

## **MY APOLOGIES; ONCE MORE:**

This volume-III carries more facts of compromises amongst the ruling elite and 'friendly' oppositions both at federal and provincial levels. It may be taken as a story of the contemporary Pakistan ruled by few feudal and industrial families; marked by all the characteristics of civil dictatorship in the name of democracy.

A note from the recent past:

Rehmat Shah Afridi of **daily 'the Frontier Post'** was arrested and booked allegedly in a fake drug smuggling case on political grounds. He spent nine years in jail just for writing the following lines.

*'Champions of the press freedom should be ashamed of themselves that for nine years some one in their ranks is in prison but they are not saying a word. Rehmat Shah Afridi was punished because he disclosed that Nawaz Sharif had received Rs:150 crore [equivalent to £50 million then] from Osama bin Ladin in the Green Palace Hotel, Madina, with the pledge that the amount would be used for furthering the cause of Jihad in Afghanistan and helping the Mujahideen.*

*Instead he (Nawaz) put the whole amount in his pocket. Nawaz Sharif got annoyed with Afridi when he was chief minister of Punjab in 1986.*

*Frontier Post Chief, Afridi, had also disclosed in his newspaper that Nawaz sold the commercial land between UCH [United Christian Hospital] and Kalma Chowk in Lahore [the most expensive area of Lahore City] to his relatives for meagre price of Rs:400 per marla [equivalent to £2.33 per 225 sq ft].*

*After that, he distributed plots in NWFP, Punjab, and Balochistan among his colleagues and opponents to get their political support. He published all this in his newspaper along with proofs, which further infuriated Nawaz Sharif.' [Ref: 'daily times' 4<sup>th</sup> June 2004]*

However, as a person, Nawaz Sharif was a changed man in later years. During the period covered in this book, he surfaced with vibrant dimensions, in exciting colours, and showing vivacious leadership qualities. The people expected him to deliver better Pakistan after elections of 2013.

During Gen Musharraf's times: in Sialkot, Ch Anwar Aziz got success in the local elections through stern efforts because of his local influence as he was in politics since decades. The members of the District Council as a group came at his residence on the eve of the elections day with rose petals paying tribute to his victory and told him that 'all the members of the councils elected today have unanimously decided to choose you as *Zila Nazim* (Chairman District Council) to recognise your services for the people'. Ch Anwar Aziz thanked him, offered them food and future development plans discussed.

Suddenly an army jeep entered the compound; Pak-Army's Brigadier in uniform got down with a gentleman in civies; took Ch Anwar Aziz aside and talked for a minute or two. When they came out, the army Brigadier announced before the enchanting members that this gentleman [pointing towards the accompanying person] would be your new Chairman. He was some retired army officer. It happened during the army rule of Gen Musharraf because ***in Pakistan there exists no rule of law but compromises and concessions.***

The legacy, however, continued.

In January 2011, Raymond Davis kills two persons in Lahore and one more killed by an American car at the scene of occurrence. On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011, the then Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was contacted [while he was in Karachi] by the US Ambassador in Islamabad and the US Secretary Hilary Clinton with the requests [*later changed to threats*] to assign diplomatic status to the American killer which was refused. The matter was subjudice in the court.

Two days later, President Zardari summoned Mr Qureshi in presidency where the PM Gilani, DG ISI, Rehman Malik & Babar Awan were already sitting. The arguments developed between Mr Qureshi and Rehman Malik which ended in the resignation of the Federal Foreign Minister because ***in Pakistan there exists no rule of law but compromises and concessions even for foreign killers.***

On **25<sup>th</sup> June 2011**, an armed group of local miscreant attacked Kolachi Police Station [*Kolachi is a town at 45 km away from Dera Ismail Khan*] during day light and killed eight police officers including their Inspector incharge. It took eight hours to get released the police station premises from the scoundrels after a fierce fighting in an operation headed by the DIG Police Imtiaz Shah himself.

The event should have been dealt with severely but nothing heard anything; perhaps they were poor [& corrupt?] 'pulsias'. ***In Pakistan there exists no rule of law but compromises and concessions for many.***

In 2011, on the occasion of anniversary of 12<sup>th</sup> October's military coup, a debate on the Parliament's floor degenerated into mutual accusations between the PPP and the PML(N) with each side blaming the other for providing support to various military dictators in the past. PML(N) reiterated their demand for initiating a treason case against Gen Musharraf and accused the PPP rulers of providing protection to him under a clandestine deal and providing the General an honourable departure. They blamed Gen Musharraf for the security crisis the country was facing then and demanded that he should be hanged.

But, PPP's legislators wanted to know that why had the PML(N) singled out Gen Musharraf and spared others, including the judges who had allowed him in uniform to carry out changes in the Constitution.

*Above all; when Gen Musharraf had physically landed back in Pakistan on **24<sup>th</sup> March 2013** and was arrested in April 2013 and was made to appear before the Supreme Court in the treason case, the same PML(N) did not utter a single word for the trial against Gen Musharraf.*

*Nawaz Sharif remained mum despite asking dozens questions [regarding trial of the General in treason case] from the media reporters and TV anchors at tens of occasions – because the Western lords had 'conveyed appropriate instructions' to the PML(N) leadership on the subject. **In Pakistan there exists no rule of law but compromises and concessions for many.***

One angry MNA from Sargodha Mr Gondal said the PML(N) should not claim the credit for the reinstatement of superior judiciary, including Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, 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 circus. The judiciary was restored when the ISI wanted it,*' Mr Gondal mentioned. He asked the PML(N) why was it not demanding action against the army Generals who had been with Gen Musharraf in the past and were '*nowadays playing golf in Punjab*'.

Interestingly, the CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry also came under criticism in that session from the PML(N)'s Capt Safdar while questioning his inaction on the incident of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in Karachi in which 43 people had been killed during the CJP's visit to the city. '*If the CJ does not provide justice to families of those killed for him, then one should not expect justice from the CJ,*' MNA Capt Safdar had announced.

*But, since that day he was never seen speaking in the parliament, never heard in any media conference, never issued any press statement and the poor fellow was not even allowed to represent PML(N) in any live TV discussion for which he was known all over the country – **hats off to the party policy.***

The whole house, however, kept an opinion that had the then PM Nawaz Sharif constituted a commission on Kargil, they would not have suffered the humiliation of 12<sup>th</sup> October 1999's military coup. Kh Sa'ad Rafiq, the PML(N)'s lawmaker admitted that *'it was Mr Sharif's mistake to appoint Gen Musharraf as the army chief, ignoring the seniority list'*.

Gen Ghulam Ahmed (Musharraf's Chief of Staff) also once stunned the audience when he said: *'But sir, first they [Gen Musharraf, Gen Mahmood, and Gen Aziz] will have to get out of the cage of Kargil, otherwise all their efforts will be reactive.'*

See another scenario below:

The PM Yousaf Raza Gilani, in saddles since 2008, had started his politics in Gen Ziaul Haq's military regime in 1980s under the able guidance of army. Referring to an **interview of Gen Hamid Gul** with Dr Shahid Masood in a live TV program **dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2012**:

*[PM Mr Gilani is also a product / discovery of a military dictator. In Gen Ziaul Haq's rule in 1980s, Mr Gilani was called in Islamabad to be made a cabinet minister to represent Multan; he was having long hair like 'hippys' as was a fashion in youngsters then. Gen Zia, before talking to him, handed him over to me to have his hair cut like 'gentlemen'.*

*I took him out, had an army haircut, and we went before the General again in the evening and he was made a Federal Minister.]*

But then Mr Gilani changed his boat to uphold democracy and joined the PPP because then there was no likelihood of military rule again.

Now hats off to the slogans of democracy; after twenty years Syed Ahmed Mujtaba Gilani, the younger brother of the PM, was elected as Member Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in bye-election held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010 against the seat fell vacant after resignation of Ms Naghma Mushtaq Lang. The PM's eldest son Kadir Gillani was already a sitting MPA from PP-295. Since mid 2011, a very hot move to make Saraiki province was brought on cards so that PM's son Kadir Gilani be made first Chief Minister of the new province; just to make out a colourful family history. Democracy hurray!

On **6<sup>th</sup> February 2012**, 20<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill was placed before the Parliament; which was passed unanimously as usual with the PML(N)'s hidden bargain on it; again, through 'usual gimmicks' because it allowed the then PM's younger son Syed Musa Gilani to win the by-election seat of the National Assembly from Multan which was vacated by Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the former Foreign Minister.

All this game, allocating the parliamentary tickets to younger brother and two sons, was played in the name of democracy and in the name of **'greater interest of the nation'**.

The PM Mr Gilani has been waiting anxiously for some lady to vacate the 'women's reserved seat' on any pretext so that the PM's daughter Fiza Gilani could be brought in the parliament to make the democratic traditions stronger in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, every one is dying for democracy, the PPP has been ruling in the name of democracy. The people believed that after Z A Bhutto, they had voted for her daughter Benazir Bhutto for democracy; then to her husband A A Zardari to uphold democracy; Zardari's sister Faryal Gohar was voted for democracy; Faryal Gohar's husband Munawwar Talpur was brought in the Sindh Assembly for upkeep of democracy.

Zardari's son Bilawal was initially told to 'uphold democracy' from Lyari [*and was designated as the next prime minister through suitable Constitutional Amendment also; had the PPP*

won]. Do not ask for Nabil Gabol who had been winning that PPP seat from Lyari since decades, but then forced to vacate the seat for Bilawal. Nabil Gabol had to join the MQM in utter distress but secured his seat back.

Gabol was being sacrificed for democracy or to give seat to Bilawal Bhutto - never mind; it is the same thing. Zardari's daughter Bakhtawar was made incharge women wing for nourishment of democracy; Zardari's second daughter Asifa was to hold PPP's next command to sustain democracy. In nut shell Pakistan's civil dictators would continue to make mockery of the country 'to uphold democracy' but no army dictator.

The fact remains that Gen Ziaul Haq and Gen Abdul Rehman's sons were also seen in the parliament and in cabinets successively but only after the death of both the Generals, not in their lives. Other Generals, Corps Commanders, or the ISI Chiefs seldom opted to strengthen the 'democracy in Pakistan' through this way. This prerogative always remained with the politicians whether belonged to the PPP, PML(N) or PML(Q) or similar heavy mandated parties including JUI(F).

As per report of UN Office on Drugs & Crime [2011], nine (9) million population of Pakistan was on narcotics & drugs at an annual increase of 0.6 million per year. Out of these nine million, women were 10% and 60% were educated people; but who cares – Pakistani politicians are there only to 'uphold democracy' for their sons and daughters.

During third week of December 2011, the PPP had spoken overtly of the military as a '**state within a state**' and criticized the Generals for illegal acts. Mediators prevailed; the president and the Generals met and agreed to back off on threats to reduce the military power. The Supreme Court, however, continued to examine abuses (allegedly murdering four detainees out of eleven) by the ISI.

During mid January 2012, there had been a great debate in the media, attacking the Pakistan Army and the ISI in particular. PM Gilani, the PPP cabinet members and Mr Zardari raised open remarks over the military. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the angry Generals directly pushed open threats of another military coup causing the president to pull back and retreat.

Hats off to Gen Kayani and his team again; he never opted to interfere.

**(Inam R Sehri)**

May 2013: Manchester UK

**Post Script:**

To bring this volume on your desk, I had to borrow the intellect from Tariq Khosa & Sa'ad Rasool at so many occasions whereas Rawal Khan Metla provided me a generous help in giving it shape.