

BITS & BOBS:

Welcome to Volume-II. Like the previous books, the chapters may not be inter-related – scenarios and pages are in continuity with the earlier volume PLUS the **FOUR volumes of Judges & Generals in Pakistan**; keeping it easy for references.

Each scenario is a different chapter.

'The Living History of Pakistan' is a collection of essays, may be irritating for some ones. No misleading intelligence story, no distracting investigative report and no concocted interview – it is simply a narration of Pakistan's contemporary history. No fiction in this book but simple unfolding of facts which most of us might have forgotten.

'It is the collection of tragedies and misgivings which are deliberately buried in suspicious darkness of Pakistan's power corridors. I've simply collected them, collated and placed together for those who want to keep a track of their past.'

Most newspapers of UK **dated 12th December 2012** carried the news that the majority of political leaders of Pakistan failed to submit any income tax returns despite lecturing citizens on the need to improve revenue collection in a country with a yawning financial deficit.

"President Zardari and Rehman Malik the interior minister, were among those who did not file their tax returns in 2011 and many of those who did, paid negligible amounts. Pakistan has one of the lowest tax collection rates in the world, according to the World Bank, and the governments are largely reliant on loans and foreign aid for funding.

Anyone earning more than 500,000 rupees (£3,200) a year must file electronic tax returns, but the report found only 90 of 341 members of the national assembly had done so. Only 20 of 55 cabinet ministers had filed returns, while 49 senators out of 104 paid income tax. Only 856,000 people pay income tax in the country of about 200 million people.

They [the ruling elite] urge the masses to pay taxes, but do not become role models for them."

The fact remains that during 2012-14, Pakistan's National Database Registration Authority [NADRA] had once chalked out a list of 3.5 million people who used to perform 3-5 foreign trips a year, live in homes of average worth Rs:90 million and keep cars of average worth Rs:40 million at home – but having NO TAX REGISTRATION. The NADRA placed that list on Federal Board of Revenue [FBR]'s record also but even then the successive two political governments could not find courage to bring them in the tax-net.

SERIOUS JUDICIAL GIMMICKS:

Going back in December 1997's battle between Chief Justice and the PM, President Leghari had become an odd casualty and had to resign. New president had to be elected and sworn in within thirty days. Justice Mukhtar A Junejo was serving as acting Chief Election Commissioner [CEC] and in this capacity was also returning officer for election of the President of Pakistan scheduled for 31st December 1997. PM Nawaz Sharif's candidate was Rafiq Tarar, another retired judge.

On 18th December 1997; Justice Junejo entertained a petition against PML[N]'s candidate Rafiq Tarar filed by PPP's former minister Aftab S Mirani. Justice Junejo rejected the nomination papers of his former colleague Justice (rtd) Rafiq Tarar stating that in view of Tarar's previous derogatory remarks about judiciary made him ineligible to be elected to the parliament and henceforth he could not be elected as president.

An appeal was immediately filed against that rejection at Lahore High Court where CJ Rashid Aziz Khan decided not to sit on bench. However, Lahore High Court suspended CEC's order the same day and allowed Rafiq Tarar to contest presidential election.

On 28th December 1997; just after 10 days of his decision, Justice Junejo was booted out and the Acting President of Pakistan Wasim Sajjad appointed Justice Abdul Qadeer Chaudhry as permanent CEC.

In 1997, Pakistan surely wrote some new chapters in judicial history. A permanent President, Farooq Leghari, appointed an acting CEC but when it became inconvenient, an Acting President Wasim Sajjad, had appointed a permanent CEC who was suitable to the then sitting government.

In above instances, the politicians did not respect judges – but what the judges used to do justice – see a few more details.

A little glance how police was humiliated at the hands of successive judiciary through the whole decade; no one else, no business tycoon, no MNA or MPA or other politically high figure, no lawyer, no media-house owner or anchor, no federal or provincial Secretary, no director of any state owned organization; no director of Steel Mills or Trading Corporation of Pakistan or PIA or Export Promotion Bureau or Rice Export Corporation or WAPDA or KESC, no Income Tax Commissioner, no Collector Customs etc etc – as all were free from vicious allegations, malpractices, corruption, mal-administration, miss-management and what more virtues like that.

*In November 1997 when PML workers headed by their MsNA & MsPA ransacked the Supreme Court Islamabad, who got punished out of the whole mess. No MNA or MPA, no worker of PML, no CSP officer either Commissioner, DC or AC of Islamabad but **IG Police Saleem Tariq Lone, SSP Altaf Ahmed, DSP & an Inspector.***

*In 2007 when the Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry was brutally handled by Gen Musharraf's team then who was ultimately at loss. Neither Gen Musharraf nor any of his General, or Secretary Interior or Commissioner Islamabad; those were again considered on fault were **IG Police Iftikhar Ahmed and his team comprising of the SSP, DSP and Inspector who were declared guilty of 'contempt of court.'***

In 2011, thrice the IG Police Punjab Tariq Saleem Dogar was called in superior courts for bullying; one DG FIA Waseem Ahmed Khan was un-ceremonially sent home, DG FIA Malik Iqbal was forced to quit his post and his successor Anwar Tehseen was showered with remarks and shouts and ultimately made to leave the organization.'

Nowhere in the world, the judges were supposed to shout at but in Pakistan it has been a normal practice for judges hoping that it would bring headlines for leading newspapers amidst waves of '**strong judiciary syndrome**'. In all societies, the judges do not but their decisions speak – while in Pakistan the judges speak loud but their decisions '*thuss*'.

In developed democracies the things go different. In UK, during the corresponding three years the courts dealt numerous cases of corruption or public importance. Here the wrong doers got punishments irrespective of their origin or party affiliation. More MPs and less police officers were sent behind the bars.

Five MPs and one Lord were sentenced for claiming benefits which were not justified for their ranks. The financial

involvement in each case was less than twelve thousand pounds but all they got jails.

No shouting in courts, no media glamour for judges. The people even do not know the names of judges who wrote those decisions in routine.

Similar happened with UK's media lords on **2011's famous 'hacking scandals'** case in which an empire of **179 years old newspaper 'News of the World'** had to stumble down their circulation. The newspaper finished, paper's chief had to face interrogations; careers of many ended up in jail, press closed and hang over continued to haunt many.

Referring to **Saad Rasool's** essay appeared in **'Pakistan Today' dated 4th November 2012.**

*'In fact, since restoration [of Judiciary in March 2009], dissent has all but vanished from the courts (barring a few exceptions, e.g. Justice Nasir-ul Mulk in the Mukhtara Mai case). It begs the question: **do all the judges, on all the benches, in all the courts, in all the cases, agree on all the points of law?***

The answer, in all likelihood, is 'no'! In Pakistan it has been happening since decades especially in CJP Chaudhry's era – pick up any file of fat people, you'll be amused.

These are troubling times. And the judiciary today stands in the gaze of history. Many (and measurable) advances have been made over the past 5 years, towards the turning of a new leaf in our constitutional history. But let's not kid ourselves: there is need for a lot more – and a jurisprudence of DISSENT too.'

SERIOUS POLITICAL GIMMICKS:

On 14th April 2010, as many as 736 prisoners undergoing jail terms in various prisons of the Punjab were freed while 3,238 convicts benefited from the special remission granted by President Zardari to celebrate the success of the 18th Amendment. In Rawalpindi region only, 215 convicts were freed while 610 were benefited, 167 prisoners were released from Adiala Jail only - including Ahmad Riaz Sheikh, former Additional DG FIA.

The media anchors of that day held in most TV live shows that:

'Mr Zardari wanted to get his friend Ahmed Riaz Sh out of the prison so he rightly used the excuse of celebrations of 18th Amendment; good it was that others got benefited too.

The whole lot of freed and benefited prisoners were thankful to Mr Sheikh and not President Zardari.'

The main provision for celebration of the passing of 18th Amendment for the Pakistan's Constitution was that ***'the political parties are not bound to hold elections within'***; meaning thereby that the future prime ministers in Pakistan would not go out of Zardari – Bhutto, Sharifs, Chaudhrys of Gujrat and JUI's Rehman families. President Zardari was delighted more but it suited most of the party leaders in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, a petition was filed by one Azhar Siddique Advocate in the Lahore High Court [LHC] the same day against the Punjab government for non-implementation of presidential order regarding remission in sentences of convicted prisoners – but of no avail.

Another Picture here:

Referring to ***'the News'*** dated **30th September 2010**; in a PPP parliamentary party meeting held at the Presidency during the last week of September 2010, ***President Zardari had confessed that he was betrayed and trapped by top players of the game in the NRO case.***

Mr Zardari had said so in the presence of his big media team comprising top professionals like Farhatullah Babar, Faouzia Wahab, Farrah Ishphani, Jamil Soomro, Qamar Zaman Kaira and dozens of PPP ministers. However, amongst the politicians, Maulana Fazalur Rehman had advised Mr Zardari NOT to bring the NRO issue in the Parliament; ***'Aaj News' of 7th November 2009*** is referred.

Mr Zardari was given certain assurances in exchange for not defending it before the Supreme Court but the ***"players of the game"*** did not execute their promise and cases against him were reopened. Amidst fiery speeches by his party men, Zardari told them in his firm style though he was betrayed and trapped but he would not take any "dictation" from any one.

During that parliamentary party meeting Senators Dr Safdar Abbasi and Babar Awan were admittedly hailed because these two were the only high voices which had argued rather agitated that NRO should be defended in the SC by all means but their voices were ignored because some "top guns"

had given Mr Zardari authentic assurances on the basis of which he decided not to defend the NRO in the SC.

Reportedly a Karachi-based former judge who enjoyed good reputation and was considered to be a credible person had visited the Presidency and secretly met Asif Ali Zardari advising that he should not worry about the Swiss cases, as they were closed transaction. All the assurances went futile and Mr Zardari was shocked when he heard that all the 17 judges of the SC had given decision against him.

See another situation:

Referring to the daily '*Pakistan today*' dated **17th November 2012**; according to calculations performed by Transparency International, Pakistan lost an unbelievably high amount, more than Rs:8.5 trillion (US \$94 billion), in corruption, tax evasion and bad governance during the last four years . An adviser of Transparency International acknowledged that:

"Pakistan does not need even a single penny from the outside world if it effectively checks the menace of corruption and ensures good governance".

The Transparency International also noted that the four years of the then [PPP] regime had been the worst in terms of corruption and bad governance in the country's history.

Pakistan was passing through a difficult condition due to Terrorism. Its economy was facing fluctuations day by day. At the time of independence, Pakistan had very low resources and capital, so the processes of progress were very slow. Unfortunately the politicians of Pakistan were all not well aware of modern global system and the required needs of the country. Due to bad policies, Pakistan was facing a lot of problems at all world forums.

Even today; the major problem in the country is poverty, caused by unequal distribution of wealth, which is becoming the grounds of crime and social disorder through all regions and in all walks of life.

Moreover; referring to *media reports dated 30th September 2013*; a massive amount of Rs:2.4 billion was spent from the meagre resources of Pakistan's national exchequer by former president Asif Ali Zardari and former prime ministers Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on their **133 foreign tours in five years of the PPP government.**

According to details from the Foreign Ministry, Rs; 2.4 billion were spent on foreign tours during PPP regime. Raja Pervez Ashraf during his short nine month tenure made eight foreign tours. ***The president made seven foreign visits in 2008, 20 in 2009, 14 in 2010, 22 in 2011, 23 in 2012 and six in 2013 including 16 private visits to Dubai that cost the national exchequer an aggregate of Rs:1.31 billion.*** Former PM Yusuf Raza Gilani went abroad for 51 visits, including two private visits to Britain, which cost Pakistan about one billion rupees.

In March 2013, just a few days before departing of the PPP government, the then Interior Minister Rehman Malik had told the Senate [while replying certain questions on Karachi situation] that ***'during 5 years rule of the PPP, he has issued 69473 arms licenses of prohibited bore including sub-machine guns'***.

Mostly, arms licenses were issued to the members of Sindh provincial assembly and parliamentarians; thus each Sindh Assembly member got about 200 arms licenses on average – some might have got more some less {***Irfan Siddiqui's Naqsh e Khayal of 1st November 2013 is referred***}

PAKISTANI LEADERSHIP:

Referring to the ***daily 'Jang' dated 8th April 2012***, before partition of 1947, only 20,000 Muslims were killed by extremist Hindus in undivided India in forty years; about 20,000 Muslims were killed in Hindu - Muslim clashes of India during forty years after partition ***but more than 40,000 Muslims have been killed by their own Muslim brothers in last 25 years in Pakistan***; why so.

Most probably; because the so called WOT [war on terror] had been pushed into Pakistan due to the short sightedness of our successive rulers during 2001-14; military and the political elite both.

On 4th November 2015; while addressing the second Pakistan Investment Conference, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stated: ***"Our democratic and economic journey has not been without setbacks. But the Pakistani nation has once and for all decided that its future lies in a liberal and democratic country, where the private sector thrives and no one is left behind."***

Former Ameer of Jama'at e Islami [JI] Syed Munawwar Hasan had immediately condemned PM's statement saying that ***'the liberals should enlist themselves as a minority in Pakistan'***. Only two days earlier then

Ameer of JI Syed Sirajul Haq had shared his pearls of wisdom while saying **'... had Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Iqbal been alive, they would have been in Islami Jamiat-i-Talba'**.

During late 1960s, the JI leaders had condemned Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] for adopting the slogan **'Socialism is our economy'**, surprisingly, the JI was soft on 'Capitalism' & the West in general. In 'Liberalism', the JI leaders could only see something obscene or related to sexual freedom; whereas, Liberalism as a political philosophy stands for democracy, pluralism, tolerance and fundamental rights plus similar virtues.

Economic liberalism, as pointed out by the PM Sharif, had to support free market with least interference by the government. If some societies of West had, in the past, tolerated sexual permissiveness, that did not mean that each society of the world would include that vulgarity into the political theme of 'Liberalism' – Pakistan has its own social fabric and its own cultural beliefs. There was no justification in rejecting the concept in totality.

In any case, PM Sharif was speaking with reference to political system and economic development as he had added: **"I can confidently say that our direction is set, and we are now implementing our nation's economic and democratic agenda."** But the JI leaders had a prejudicial mind-set and a blurred vision of their own.

On 11th November 2015; various politicians spoke openly on the Parliamentary floor including one Mahmood Achakzai who busted out against the Pak-Army on the issue of ISPR's press release. He concluded his remarks with the saying:

"..... if the time demanded sacrifice from us, from the Baloch nation; we'll stand with civilian Sharif of Lahore – meaning thereby that we'll be with PM Nawaz Sharif instead of standing by Gen Raheel Sharif – we will stand with the democracy."

Basically Mr Achakzai was feeling his own **'democracy at home'** in danger because at the time of speech:

- He himself, **Mr Mahmood Achakzai**, was an MNA and ADVISOR to the Prime Minister on Balochistan Affairs.
- His first brother **Mohammad Khan Achakzai** was GOVERNOR of Balochistan.
- His second brother, **Majeed Khan Achakzai** was an MPA in the Balochistan Assembly.

- His third brother, **Hameed Khan Achakzai** was an MPA in the Balochistan Assembly.
- His sister in law, **Naseema Khan Achakzai** was an MNA in National Assembly on women seats quota.
- His first brother in Law, **Qazi Maqbool** was Manager Quetta Airport.
- His second brother in law, **Khan Hassan Manzoor** was DIG Motorways Pakistan
- Sister in law of his wife, **Spozemai Khan** was an MPA in Balochistan Assembly.
- Wife's nephew Salaar Khan, Lecturer in Balochistan University.
- Wife's cousin Qazi Jamal, registrar in Balochistan University.

Thus it was fact that had the democracy gone with the Army's interference; Mahmood Achakzai's whole family would have gone home if assemblies dissolved.

ZARDARI vs PAK-ARMY:

Referring to a '**White Paper**' issued by the Central Command of PPP, on the completion of fourth anniversary of Gen Musharraf's military rule, it had been held that:

'.....since the military take over [in October 1999], the unanimously adopted 1973 Constitution had not been restored fully, though the Army Chief had dared to incorporate in it a plethora of constitutional amendments through an ever - controversial Legal Framework Order, which carried the General's personal agenda.....'

As far as the situation on the judicial front was concerned, all the Bar Associations and elected bodies of the lawyers had declared their no confidence in the government for its unconstitutional and illegal steps.

For the first time in the country's 56-year history, the bar and the bench had developed some serious differences and the situation had worsened to an extent that demands were raised by the lawyers' community for the removal of puppet Chief Justices in the Centre and in the Punjab who were dancing to the tunes of their khaki masters.'

About FIVE years later:

It is abundantly available on media record that the differences of the PPP with military establishment had taken start when Mr Zardari [then in the capacity of PPP's Chief only] triggered the trouble in **May 2008**, only a few weeks after the change of government, at a briefing arranged for him and the new prime minister Mr Gilani at the ISI headquarters. There at ISI HO:

Mr Zardari had lectured the military leadership on strategic issues and delivered his action plan to deal with problems concerning India and Afghanistan.

Mr Zardari tried to give a practical shape to that plan when in ending July 2008 the Prime Minister's office issued orders to place the entire administrative, financial and operational control of the ISI under the Federal Ministry of Interior [of Rahman Malik].

This had invited an immediate response from the Army and the notification was withdrawn within three hours.

Mr Zardari made another stunning move when he invited Afghan President Karzai, without consulting the security establishment, to join him in the maiden press conference Zardari held after taking oath as the president of Pakistan in September 2008. In the same press conference:

Mr Zardari shocked the civil and military leadership alike by making astonishing statement of a major breakthrough on Kashmir within a month.

Neither the prime minister nor his cabinet, nor the Army elite was aware of any such development.

President Zardari's interview with the Wall Street Journal in October 2008 where he described the Kashmiri Mujahideen as terrorists and mocked Gen Musharraf for calling them "freedom fighters" was considered 'unwanted' statement by the GHQ at least.

On 26th November 2008, in the wake of terrorist attack on Mumbai, President Zardari, without any consultations with national security establishment, instantly agreed to the demand of the Indian PM Manmohan Singh to send the ISI Chief to New Delhi, a move that was later backpeddled on PM Gilani's intervention.

President Zardari's relations with the military received another blow when the '**New York Times**' broke the story in the last week of **August 2009 about US diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad's secret contacts with Zardari** in his bid for Afghan presidency. Khalilzad was on warpath with Pakistan's

establishment during his tenure as the US ambassador to Kabul and revelations of his secret contacts with Zardari was disturbing news for the GHQ.

Later, the then army leadership got disturbed where the GHQ noticed with shock that the Presidency saw no problems with the controversial clauses of the Kerry-Lugar Bill that was declared **having mistakes** even by the United States ambassador in Islamabad. This KL Bill gave an impetus to serious differences of perception between President Zardari and the Pak-Army on issues of national security.

All the above moves were being played by President Zardari on the instructions of Islamabad based US Ambassador in Pakistan. He was bound to take that dictation because the US admin had educated and trained Mr Zardari to act like that during his stay in America during 2004-08.

Brig Imtiaz's Fate: During the last week of August 2009, Brig Imtiaz appeared on electronic media [in Rauf Klasra's live TV program] with full passion and fervour to unearth the details about the 1992 Karachi operation; termed by media '*as the sudden reawakening of his zameer*' [conscience]. He had been convicted in various NRO cases, imprisoned on corruption charges and had been in prison. ***In 2008, when he was suddenly freed by the Islamabad High Court [IHC], his illegally acquired property and assets were restored to him.***

Brig (rtd) Imtiaz Ahmed served as Director in charge Internal Security ISI for several years in Islamabad and later as DG Intelligence Bureau (IB) in the first government of Nawaz Sharif. The next Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had put him in jail for about three years on charges of being part of the operation to oust her in 1989 during her first government.

Later, Gen Musharraf also kept him in jail for four years till his acquittal by the High Court. He was the only spymaster of Pakistan who was jailed for eight years, after serving 15 years in the ISI and the IB.

How ***Pakistan's 'best' spymaster, Brig Imtiaz***, got so rich – might be through selling sensitive information he was taking care of, or extortion of big politicians, or coercion or through '***secret funds at his disposal***'; but no one is allowed to think so loudly in Pakistan.

FINANCIAL GIMMICKS:

Daily **TELEGRAPH** on **30th August 2010** mentioned that:

'Asif Zardari, who chose to flaunt his wealth while the country he is supposed to rule was flooded..... In a book Pakistan – Eye of the Storm, the former BBC correspondent Owen Bennett-Jones wrote:

"Between 1947 and 1959 up to 73 per cent of Pakistan's total government spending was devoted to defence. The average for the later period was 60 per cent."

And nothing had changed by the end of 2005. The British High Commission then estimated that Pakistan's military, including the ISI, took 70 per cent of government spending for itself.'

It was not the whole truth – rather whole fabricated hearsay. Details about this myth have been countered in the last chapter of this book, **Scenario 129**, with actual figures from Pakistan's budgets and strong **'msn News'**.

This total bluff, based on hearsay – without any analysis of actual figures on record, is also encountered here. A very recent analysis of mid 2015 titled as **'Pakistan - Defense Spending'**, given by world known American sponsored media site www.globalsecurity.org is placed below;

'Pakistan announced on 5th June 2015 that it would increase its military spending by 11% for fiscal year 2015-16 - from Rs:700 billion [US\$ 7 billion] to Rs:780 billion [US\$ 7.8 billion].

As per the budget document, Rs:700 billion were allocated for Defence Affairs and Services constituting 16.27% of the total budget and is quite less than the much propagated and misperceived notion of 80% or 70%. It has been so for many years; during the financial year 2013-14, share of defence budget was 15.74%, while it was 17.79% during 2012-13.

The myth that allocation for defence is the single largest component in Pakistan's budget is also not true. For the year 2014-15, Rs:1,325 billion were kept for the debt servicing and Rs:1,175 billion for Public Sector Development [PSDP]; the first and 2nd largest chunks respectively.

The argument that Pakistan spends a very high percentage of GDP on defence is no longer true. During the year 2013-14, the defence spending was 2.7% of GDP, which has been so, for many years.

From 1958 until 1973, the published defense budget accounted for between 50-60% of total government expenses. After that, the

proportions were much lower, falling to even 30% levels and ranging between 5-7% of GNP. The defense budget for fiscal year (FY) 1993 was set at Rs:94 billion or US\$3.3 billion, representing 27% of government spending and almost 9% of the GDP.

In real terms, Pakistan's defence allocations remained more or less capped since early 2000-01 despite the traditional security challenges vis-à-vis India on the eastern front and the new unprecedented internal security threat in the form of the Al Qaeda, and allied foreign and local militants.

According to the latest Economic Survey of Pakistan, all through the 2000s, Pakistan defence budget remained pegged at 3.1% of the GDP, compared with 5.6% during the decade of 1990s and 6.5% during the 1980s. The pattern of this downward slide in defence spending started during Gen Musharraf's rule, who slashed it to 3.9% of the GDP during early years in power and later to 3.3%.

According to World Bank figures for 1988 to 2003, Pakistan's military expenditures represented 25–29% of state expenditures and 6–7% of gross national income. In fiscal year (FY) 2004, military expenditures constituted just 18% of government expenditures.'

Other drastic scenes:

Referring to the ***daily TELEGRAPH dated 23rd September 2012***, Graham Hand, Chairman of a UK government sponsored meeting on '***Fighting Global Poverty***' addressed his colleagues:

*"There's lots of money. We've all got money! We signed treaties so they have to give out the money! Welcome to the world of '**aid-funded businesses**'. Look how rich some people have become from fighting global poverty.*

Britain's Department for International Development [DFID], paid out almost half a billion pounds last year to battalions of mostly British consultants, many of them on six or seven - figure personal incomes paid in large measure by the aid budget."

UK's new Development Secretary, Justine Greening, had ordered an immediate internal review, yet hardly realising how deeply embedded in her Government the "**poverty barons**" had become.

Again: **the TELEGRAPH of 1st April 2013:** British people were upset when their government bestowed £300m of its taxpayers' money to a controversial programme of cash handouts in Pakistan [**Benazir Income Support Program**] which was accused of bankrolling the re-election campaign of Pakistan Peoples Party [PPP].

As per report mentioned above, in evidence to UK's parliamentary inquiry, it surfaced that the said Programme [BISP] was being used to buy support for President Zardari, and his party. The report mentioned that:

'Britain's Department for International Development (DFID) was pouring money into a scheme driven by "clientelism". It is not stolen to the extent to which previous cash transfers were stolen, but this is the mechanism - which is funded partly by DFID - to make friends and influence people.

This is the re-election campaign of Mr Zardari, which is funded by DFID - well done.

Pakistan has one of the smallest tax bases in the world and two-thirds of its politicians pay no income tax at all, yet the country can still afford to give them aid to expand nuclear arsenal.'

The report was replete with repeated allegations of corruption and claims that officials from the PPP – later led by Bilawal himself – had obtained lists of beneficiaries for follow-up visits in which families were to be told to remember from where the cash was flowing in. PPP's opposition parties roared in media that BISP was nothing more than a scam to "buy votes" in the then forthcoming elections of 11th May 2013.

The irony of fate with Pakistani nation remained that PML(N) once vowed to overhaul the scheme and rename it as '**National Support Programme**' to avoid the taint of politicking. In a dossier of allegations, it concluded the programme was riddled with "**rampant corruption, nepotism and embezzlement**".

But when the PML(N) itself came in power after the said elections, they preferred to keep the whole scheme in tact with the allocation of hefty Rs:75 billion in the budget announced for 2013-14. The corruption went manifold in BISP – both PPP & the PML[N] behaved similar loot and plunder while dealing with that poor people fund.

At the latest stage the whole BISP was being run and managed by a '**LOTA**' lady politician named Marvi Memon.