

## Scenario 51

### **BENAZIR BHUTTO ASSASSINATED:**

*{The topic itself does not come under the scheme and scope of this book but as Benazir Bhutto was assassinated during Gen Musharraf's rule, a military regime, and because the army establishment's role was also identified by the UN; so a brief discussion is here.}*

To start with, a script from the '**TIME**' magazine of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007 is reproduced below:

*'Musharraf is deeply unpopular. Hundreds of thousands of people turned out at protests in support of (Justice) Chaudhry earlier this year. Another potential rallying point is former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who returned to Pakistan in October for the first time in eight years as part of a deal with Musharraf that would allow her to run in parliamentary elections early next year. As the leader of the biggest party in Pakistan, it was expected Bhutto would be elected Prime Minister under Musharraf. But the state of emergency [of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007] changes that equation again. A London-based spokesman for Bhutto said the former Prime Minister would lead anti-Musharraf protests.'*

On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2007, Ms Benazir Bhutto, Chair Person of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), was gunned down while she was coming out of Liaquat Bagh Rawalpindi after addressing a public gathering. Just six seconds after, a blast was done through a remote control device which not only caused an instant death of the sniper but also took about 22 innocent lives leaving behind tens of half burnt and mutilated human beings. To keep the investigation agencies away from the clues and clans responsible for doing this act, the local administration of Rawalpindi sent (or was called) a fire brigade lorry who, just after 15 minutes of the crime, swept away all the forensic evidences vital to proceed with investigation. It was a more serious offence committed by the washing staff or the officers who had ordered such blunt activity.

The local police or the investigating team were not given time to gather the samples of blood, type of blast material or gun powders used by the suicide bomber, possible pieces of remote control signal receiving device, pieces of blood stained clothes of victims and possibly of culprits, burnt shoes of victims and possibly of offenders, used cartridges of three bullets fired, some possible identity documents of affected people damaged or half burnt, actual bullet lead pieces, fire-gun with original finger prints of the sniper on it, half burnt mobiles or at least SIMs and so many other things to mention. It was equally heinous offence comparing with the assassination itself.

It has been the history that in Pakistan such investigations are normally assigned to those officers who are experts in twisting the facts according to the wishes and whims of the rulers controlling them. Those officers are not sincere to their truthful cause, neither to the professional demands of their job nor are they loyal to Pakistan. If such would have been the case, we would have definite conclusions of some of the following cases at least:

- Pakistan's first PM Liaquat Ali Khan's murder case of 16<sup>th</sup> October 1951
- Gen Ziaul Haq's air crash case of 17<sup>th</sup> August 1988
- Murder of Murtaza Bhutto in September 1996

- Death of Omar Asghar Khan in mysterious circumstances
- Attack on Ms Benazir Bhutto on 18-19<sup>th</sup> October 2007

The list is not exhaustive. At least one hundred cases of suicidal attacks, bomb blasts and firing by unknown miscreants can be added in which the governments could come out with the contention that those suicidal attacks were carried out by Al-Qaeda or Taliban like people so they were helpless. The careful questioning of Dr Musaddaq of Rawalpindi General Hospital and his associate doctors who had carried out the external post mortem of Ms Benazir Bhutto on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2007 could lead the investigating teams to the top person who ordered him to play jugglery with actual findings of the post mortem report but the teams were purposefully manoeuvred to keep silent.

Similarly the investigating team could dig out the circumstances (and reach the exact person or group or agency) who had ordered to wash up the scene of crime. A noteworthy development could be achieved by ascertaining that under what circumstances Brig (Rtd) Javed Iqbal Cheema had opted (or forced) to conduct a media conference on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2007 putting forward a plethora of lies which proved unresolved afterwards. The investigators should have worked out up till now that whether the tape of alleged Baitullah Mehsood voice was real or otherwise. If real, how it had reached [from Waziristan] there in the Interior ministry within hours; so quickly.

The media had genuine doubts that in just 22 hours after the death of Ms Benazir Bhutto, the arrangement of such important conversational gadget for media conference could only be 'arranged' by the agencies in their operational rooms. Might be a job of Intelligence Bureau whose Chief was nominated as one of the three persons in the letters written by Ms Benazir Bhutto to the Foreign Secretary of UK (David Miliband) and Gen Musharraf perhaps days earlier only. Then the uproar for UN team seemed genuine to enquire into the operational record of IB or ISI whatever the case was. Scotland Yard team was there in Pakistan but they were all forensic experts to help the local investigators only and there was no provincial or federal department who was authorised to carry on that investigation then; strange enough.

Before starting their journey for Pakistan, the Scotland Yard team [who were especially called by Gen Musharraf's Government to calm down the roaring voices of the PPP for independent investigations], had rightly indicated that their assistance would not be very helpful in Benazir Bhutto's case because most of the vital forensic evidence had already been destroyed. The most important step in this connection was the protection of crime scene which was washed away instantly.

*[The investigation team should have taken start by taking the driver of that fire brigade's lorry through careful interrogation. The driver was able to lead the team that how the channel of command went upwards. Normally fire brigade engines are not called to wash blood on the roads in police cases.]*

Special circumstances were to be unearthed to reach those masked faces who had become partners in conspiracy of averting justice.

In the first week of January 2008, the Scotland Yard was in Islamabad to investigate the murder case of Benazir Bhutto, a politician of international stature carrying a new hope of democracy for stranded Pakistanis. Till then there was much uproar that basic crime scene evidences required in such important case had been 'purposefully' destroyed by the high criminal hands behind this target killing but there was prevailing a hope to re-gather the scattered pieces of evidence which would put the case on justified correct lines. Consider the following humble submissions:

First step of professional dishonesty was that post-mortem of the dead body was manoeuvred by the hidden hands in a cruel and crude way. The investigators would have ascertained that:

On whose information / briefing the then Federal Interior Minister Gen ® Hamid Nawaz Khan had told the pressmen on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> December (the day of occurrence) that the **'death of BB has occurred due to a bullet shot wound'**.

Dr Musaddaq, the senior member of seven doctor's team to perform the post mortem, then issued a medical report saying that there was only one wound on the right side of BB's head 5x3 cms.

- ***Why the doctor had deliberately omitted to mention the second wound, which might be the entrance wound of bullet and was situated near the left ear.***

The various videos footage now available and especially released by Channel 4 [of UK] had shown that the fire was made from the left side of the vehicle then being used by the deceased Ms Bhutto.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008, Dr Musaddaq told some newsmen that he had a tremendous pressure on his mind about this post-mortem report whereas he had specially been instructed not to speak even a single word on this issue.

- ***Who issued him these instructions? Who conveyed these instructions to the doctor and on whose behalf?***

By the way, Dr Musaddaq's life was in danger. In the same talk with newsmen, Dr Musaddaq told them that the ***office copy register of the post-mortem report was taken away by the 'higher ups / Administration' immediately*** after the moment he signed it.

- *Who were those persons, why they removed the hospital's permanent record from the place [with ulterior intentions]? Where the post-mortem record was kept afterwards and to whom it was shown or read over.*
- *Who ordered Brig ® Javed Iqbal Cheema, a spokesman of Interior Ministry, to hold a press conference in so haste to release the post-mortem report on TV urging that the death occurred due to 'shock wave' felt by the deceased Bhutto and as a result striking with the sun roof's lever / handle.*
- *Who briefed Brig Cheema that the lever could cause a death?*

(The vehicle manufacturing company had later given a written statement to all the newspapers of Pakistan on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec or around declaring that the handle / lever of that vehicle could not cause death of a person standing there).

- *Why until the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> Dec the investigation officers could not inspect the vehicle which was the MOST important article of evidence from the scene of crime occurrence. Had they felt its importance, they would have noted that if there was leather / plastic cover over that handle which could make a 'fracture in the skull or not'.*
- *The inspection of BB's vehicle was also vital to ascertain if some blood clots or white fluid was there at the place of or around the roof-handle. If there were blood stains and white material then the possibility of 'death by handle' was there as next day claimed by Brig Cheema. But if there was no blood around then it could indicate that BB had fell down after getting bullet in her head from her left side. Blood clots near handle could have contained BB's hair pieces from her forehead too.*

[However, it could have been more authentic and beneficial if the vehicle could have been inspected at the first sight after it was left over Murree Road when wounded BB was shifted to another private car to take her to the RGH]

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 2007, the females who had served the last spiritual bath to the deceased body announced immediately that there were two visible wounds on the body of Miss Bhutto [see print media reports]; one was slightly below the left ear (might be the entry wound of

bullet) and one big wound on the right upper side of skull (the [may be the exit] wound of the bullet). This finding was also displayed on GEO TV and ARY One-world in the afternoon hours of 28<sup>th</sup> December but even then Brig Cheema's team did not bother to take care of those announcements.

The persons who gave first account of those wounds seen after the last spiritual bath were (1) Asif Ali Zardari (2) Sherry Rehman (3) Mr Zardari's first sister who herself is a doctor (4) Mr Zardari's second sister. There may be other non-family old but illiterate women who actually touched the deceased's body while serving bath, which were in reality the independent natural witnesses needed to be talked.

***Had any investigation officer ever bothered to record their statements to verify the accuracy of the post mortem report?***

Under the provisions of (Pakistan) Police Rules 1934 Vol 3, the doctor cannot start post mortem of a dead body unless a police officer of concerned Police Station requests him on a 'Naqsha e Mazroobi' (wound - details sheet) stating FIR No:, apparent cause of death, statement of (number of) wounds on the dead body and their position with approximate measurements, statement of blood stains, time of removal or custody of body etc and other remarkable appearances, if any. Two witnesses from the crime scene were also needed to sign that diagram / statement of wounds.

- ***Who brought the body to the hospital and was the signing officer actually there. Had the Doctor countersigned that 'naqsha Mazroobi Police' and if so then at what time he gave it back to the Police officer?***
- ***Was the investigation officer given two copies of the Post - mortem report and at what time?***
- ***Where are those copies of 'naqsha Mazroobi Police' and the post mortem report attached?***

The definite cause of death is normally never stated in post mortem report. In Benazir Bhutto's post mortem report then released by authorities had contained that "a '**white brain matter**' is seen in the only wound which was also spread on the deceased's hair around" which clearly proved that the brain matter had been pushed out (might be accompanied by the bullet) while leaving the wound.

- ***Who pressurised the doctor to re-write the report [if so] ignoring the most important facts; so fundamental and so evident.***

Brig Cheema's conference told the media that the detailed post mortem was not allowed by deceased's husband Asif Ali Zardari. Under the provision of the Police Rules an application should have been made to the DCO / District Magistrate (DM) Rawalpindi who only was authorised to allow it but the legal course was not adopted in this connection.

- ***Who was the person who asked Mr Zardari about this thing and who had conveyed back the doctors about Mr Zardari's consent?***

The point to ascertain was that why a necessity had been felt to ask it from Mr Zardari whereas both the bullet wounds were on head and nothing forbids the doctors to conduct an external examination of neck and head in this situation. As the cause of death was apparent, the doctor did not need to conduct the 'detailed examination' of lower body parts. Thus the question was irrelevant that the legal custodians of the dead [Mr Zardari] did not want the detailed post mortem of the dead body.

Coming back to our main theme, it was the third time that Scotland Yard investigators were requisitioned by the Pakistani governments to launch investigations into Benazir Bhutto's killing. It was January 2008.

The initial demand to call the foreign experts came from high stalwarts of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) at the time of Ms Benazir Bhutto's funeral on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2007. On the

same evening the spokesman of the Government of Pakistan Brig (Rtd) Cheema, in a media conference straightaway ruled out the possibility of calling any kind of foreign assistance for this investigation on the pretext that the foreign investigators do not know our cultural traits, social behaviours and communal characteristics nor would they be able to cope with our legal and procedural requirements. Brig Cheema himself was unaware of our history. Brig Cheema did not know that the Scotland Yard investigation team was first called by us to conduct an inquiry to dig out facts of the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's first prime minister, in October 1951. The team stayed here for about three months but then was sent back. The people still don't know about the outcome of results.

Second time the Scotland Yard detectives and Home Office forensic experts were called at Karachi a decade ago to investigate the murder of Ms Benazir's Bhutto's younger brother, Murtaza Bhutto. It was September 1996, when Murtaza Bhutto and seven others were gunned down by policemen outside his family home. The killing triggered riots in Sindh province, and had (later) led to the imprisonment of Ms Benazir's husband Asif Ali Zardari. Within six weeks of the killing, the then president of Pakistan Mr Farooq Leghari sacked the PPP's government on this pretext [*amidst other charges of corruption*] and the Scotland Yard team, led by Roy Herridge, was ordered to leave the country with their investigation incomplete. Referring to the comments published in a British media on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2008, a member of that team spoke of their frustrations that:

*"We had a lot of difficulty in accessing material from the local police and other agencies... We did not, I think, establish any direct link which could be used in evidential form with the police in the killing. But we certainly managed to establish that there were discrepancies in the official versions of what happened."*

Third time the same situation prevailed. The investigation being conducted by the same Scotland Yard in Benazir Bhutto's assassination was not very different than of his brother's. Pakistani police behaviour, government's misleading statements and their betraying patterns remained un-changed during the past 11 years. There was much hue and cry from the PPP hierarchy that the investigation of Ms Benazir Bhutto's assassination should be done by the United Nations and no less than that. The Scotland Yard team, comprising of five members were all forensic experts. They were not given their scope of work officially known as 'terms of reference' by the Ministry of Interior before departure from UK. They were not told about their limitations but the team was expected to ascertain the 'cause of death, only'.

In Benazir Bhutto's case, the Scotland Yard team remained continuously busy in their job. They visited the scene of crime on the first day, took photographs of the scene from different angle and had prepared a sketch of surrounding dwellings. During the subsequent days the members had examined the vehicles in the police lines which had sustained damages in the attack, had taken blood stains samples from the car and various places, had visited the Rawalpindi General Hospital & District Headquarter Hospital to interview the doctors who had prepared initial medical reports, also examined the post-mortem records and analysed the entries, re-examined the x-rays of Ms Benazir's injured / fractured skull, had also questioned the eye witnesses who were in the said hospital when BB was brought there dead / injured; including one Syed Ishtiaq Shah, Deputy Superintendent of Police on duty with Ms Benazir Bhutto who was also badly injured his front side body due to blast. The team finally went to the *mortuary* in the hospital where some pieces of burnt bodies, some legs, some feet and few deceased / burnt bodies were kept for certain forensic tests.

At the end of 1st week of 2008, the media reports collectively drew the following picture on the basis of day to day news of progress in the investigations:

- The bullet had hit Benazir Bhutto with 50 Newton force [*if the bullet hit her*] thus causing immediate bleeding from and fracture of skull.
- The bullet-lead was recovered from near the scene of crime but no details available if it was blood stained or if it was the same lead which actually hit or touched BB's body.

- The fire was done by a sniper from 8-10 feet distance while Benazir Bhutto's body was about three feet out / above the sunroof.
- There was no stain of blood found on the handle of sunroof.
- A bullet hole had been found on Ms Benazir's scarf (*dopatta*) which meant that a bullet had definitely hit her body.
- Ms Benazir immediately fell down in the sunroof after shot fires.
- After 5-6 seconds of shots, there occurred a bomb blast [possibility: *had Ms Benazir Bhutto not fallen in the sunroof, her head would have been chopped off from her body after the blast*].
- The blast occurred at 5.11 PM whereas Ms Benazir Bhutto's body reached the hospital at 5.35 PM. During this time there was a moment when her death occurred due to excessive bleeding. The doctors declared her dead at 6.41 PM.
- The forensic tests of the blasting material had shown that this type of material was also used in 14 other bomb blasts in various 'suicide bomber' attacks in Pakistan before.
- This blast mechanism was called MUV-2 and the material had the same lot number and same code but with different year of manufacture. It can be said that all the 15 suicide bomb blasts had been caused with the material manufactured in the same one factory and (may be) that the same one group / sponsor was responsible for these 15 blasts.
- The first security vehicle ahead of Ms Benazir Bhutto was 2 km away, naturally fully safe during this incident. This vehicle was one of the two armoured / bullet proof cars in which highly responsible figures of PPP [*afterwards identified as Rehman Malik & Babar Awan*] were moving.
- A private car carrying some *Jialas* was being driven by one Tauqir Akram Kaira of Kharian on the immediate back of Ms Benazir's car. Tauqir Akram Kaira died at the spot in the bomb blast.
- The injured Ms Benazir was initially taken to the hospital in the same armoured car whose tyres were burst during blast. After one km it stopped, Ms Benazir was transferred into another private car laying her on the back seat. Makhdoom Amin Fahim and Nahid Khan had to wait for another vehicle at roadside.
- PPP had never come forward with a list of men who were deputed on security job of Ms Benazir; how many of them died if they were actually deployed there.

Parallel to the above investigative points, speculative theories were also on high pitch those days. No one was certain about Benazir Bhutto's real culprits but guesswork and assumptions all around. The Ministry of Interior's spokesman Brig Cheema had tried to convince the nation through his media conference of 28<sup>th</sup> December 2007 that Al-Qaida was responsible for the blast which had been administered through Baitullah Mehsud. This proposition was right or wrong but Gen Musharraf, after a short while, had to make a public apology before the world media correspondents for the '*irresponsible behaviour*' of Brig Cheema. Gen Mahmood Durrani, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, while talking to the '**Washington Post**' termed Brig Cheema's media conference as 'fundamental mistake' while trying to persuade the Pakistani people in connection with Ms Benazir's assassination. Terming this approach as premature he told that:

*'You know the government of Pakistan made a fundamental mistake, and that is, on the second day (of Bhutto's killing) they made a big statement. This is what happened. So and so was responsible. I'm not going to make that mistake.'*

(Ref: '**the News' International dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2008**)

According to `The Times`, Gen Durrani conceded that government's initial contradictory statements in the aftermath of assassination of Ms Bhutto fed the widespread scepticism. The investigators, both from Pakistan government and Scotland Yard continued to dig out the truth with thriving efforts but could not reach a definite conclusion. Asif Ali Zardari and some stalwarts of the PPP had expressed their dissatisfaction over Scotland Yard's proceedings (because those were called by Gen Musharraf) and raised demand that the investigation should be done by the UN sponsored team. Ultimately, the PPP government had managed to invite UN team but with what results; sheer wastage of poor Pakistani's pocket money.

Ms Shery Rehman of PPP once had given an indication that *'the PPP does not opt to show non-cooperation with the Scotland Yard team but the PPP has not been asked to come forward and join investigation nor they are being consulted.'* Till then PPP's new official stance had surfaced that they had made out a blue print of an application to move the UN awaiting Mr Zardari's final approval. The PPP had also vowed that if Gen Musharraf would not agree to forward it to the UN they would wait till their government in office after elections. Then it would be their first job to make a move in the UN but when they assumed power it took a complete year to approach the UN in February 2009.

Gen Musharraf, while giving an interview to daily ***Le-Figaro of France on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2008*** had shunned down the idea of calling any UN sponsored investigator in that respect. For Benazir Bhutto's sad demise, the PPP in distress, misery and agony had sometimes blamed Pakistan Muslim League (Q), sometimes Gen Musharraf, sometimes Brig Ejaz Shah's civil Intelligence Bureau and very sparingly pointed towards other military agencies. PML(Q) came forward with logic that just 11 days before elections no political party would opt to take risk of gunning down rival party's leader because the later would simply attract majority of sympathy votes from borderline or neutral factions / groups. Gen Musharraf was also claiming a little relaxation by arguing that he had already developed a working relationship with the deceased Benazir Bhutto and was hoping to get all American plans implemented through an elected parliament or people's government. No one knew about the whole truth.

Instead of extending cooperation to the investigation teams (whatever their making, affiliations or intentions be), and instead of taking interest in the investigation at least to have a first hand knowledge that what were they doing and what was being (intentionally) omitted, the PPP stalwarts were chasing only one demand that the investigation be done by the United Nations. This demand was raised by Asif Ali Zardari, and then picked up by his close associates like Shery Rehman, Farooq Naik, Rehman Malik and Babar Awan etc.

PPP's Senators Farooq Naik and Babar Awan, both were practicing lawyers in the Supreme Court of Pakistan then. They had prepared a manuscript to move the case to the UN Security Council that an independent investigating commission be framed to investigate this case. For this purpose, the two lawyers had also planned to visit the UN Headquarter during those days. ***When the PPP assumed power, they shelved the idea of calling UN teams due to reasons unknown.*** Then a moment came that Farooq Naik and Babar Awan were purposefully and intentionally letting the government sponsored teams to sit on the investigation files with zero progress.

Mr Naik and Mr Babar had briefed Mr Zardari giving an example that Ms Benazir's assassination be investigated on the lines of Rafiq Hariri murder case of Lebanon which was otherwise not a true example. Apprehensions were:

- Under the charter, the UN could order an independent investigation if there were claims (and evidence) that the assassination was carried out by some other country. In Rafiq Hariri case it was alleged that the murder was sponsored or funded or managed by the Syrian government.
- In Ms Benazir's case, UN was to investigate the case on the pretext that the assassination had probably been done or sponsored by Al-Qaida group based in Afghanistan and not from its hide-outs in Pakistan.

- In this probability Mr Zardari and his associates actually lost their primary claim that Gen Musharaff or Ms Benazir's four nominated culprits (referring to the letters / e-mails sent by Ms BB to Gen Musharraf & the British Foreign Secretary prior to her departure for Pakistan on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007) were responsible for this event.
- During the first week of January 2008, the French Foreign Minister who was on two day's official tour of Pakistan, had expressed their sympathies with Ms Benazir's bereaved family but clearly opined that his government would not stand by them if such request for investigation by the UN came up in the Security Council.
- During the first week of January 2008, the Washington Post had expressed US government's stance that US had all the sympathies with the people of Pakistan at this awful event and was ready to send its investigation team of experts independently if required but they would not consider it appropriate to help any such request brought before the Security Council.

At that moment the situation surfaced that UK had since sent Scotland Yard team thus was not going to allow other country's experts on top of them, China was not approached, US and France had already shown their inability to approve the proposal, and therefore, Gen Musharraf never succumbed to PPP's demand. All they were betraying Mr Zardari at the moment when he needed sincere advice from friends and his party brains.

When one puts various pieces of jigsaw in order, the picture comes up that there were *hidden hands* behind this heinous act of crime. The attack on Ms Benazir Bhutto might have been done by some extremist group but for what benefit to their cause. The inference cropped up that there was a possibility of a faction or wing in some 'agency', which was backing that extremist group for peculiar objectives and, might be, without a formal approval of their seniors.

In the above lines, had the investigators known that the sponsoring '*jehadi*' group had done 14 alike suicidal bomb blasts in Pakistan before launching attack on Ms Benazir Bhutto; and the investigators had also determined that the same detonating material / technique of MUV-2, with the same serial numbers in continuity of lots and marks, made in and supplied by the same one factory with a difference of year of manufacture on them, they should have known until now that:

- Which factory in the world was manufacturing that kind of material?
- How that material was sold or supplied out and through which agent.
- Which was that group which managed to acquire its supply and how this material travelled from factory to the group?
- From where that group got finances to buy it; who was backing.
- From where the group acquired human beings / youngsters to play as suicide bombers and how they were transported to Rawalpindi / Islamabad or other parts of the country.

The general populace did not believe that our intelligence agencies, civil and military, had no answers to the above questions. They knew but did not want to divulge the information due to certain hidden agenda. If the trace out of the above questions [*as had claimed by the Punjab Police later*] escorted the investigators to the [American] camps at Pak-Afghan border then possibly Baitullah Mehsood or his Taliban group might be on the frontline. Had the Pakistan army or the PPP government ever lodged a protest in this respect and framed out their strategies for future.

The US authorities were not apparently happy with Gen Musharraf and worried about wastage of American aid thus wanted to change the horse at this belated stage of 'War on Terror' game. Why the US authorities chose Benazir Bhutto, invested in her, got her prepared to ride democracy and finally managed to send her to Pakistan. Before landing in Pakistan the US



arranged their final one to one (Benazir - Musharraf) secret meeting in July 2007 in Abu Dhabi. The US also got two assurances from Gen Musharraf that *firstly: there would be very fair, peaceful and transparent elections and secondly; the life of Ms Benazir Bhutto would not be endangered.*

In this un-declared contract one had backed out; either US or Gen Musharraf. Benazir Bhutto had lost her life, might be at the hands of some *Jehadi* group but surely with backing of the agencies under the sponsorship of either of the two contractual parties.

In January 2008, the team members of the Scotland Yard had gone back after collecting available forensic evidences from various places and after procuring copies of medical reports & doctor's statements from hospital. They were to analyse the evidence in detail at their HQ Laboratory in UK but before leaving they had given an indication, *interalia* that ***the audio tape of Brig Cheema, (then read over and made public before media-men) relating Baitullah Mehsud with the murder of Ms Benazir was correct & believable*** and thus, in their opinion, the assassination had probably been done by Mehsud's agents.

Consider a report of the American National Intelligence Council, purposefully designed and made-up in 2005 to destabilize Pakistan on the pretext of possession of nuclear arsenal. In this report they had 'predicted' that '*Pakistan would become a failed state within a decade when the religious extremism, slogans of provincial autonomy and linguistic hatreds would be at their peak*'. One can see that the political scenario and social conditions of Pakistan are deteriorating rapidly on day to day basis and since then. The Americans, in spite of change in governments, acted on their worked out plan and has brought Pakistan to exactly match the described conditions. Our leaders should feel the heat that how the foreign enemies are going successful in getting opportunity of seeing their malicious designs fulfilled. They are distributing dollars, guns and ammunition to all sects and factions of religious, lingual, sectarian, separatist and terrorist organizations in Pakistan; also directly to the army and certain NGOs.

The US had made a successful choice in this context to bring their dreams into reality. They had invested a lot in Ms Benazir Bhutto. They had forced Gen Musharraf to accommodate Ms Benazir in all relevant fields where the US had planned to put their footprints. They had given her all policy lines and had continuously instructed Gen Musharraf to take her through success. By the unexpected popularity gained by Ms Benazir Bhutto ***on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007*** when she returned to Pakistan after eight years self exile, the US authorities were really delighted but they wanted to convey a message to her that she should not think herself an unquestioned leader. The US wanted to remind her that she should remain subservient and docile for the real time to come.

For this purpose they got planned a suicide bomb attack on her which (*though took 152 lives and left around 300 wounded but*) exploded only after her going down into the truck body. It was an indicative lesson. The suicide bomber could have exploded him when Ms Benazir was standing open on the truck for nine hours. The moment she went inside the truck body, the bomber exploded him. The message was successfully conveyed to Ms Benazir. He could have done so earlier if he was really after Ms Benazir's life.

Benazir Bhutto, however, in her subsequent behaviour of two months, proved that Pakistan was the only and uncompromised priority for her and Pakistan's national interest was dearer to her. She started ignoring her master's guidance and tried her level best to bring the dissident elements from all the four provinces together which were quite contrary to the doctrine of American designs. To create and keep an atmosphere of harmony among the provinces Ms Benazir had taken very bold steps like:

- Benazir Bhutto had contacted twice with Baitullah Mehsud through her links (through her previous Minister for Interior Late Gen Naseerullah Babar) and conveyed him a message to put forward his demands so that table talks could be arranged.
- Benazir Bhutto had deliberately offered invitation to various religious leaders, political and non political, to come up on negotiation table so that a working relationship was established for a prosperous Pakistan.

- Benazir Bhutto had also contacted Dr A Qadeer Khan, the founder of Atomic Program in Pakistan, to compensate for his dis-respect shown by the military junta during Gen Musharraf's rule. She was successful in dispelling away her questioned image regarding Dr Qadeer's interrogation plans by the US. Ultimately Dr Qadeer was satisfied and delighted to convey her that '*you are just like my daughter and I have no grudge against you*'.
- Benazir Bhutto had categorically announced that the atomic assets of Pakistan would be taken care of by the people of Pakistan and in no case any foreign country (especially referring to America) would be welcome to provide security to our atomic war-heads. [*She had repeated this determination even in her last speech at Liaqat Bagh Rawalpindi.*]
- Benazir Bhutto, during her tour to Baluchistan after 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007, had paid visit to the descendents of Sardar Akbar Bugti who was allegedly killed by the Pakistan army contingent in an encounter in August 2006. She went there to repair the old damaged relationship since her father's premiership. In this move she went successful which also brought a good name to her political wisdom and acumen for unity in provinces.

The above steps of Benazir Bhutto were not at all approved by the controllers of CIA & Pentagon as they could see their plans shattered in connection with Pakistan. These were the ***circumstances under which Benazir Bhutto was assassinated*** though apparently through Baitullah Mehsud's group but who was feeding them; it is evident from above.

Benazir Bhutto's assassination dilemma was solved but courage to tell the real culprit at his face was needed. The US slogans were definitely pushing our leadership into the sand-grave of Saddam Hussein and Pakistan (despite being an atomic power) was being tipped to meet the fate of Iraq.

Another page of history turns over. PPP takes over reigns of the country.

#### **UN COMMISSION ON BB'S KILLING:**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to send a commission to investigate Benazir Bhutto's assassination on Government of Pakistan's request. Armed with a modest mandate and a limited timeframe, a three-member team arrived at Islamabad on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The unit, headed by the Chilean diplomat Herald Muñoz, found themselves plunged into a murky world of conspiracy theories, power politics and conflicting agendas. Muñoz was supported by the Indonesian official Marzuki Darusman and Peter Fitzgerald, a retired Irish police officer who headed the initial inquiry into the assassination of Lebanese Premier Rafik Hariri in 2005. The team had to look into the factor that Gen Musharraf's government initially had blamed the Taliban warlord Baitullah Meshud – an assessment supported by the CIA also, but Bhutto's supporters rejected the official explanation and alleged that Pakistan's most powerful intelligence agency, the ISI, was behind the attack.

After about 18 months of the PPP in power [since February 2008], the UN was asked to send a team to dispel away another conspiracy theory claiming that Zardari himself orchestrated his wife's death; a notion most analysts dismissed because of absence of any concrete evidence. Basically the UN team's mandate was to ***"establish the facts and circumstances of the assassination"*** and not to undertake a criminal investigation, which remained responsibility of the Pakistani authorities. UN team was apparently committed to assisting Pakistan by doing its utmost to determine the facts and circumstances of her death.

Pakistan kept on waiting for the UN report on Benazir Bhutto's assassination, but on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010, the sources revealed that the Punjab police had already told the UN Inquiry Commission that the murderers of Benazir had been traced out and arrested and were being tried. PPP's high stature office bearers did not know it; even Mr Zardari as president was not in-

formed officially. A few low level suspects were arrested and brought for trial just to keep the files alive.

### **PUNJAB POLICE INV. REPORT:**

Furthermore, according to official documents provided to the UN Inquiry Commission by the Special Branch of the Punjab Police, a group of 12 militants was actually sent to Rawalpindi, a day earlier, to physically eliminate the PPP leader. Additional IG Special Branch Punjab Ch Abdul Majeed had supervised the investigation. The documents told that four of the 12 militants tasked to kill Benazir Bhutto belonged to *Darul Uloom Haqqania* in Akora Khattak near Peshawar. The *Madrassa* was being run by Maulana Samiul Haq, the pro-Taliban Ameer of one faction of JUI. Three out of the said 12 TTP militants had already been killed, including the suicide bomber. Of the remaining nine accused, five were arrested by police while the remaining four were missing till the UN team's arrival. It was later held that the assassination inquiry was actually conducted by a Joint Investigation Team (JIT), headed by the above named Addl IG.

In April 2010, the *challan* (final report) of Benazir Bhutto's murder case was submitted in Rawalpindi anti-terrorism court where the trial was on. The three accused shown as already dead included the suicidal bomber Saeed alias Bilal (r/o Waziristan), Nadir alias Qari Ismail and Nasrullah both from *Madrassa Haqqania*, Akora Khattak. The absconder four accused persons were also hailing from the same religious school. The five accused in the custody of the Rawalpindi police were being tried included Rafaqat, Hasnain Gul, Sher Zaman, Rasheed Ali and Aitzaz Shah if their names and identities were true. Allegedly, Baitullah Mehsud had given Rs:400,000 to one Qari Ismail, who subsequently dispatched a group of these 12 suicide bombers and shooters to Rawalpindi to kill Benazir Bhutto.

Going into more details of Punjab Police Report, Aitzaz Shah from Mansehra (only 15 years old) and his co-accomplice Sher Zaman, reportedly trained at Miranshah, were arrested from D I Khan by JIT; two more suspects, Hasnain Gul and Rafaqat, were later arrested from Rawalpindi. As per police report Aitzaz Shah had obtained *Jihadi* training from a well known *Deobandi* religious school in Karachi; *Jamia Binoria*, also referred to as *Jamia Islamia* and known for its pro-Taliban thoughts. After being brain washed and trained to kill, Aitzaz was sent to South Waziristan, travelled back to *Darul Uloom Haqqania* from where he was taken to a *Jihadi* training centre named as '*Wali Mohammad Markaz*' for further assigned activity in Rawalpindi.

Contrarily, the PPP had rejected the confession made by Aitzaz Shah and his accomplices declaring that the said story was fabricated to reduce pressure on the provincial government which had the primary liability of investigating this case because Rawalpindi was in Punjab's territorial jurisdiction. The main figure of story was only '*15 years old, a juvenile by law, thus cannot be trusted for such huge task of killing Benazir Bhutto.*'

### **UN COMMISSION'S INV. REPORT:**

During the same month, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010, the United Nations investigation team had submitted their report to the UN Council. It was a report of about 70 pages and in its **Chapter IV under 'Main Findings'**, the conclusion was:

*"After nine years in exile, former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007, in the context of a tenuous and inconclusive political agreement with Gen Musharraf, as part of a process encouraged and facilitated by the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States. It was an eventual power sharing arrangement but the final terms were never agreed.*

*Ms Bhutto was murdered on 27th December 2007 when a 15 and a half year-old suicide bomber (as earlier told by the Punjab Police) detonated his explosives near her*

*vehicle as she was leaving the PPP event at Liaquat Bagh Rawalpindi. A range of government officials failed profoundly in their efforts first to protect Ms Bhutto and second to investigate with vigour all those responsible for her murder, not only in the execution of the attack, but also in its conception, planning and financing.*

*Responsibility for Ms Bhutto's security on the day of her assassination rested with the Federal Government, the government of Punjab and the Rawalpindi District Police. None of these entities took necessary measures to respond to the extraordinary and urgent security risks that they knew she faced.*

*Gen Musharraf's state machinery remained confined to pass on the threats (to Ms Bhutto's security) to her and provincial authorities and were not proactive in neutralizing them. The federal Government failed in its primary responsibility to provide effective protection to Ms Bhutto on her return to Pakistan. Particularly inexcusable was the Government's failure to direct provincial authorities to provide Ms Bhutto the same stringent and specific security measures it ordered on 22nd October 2007 for two other former PMs who belonged to the main political party supporting Gen Musharraf. The specific threats against her were otherwise being tracked by the ISI.*

*Ms Bhutto's assassination on 27th December 2007 could have been prevented if the Rawalpindi District Police had taken adequate security measures. The security arrangements for Ms Bhutto done by the Rawalpindi District Police were ineffective and insufficient. The police's security plan, as written, was flawed, containing insufficient focus on Ms Bhutto's protection and focusing instead on the deployment of police for crowd control purposes. In many respects, the security plan was not implemented. Although the plan called for deploying 1371 police officers, the actual deployment did not approach that number.*

*Among other failings: the police co-ordinated poorly with the PPP's own security; police escort units did not protect Ms Bhutto's vehicle as tasked; parked police vehicles blocked the emergency route; and, the police took grossly inadequate steps to clear the crowd so that Ms Bhutto's vehicle would have safe passage on leaving Liaquat Bagh. The performance of individual police officers and police leadership was poor in areas of forward planning, accountability and command and control.*

*The additional security arrangements of the PPP lacked leadership and were inadequate and poorly executed. The heroism of individual PPP supporters, many of whom sacrificed themselves to protect Ms Bhutto should have been properly canalised by the Chief of PPP's security [Mr Rehman Malik]. More serious, Ms Bhutto was left vulnerable in a severely damaged vehicle by the irresponsible and hasty departure of the bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz which, as the back-up vehicle, was an essential part of her convoy [perhaps purposefully taken away by Rehman Malik, Babar Awan & Farhatullah Babar].*

*The Rawalpindi District Police's actions and omissions in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of Ms Bhutto, including the hosing down of the crime scene and failure to collect and preserve evidence, inflicted irreparable damage to the investigation. The collection of 23 pieces of evidence was manifestly inadequate in a case that should have resulted in thousands. The one instance in which the authorities reviewed these actions, the Punjab committee of inquiry into the hosing down of the crime scene was a whitewash.*

*Hosing down the crime scene so soon after the blast goes beyond mere incompetence and needed fixing criminal responsibility on many. CPO Saud Aziz impeded and obstructed Joint Investigation Team investigators from conducting on-site investigations until two full days after the assassination. The provincial authorities also failed to review effectively the gross failures of the senior police officials on duty.*

*The deliberate prevention by CPO Saud Aziz of a post mortem examination of Ms Bhutto hindered a definitive determination of the cause of her death. It was patently*

*unrealistic for the CPO to expect that Mr Zardari would allow an autopsy on his arrival in Pakistan while in the meantime her remains had been placed in a coffin and brought to the airport. The autopsy should have been carried out at RGH long before Mr Zardari arrived. The Commission was persuaded that the Rawalpindi police chief, CPO Saud Aziz, did not act independently of higher authorities, either in the decision to hose down the crime scene or to impede the post-mortem examination.*

*The press conference conducted by Brig Cheema on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2007 was ordered by Gen Musharraf. The Government's assertion that Ms Bhutto's death was caused when she hit her head on the lever of her vehicle's escape hatch and that Baitullah Mehsud and Al-Qaida were responsible for the suicide bomber were made well before any proper investigation had been initiated. This action pre-empted, prejudiced and hindered the subsequent investigation.*

*An unequivocal determination as to the cause and means of Ms Bhutto's death was required [through] an autopsy. The Commission could not find any new evidence to suggest a gunshot injury to Ms Bhutto. Instead, a senior PPP official who publicly purported soon after the assassination to have seen indications of a bullet injury admitted to the Commission that she did not have direct knowledge of such an injury.*

*Ms Bhutto faced serious threats in Pakistan from a number of sources; these included Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and local jihadi groups and potentially from elements in the Pakistani Establishment. Notwithstanding these threats, the investigation into her assassination focused on pursuing lower level operatives allegedly linked to Baitullah Mehsud. The Commission considered it disturbing that little was done to investigate Baitullah Mehsud himself, Al-Qaeda and any individuals or organizations that might have worked on, supported or otherwise been involved directly or indirectly in the planning or execution of the assassination. Investigators also dismissed the possibility of involvement by elements of the Establishment, including the three persons identified by Ms Bhutto as threats to her in her 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007 letter to Gen Musharraf and the British Authorities.*

*The Commission identified other significant flaws in the JIT investigation led by the Punjab Additional IG Abdul Majeed. It lacked direction, was ineffective and suffered from a lack of commitment to identify and bring all of the perpetrators to justice. This delay further hampered the gathering of evidence. Despite indications that there were links between the Karachi and Rawalpindi attacks, there had been no communication between the investigators on those two cases.*

***The investigation was severely hampered by intelligence agencies and other government officials***, which impeded an unfettered search for the truth. They were not having mandate to conduct criminal investigations, intelligence agencies including the ISI were present during key points in the police investigation, including the gathering of evidence at the crime scene and the forensic examination of Ms Bhutto's vehicle, playing a role that the police were reluctant to reveal to the Commission.

***More significantly, the ISI conducted parallel investigations, gathering evidence and detaining suspects.*** Evidence gathered from such parallel investigations was selectively shared with the police. What little direction police investigators had was provided to them by the intelligence agencies. However, the bulk of the information was not shared with police investigators. In fact, investigators on both the Karachi and Rawalpindi cases were unaware of information the ISI possessed about terrorist cells targeting Ms Bhutto and were unaware that the ISI had detained four persons in late October 2007 for the Karachi attack.

*More broadly, no aspect of the Commission's inquiry was untouched by credible assertions of politicized and clandestine action by the intelligence services – the ISI, Military Intelligence, and the Intelligence Bureau. On virtually every issue the Commission addressed, intelligence agencies played a pervasive and omnipresent role, in-*

*cluding a central involvement in political negotiations regarding Ms Bhutto's return to Pakistan and the conduct of the elections.*

*The Commission believed that:*

***'The failures of the police and other officials to react effectively to Ms Bhutto's assassination were, in most cases, deliberate. In other cases, the failures were driven by uncertainty in the minds of many officials as to the extent of the involvement of intelligence agencies [especially the ISI].***

*These officials, in part fearing involvement by the intelligence agencies, were unsure of how vigorously they ought to pursue actions that they knew, as professionals, they should have taken."*

The PPP government, with more than three years in absolute power, should have unearthed the perpetrators of this assassination and be brought to justice till now. The FIA teams should have been fully empowered and resourced much earlier to accomplish this important job expeditiously and comprehensively, at all levels, without hindrance. The UN Commission had categorically stated that the performance of the Pakistani police was severely inadequate to the task of investigating the assassination of Ms Bhutto and lacking in independence and the political will to find the truth, wherever it might have lead. The FIA team should have grasped an independent review much earlier to fix responsibilities on individuals for their actions or inactions.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2009, the AT Court shelved the trial proceedings following a federal government request to transfer the case to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Three days after, the government formed a high-level team to re-investigate Benazir Bhutto's killing. A Special Investigation Group (SIG) of the FIA was assigned the task to fix criminal liability on the assassins and planners behind the murder. This investigation was to be done parallel to the probe being carried out by the United Nations Inquiry Commission. Quite understandable because *'the UN Commission Report can't be presented before any court of law as desired by the UN. The FIA's investigation report would be required for a proper trial against the criminals in the court'*. The United Nations report would have no legal standing for prosecution.

Later, when the media men tried to take version of *Jamia Binoria* Karachi and of *Madrasa Haqqania Akora Khattak*, the responsible administrators simply declined the said accusations levelled against them. It was evident but Pakistan's 'investigative journalists' never bothered to dig out the truth by various available means to apprise the people of facts. On the other hand, the actions of militarized intelligence agencies undermine democratic governance. In addition, the democratic rule of law in the country should have been strengthened by the PPP later.

The assassination of Benazir Bhutto occurred against the backdrop of a history of political violence which was not taken seriously even by the PPP government. The UN team had rightly suggested that to address this issue, Pakistan should consider establishing a transitory, fully independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate, without fear or favour, all political killings, disappearances and terrorism in recent years.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010, six senior police officials were made OSD, sidelined and their names were put on the Exit Control List (ECL), for being responsible for lapses in security of Benazir Bhutto on the day of assassination. The government also cancelled the contract of DG Civil Defence Brig Javed Iqbal Cheema, who was then spokesman of Interior Ministry and had claimed that BB's death was due to the hitting of jeep's roof handle and not the bullet. Those officials who were made OSD included former DCO Rawalpindi Irfan Elahi, former Rawalpindi CPO Saud Aziz, SPs Khurram Shahzad, Ishfaq Anwar, Abdul Majeed Marwat and Yaseen Farooqi.

The *challan* (final report) of BB's case was submitted in the AT Court in the first week of February 2011. The police officers Saud Aziz and Khurram Shahzad were arrested in December 2010. Saud Aziz had claimed in his testimony that:

*'The order to change Benazir's security in-charge had been given by Gen Musharraf himself and the scene of occurrence was also washed immediately on his specific orders.'*

Later the court was told by the FIA that Gen Musharraf had been named as an "absconding accused" as he was not cooperating in the investigation. FIA's prosecutor [named Zulfikar Chaudhary] also told the court that:

*'Both detained police officials were in contact with the former president [Gen Musharraf] and were following his orders. The phone records confirm contact between Gen Musharraf and Saud Aziz.'*

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Gen Musharraf was declared as a proclaimed offender in the said BB's case. A report of Benazir Bhutto's BlackBerry mobile set was also submitted in the court. No call was sent from or received at her mobile after 3PM that day.

During the first week of November 2011, the Anti Terrorism Court indicted seven people including the former police chief of Rawalpindi named Saud Aziz; Khurram Shahzad, another senior police officer [SP City Rawalpindi] was also charged. In a closed-door hearing at a high-security prison in Rawalpindi, Justice Shahid Rafique charged all the seven men with criminal conspiracy and murder, whereas one Chaudhry Azhar attended the court as a special public prosecutor in the case. The five militants [named in earlier paragraphs], who were believed to be members of the Pakistani Taliban, were arrested four years ago and remained in jail. Two of them had admitted helping in the suicide bombing.

The two police officers were charged for negligence and failure to perform their duties by ordering the crime scene hosed down two hours after the attack, by removing evidence and by reducing Benazir Bhutto's security detail several days before the attack. The two officers were free on bail. All seven suspects denied the charges.

***New York Times of 5th November 2011***, while commenting on Benazir Bhutto's assassination, had also opined that:

*'A United Nations investigation reported last year that the failure of Pakistani authorities to effectively investigate the killing was "deliberate" and that the investigation had been "severely hampered" by the country's powerful intelligence agencies.*

*As per UN's report Mr. Aziz, the police chief, ordered the washing of the scene and impeding the investigation. But it also said that Mr. Aziz gave the order after receiving a call from army headquarters [GHQ], possibly involving Maj Gen Nadeem Ijaz Ahmad, then Director General of Military Intelligence.*

*Mr. Musharraf, who fled the country in 2008 under threat of impeachment, has also been charged in the case. A Pakistani court issued an arrest warrant for him in February, accusing him of failing to provide Ms. Bhutto with adequate security.'*

**P**

### **OST SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT:**

The Supreme Court, on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012, issued notices to 12 people including Babar Awan, Rehman Malik, Ch Pervez Elahi, Gen Musharraf and eight others in petition, seeking to lodge a new FIR in Benazir Bhutto's assassination case. The petition was moved by the former Chief Protocol Officer of Ms Bhutto named Chaudhry Aslam, an advocate by profession, who was accompanying the entourage on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and had also sustained injuries during the bomb blast. SC bench headed by the CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry was hearing the petition. The above said 12 respondents including Interior Minister, former law minister, PML(Q) leader and

others were asked to file para-wise comments, if they so desire, within a period of two weeks.

Chaudhry Aslam, the petitioner, told the court that he had been trying to get a second FIR registered since 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009, but in vain. He urged that just after the incident, many leaders disappeared from the crime scene; and that why the *jammers* were not installed at the crime scene.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011, Rawalpindi Bench of the LHC had dismissed the plea of Ch Aslam, in which he had requested the court to order putting Babar Awan and Rehman Malik on the Exit Control List (ECL). One of the judges had written an additional note that Ch Aslam was neither an aggrieved party, nor a legal heir of Benazir Bhutto, and thus had no right to seek the registration of an FIR in the BB's murder case.

The CJP J Chaudhry, while heading the 3 judges' bench comprising J Khilji Arif Hussain and J Tariq Pervaiz also ordered the special judge of Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), seized of the matter of Benazir Bhutto's murder, to submit copies of the proceedings along with order sheets and progress so far made in the case in the next hearing. Ch Aslam had also prayed that the first FIR submitted in the case did not mention the names of the 'real culprits'. In his application, he pleaded to include the names of former Interior Minister Gen Hamid Nawaz, former DG IB Ejaz Shah, former Interior Secretary Kamal Shah, Brig (r) Javed Cheema, former DCO Rawalpindi Irfan Elahi, former CPO Rawalpindi Saud Aziz and SPs Rawal Town Khurram Shahzad and Yaseen Farooq in addition to the earlier mentioned names of Rehman Malik, Babar Awan and Ch Pervez Elahi.

The Chief Justice noted that Mr Zardari was not satisfied with the trial of the case and wanted to know about progress made thus far. *'President Asif Ali Zardari had asked the court - during his address to a public gathering in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh at the death anniversary of the late Benazir Bhutto (27<sup>th</sup> December 2011) - what it had done in the assassination case of Benazir Bhutto'* [verbatim: ***Chief Sahab! I ask you what had happened to the killers of Benazir Bhutto***]. Justice Iftikhar recalled. *'Mr Attorney General, how do you see and what weight do you give to the statement of the President?'*

Ch Aslam, the petitioner claimed to be an affected person who received injuries during the fatal assassination attack on the former premier. The CJP observed:

*'The court's responsibilities had multiplied. The matter of the applicant was of serious nature. According to the appellant, he knows better about the incident because he was there and received injuries.'*

Rashid A Rizvi appeared before the court along with the petitioner. During the hearing, the CJP asked the Attorney General Maulvi Anwarul Haq whether he was satisfied with the progress of the investigation; and commented that a tribunal comprising senior officials from all the provinces could have been formed to probe the BB's murder because the UN Commission's report was civil in nature, not criminal. It was the task of the government to take clues from it and carry out an independent investigation. Affidavits on behalf of the two alleged suspects, Brig Javed Iqbal Cheema and Kamal Shah were placed before the apex court urging that they did not have any involvement in the case.

Let us wait for further developments in the given scenario.