the contentious proposal.

'How can we oppose it as we ourselves have suggested it? Rather we are thankful to the PPP to have it included in the budget document,' one PML(N) leader, known to be very near to Mr Zardari was quoted as saying.

When asked how his party could accept regularization of the PCO judges, the same PML(N) leader had openly claimed before media that: **'it has been done in consultation with the deposed judges and the lawyer's leadership.'**

The days, however, passed amidst roaring voices till March 2009 AND the superior judiciary was restored at last.

Then started another phase of jealousy, suspicion and intrigues within the ruling political elite. Recall the days when the CJP Iftikhar M Chaudhry gave 120 days to get the NRO re-framed or accented from the Parliament which comprised of the PPP members and its allies but they failed.

The people knew that the whole game of NRO was intelligently played by PM Yousaf Raza Gilani to settle his scores with the presidency because the relationship between the two bigs was at the height of humiliation; at that moment for both. The last episode was considered most damaging; it was the then on-going CEC meeting in which repeated mention of rebirth of Farooq Legharis within the PPP was made throwing arrows at the PM by Zardari loyalists meaning that he was a traitor.

'It was in this desperate state of mind that Gilani took his revenge and forced his law minister [Mr Afzal] to go out and announce to the world the notorious list of thieves and crooks who had first robbed the country dry and then had taken refuge behind a disgraceful deal with a dictator. He was paying back his critics, in kind.' [**The News of 23rd November 2009** is referred]

Another fact revealed;

On 18th September 2011: [BERN] Director Swiss Bank said:

'Pakistanis are poor but Pakistan isn't a poor country; that 97 billion dollars of Pakistan is deposited in respective banks and if this money would be utilized for the welfare of Pakistan and its people then Pakistan can make taxless budget for 30 years, can create 60 million jobs, can carpet four lanes road from any village to Islamabad, endless power supply to five hundred social projects, every citizen can get 20000 rupees salary for the next 60 years and there is no need to see IMF and any World Bank for loans.'

More gimmicks;

Justice Saqib Nisar's Judicial Commission [**on Saleem Shahzad's murder**] in its report, released in early 2012, had observed that:

'Agencies and bureaucracy are strong in Pakistan because political leaders are corrupt and self-centered. They use these institutes when it suits them and try to level blames when it does not.

In the name of supremacy of parliament, government is trying to cover up corruption of individuals in its ranks. At the same time in the name of peoples' power, important issues of national interest are side lined such as Memo-gate scandal.'

Referring to **'the News' of 29th June 2013**, former Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf **on his last day in office [15th March 2013]** lifted ban on cutting of trees in Gilgit - Baltistan

causing a loss of Rs:8 billion to the national exchequer. That lifting of ban also brought cutting of 350 old trees in the area which was a major source of attraction for the tourists from home and abroad. The ban was imposed in 2008. National Assembly directed the government to constitute an inter-ministerial committee to probe the issue and present report on the floor in that regard but, never mind; Committees and their reports are not taken seriously in Pakistan.

It has also been witnessed by the history that Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, who was the key character in calling the defunct judiciary back; once in July 2007 by pleading Justice Iftikhar M Chaudhry's case and then by launching his famous '**Black Coat Revolution**' through the long march of 16th March 2009; had always advised his PPP's government that:

'In Zardari's context, the executive should write a letter to the Swiss government.'

But on 2nd February 2012, Justice Naseerul Mulk, head of 7 member's bench of the SC, during a case hearing, had to remark that:

'Mr Ahsan, since the last three years your stance on the said issue have been known to all but today you are pleading exactly at 180 angle; why so.'

Aitzaz Ahsan had lost in vacuum, he had no words to answer thus he lost the day and the cause, of course.

Never mind; his palms were properly greased; immediately before, Aitzaz Ahsan was awarded the Senator's ticket from the PPP and it was fair in Pakistan's democracy.

Now the tail piece:

On **12th October 2011**, in a debate in the National Assembly, on the anniversary of the Oct 1999's military coup, PML(N) members demanded for initiating a treason case against Gen Musharraf and accused the PPP rulers of providing protection to him under a clandestine deal.

PPP's legislator Nadeem Afzal Chan counter attacked that:

'Why had the PML(N) singled out Gen Musharraf and spared others, including the judges who had allowed a man in uniform to carry out changes in the Constitution.'

PML(N) should not claim the credit for the reinstatement of superior court judges, including the Chief Justice who had been reinstated because of the intervention of the ISI and not because of the opposition's long march.

Long march was just a drama and a farce. The judiciary was restored when the ISI wanted it. It was on ISI's directives that the Chief Justice took a stand and said 'no' to Gen Musharraf when the former president had asked him to resign on 9th March 2007.

PML(N) should also demand action against the army Generals who had been with Gen Musharraf in the past and were nowadays playing golf in Punjab.'

{ An essay published at pakspectators.com on 9th February 2012 is referred }

But when PML(N) got their turn of rule after May 2013's elections, their leadership was not initially serious to take Gen Musharraf through that treason mill – although the retired Gen-

eral was physically there in Pakistan and under arrest. However, during the first week of November 2013, the treason case was given the formal approval under the provisions of an Act of 1976.

(Inam R Sehri)

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