

US-A LOST GAMBLER NOW:

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Pak-US relations: ...the relationship went more sour when Pakistan refused to allow its territory to be used to transit NATO troops and ammunition in Afghanistan after November 2011's '**Salala Event**', when NATO helicopters had [surely not] accidentally fired on two Pakistani border posts, killing 24 soldiers. NATO was forced to use a route through Central Asia, an extremely costly detour.

In December 2011, an article in the well respected US magazine **The Atlantic** created a furore in both the countries. An essay titled "**The Ally from Hell**" started as:

'Pakistan lies. It is home to both radical jihadists and a large and growing nuclear arsenal. With a friend like this, who needs enemies?'

The twin authors described in detail how great the military's fear was that it could be deprived of its nuclear weapons and noted: ***'the Pakistani generals' fears are not directed at al-Qaida, as one might assume, but the United States'***. According to *The Atlantic*, Pakistan's security apparatus saw the attack on Bin Laden as an indication ***'that the US has developed the technical means to stage simultaneous raids on Pakistan's nuclear facilities.'***

The security measures Pakistan used to adopt to protect its arsenal were also noted. Most of the information given in the article was based on secret discussions between top brass of the two countries. Pakistan felt that the US Generals had deliberately leaked that classified information to some rogue US media-men.

The US media machinery started pinching more; saying that:

'Pakistan is a nuclear power, but it's also a poor country that does little to alleviate poverty and illiteracy. About half of its 190 million people cannot read or write. Pakistan; if is a democracy, at least according to its constitution, it is terribly meaningful.

In reality, feudalism forms the basis of society, and old families like the Bhutto clan still control the country, as they always have. President Asif Ali Zardari has been given a reprieve.

He [Mr Zardari] is an accidental president, the widower of Benazir Bhutto, one of the most hated politicians in the country.....'

Pakistan was also cursed for its **Absurd Justice**; for decades, the justices were nothing more than the vicarious agents of the military, giving every coup a constitutional blessing - but they never got investigated President Zardari, and his old companions. Sometimes they tried to review the cases that had come under the amnesty, involving millions of dollars that Zardari had allegedly laundered and deposited into Swiss bank accounts.

The judges could not harm Mr Zardari but turned to Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani instead, ultimately sentenced the defendant Gilani to a prison term lasting only some minutes, because it was [symbolically] deemed served [*what inheritance the judiciary wanted to leave behind*].

On military side; in fact the Pak-US relationship suffered from mutual suspicion firstly felt in 2003 which had only increased over the years. Once; the NATO held that seven simultaneous

attacks in Kabul [killing 40 people] in mid-April 2012; suicide bombing killing 11 people shortly after Obama's unannounced visit to Afghanistan, 3 bombings in Pakistan's FATA killing 25 tribal elders, were all done allegedly by *Haqqani* Group – so why Haqqani group is not being dealt sternly by Pakistan.

In an arena of US withdrawal from Afghanistan after 2014, Pakistan needed to keep all Afghan groups as 'equally important', including the Haqqani clan. Moreover, Pakistan was not affirming to become base for US operations any more; ***hats off to Gen Raheel Sharif's stand.*** The White House has also gone more disturbed due to our recent diplomatic developments with Russia; ties with China have gone more strengthened.

During his coming visit to Washington, PM Nawaz Sharif should mind that he has come up because the people have voted for him – gone those days when America used to be a king maker. America should not be able to influence our policies; neither nuclear nor economic – US itself is a lost gambler now.

[Published at //Pakhope.com on 18th October 2015]