

New forms to confront new developments

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The horrific reality of Quaid-e-Azam's last day of life remains graphic in minds. The terminally ailing Governor General died, most probably, because the one and only ambulance that was sent to Karachi airport to bring him in the GG House there, got broke down enroute, on the 11th Sep, 1948. Sirdar Shaukat Hayat in his autobiography reveals that he actually saw marks of strangulation on Fatima Jinnah's throat. Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan was assassinated and Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was finished by General Zia (CMLA) after 'the murder of trail'. The CMLA was killed in the air crash. Surprisingly, not even US Congressional or Senate Committee investigated the death of its ambassador in this crash. Since US did not, how could Pakistan investigate? Muslim states were always vulnerable to pressure and blackmail and never had spunk to stand on their two feet. The US has always been able to have its own way with Pakistan, penetrating deep into its body politic and controlling its rulers with the strings of economic aid and military support, to fight for US interests. The close confidants of Pakistan President/ Prime Minister were almost always US men. After demonstrating Unilateralism, the neo-cons led by G.W. Bush, an evangelist Christian, have converted themselves into fundamentalists after having received an epiphany through Zionists to crush evil that exists for them only in the Muslim World.

With the measures taken by the government, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz seems sure of reducing poverty level to around 20 percent by the end of 2010. What will then be the poverty level, is not known. The modern idea of development was born as a consequence of Truman Doctrine, which was formulated to meet the challenge of communism that was sought to be countered by the premise of "development" to be propelled by "development assistance" to help the under-developed societies catch up with developed countries.

Development was exclusively defined as economic development, which was to be measured only by the level of production. For the broad masses of the Third World development remained as pursuit of will-o'-the-wisp. Contrary to all the tall claims, the economic benefits never trickled down to vast majority of the people.

The grass-roots movements rejected the notion that develop-

ment is for the few. There are millions and millions of our people who hardly get one meal a day. Is this civilization? Is this the aim of Pakistan?..... If this is the idea of Pakistan, I would not have it.

To have endogenous character leads to the premise that knowledge must also grow and come from people themselves. The paradigm stresses non-hierarchical learning in which no one forces anybody, but, instead knowledge is sought and created through mutual dialogue and collective inquiry. Such a paradigm strengthens democratic culture. Knowledge has taken quantum jump and doubles every year.

Tragedy also played its part. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah died just over a year after independence. The mantle of towering figure was inherited by a succession of squabbling political lightweights. Conflicts about the role of Islam and how much autonomy to be developed to the federating units delayed constitution

The first is due to absence of meaningful reforms. Unwillingness to transform was essentially as a consequence of having colonial administrative structures to those responsive to the changing needs of a developing society. Government machinery remained ill equipped, even dysfunctional to the demands of modern governance. The instrument of rule remained in the hands of an Oligarchy that sought to uphold status quo even as it learnt to use democracy to consolidate its own narrow interests.

The second factor emerged during seventies and eighties. The prolonged politicization of police and the administrative systems distorted state's functions, resulting in the erosion of authority, efficiency and morale. Judiciary entrusted with the crucial responsibility to confront any adventurism, has failed to deliver again, since 1977. Supreme Court while busy in trying Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was

ability whenever a new government gets itself into the saddle. One hears from them how corrupt their predecessors were.

However, the nation find them soon to be no different. The present government can expect tough time for itself by its successors. Economically, we have achieved great success; Legislature, Judiciary and Executive are all very important.

No less important however, is the media, the fourth pillar of the state. Apart from what they did on 28 Nov 1997, they bulldozed the amendments in the constitution, thus concentrating all power in one hand. They forgot that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Dr. Malecha Lodhi, editor of a Newspaper 'The News' was chased to be trapped, 'THE MUSLIM' was closed down and the editor of 'The Frontier Post' was thrown in a jail at Lahore. The country stood muzzled, even when the Kargil was given back to India without at least taking Siachin, which was occupied by India in 1984 when Pakistan was fighting in US war in Afghanistan.

Some say, around 80 billion dollars were stashed away. According to 'THE MUSLIM' dated 24 Jan 97, in 'COMMENT' Brig (R) SA Trimzi wrote: "Intelligence reports on Mian Sahib's visit to India in 1978, question, as to why this unknown businessman from Lahore, resting in Dubai was given red carpet treatment and a political parleys arranged with senior members of the Indian Intelligence- political elite". Even the worst enemy of Quaid-e-Azam, M. A. Jinnah eulogized his forthright, transparent conduct and dealings. Jinnah was a democrat in the true sense of it, he said: "Muslims in Pakistan want to be able to establish their own real (not rigged) democratic government."

The government will have the sanction of the mass of the entire population of Pakistan and will function with the will and sanction of the entire body of people in Pakistan, irrespective of Caste, Creed or Colour". We need a strong 'Election Commission' appointed forthwith, 22 percent or less than that which voted in 2003 general elections was too small a figure for a universal franchise. Now, even Saudi Arabia is rushing for democracy. The archaic systems must be assigned back to the ruins of Dark Ages. If there is no democracy, Pakistan might not be there.

The political parties with their crocodile tears for democracy must strengthen the NSC first. Then they will not only be able to have a stable democracy

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rejected the notion that development can be delivered from "above". Development must be endogenous. There can be no development unless the people's pride in themselves as worthy human beings, inferior to none, is asserted. The human quality of a people is independent of their economic condition. People need self-esteem to give their best and most creative response to vigorous challenges of development. Jinnah was a great emancipator and conscious of self-esteem.

He said: "May I appeal to the youth to emancipate our women. This is essential. What I mean is that women should share out life, not only social but also political". At the thirteen session of the All-India Muslim League, at Delhi, on 24th April 1943, Jinnah said: "there I should like to give a warning to the landlords and capitalists who flourished at our expense by a system, which is so vicious, which is so wicked and which makes them so selfish that it is difficult to reason with them.

They have forgotten the lesson of Islam. Greed and selfishness have made these people subordinate to the interests of others in order to fatten them-

making. In 1971, the former East Pakistan (Bengla Desh) was lost, due to Indian invasion of that wing.

During Mr. Z.A Bhutto's period, people saw prosperity as the items of daily use were subsidized by the government and any body who wanted employment abroad went to the Middle East and Gulf oil states. Common man was happy for a change. Zia's policies left the most troublesome and enduring legacy. Ethnic and sectarian violence, Army's employment on internal security duties, depolitisation of the fragmented society, eroded the already frail political institutions and encouraged the expression of civic demands and grievances in linguistic and sectarian modes.

Meanwhile, politicians of bureaucracy perverted the functioning of the 'steal frame' and led to weakening of the apparatus of state. Pakistani's problems, because of his policies, have multiplied and it faces enemies within the country and from across its borders, simultaneously.

Two sets of factors have been responsible for decline.

day assaulted, on 28 Nov 1997. Tribalism, Sirdari Nizam and feudalism, the symbols of archaism prevented democracy, destroyed institutions and the character of services, right from day one. Consequently, civil and military bureaucracy with politicized police like itself have plundered the garden of democratic rule- the rule of the vast majority comprising common man. India finished them right away and established firm democracy; Pakistan couldn't do that and lost more than half of its population and seems to have lost its bearings too, not just because of what happened on 12 Oct, 1999, but because of 'musical chairs' business that begun soon after the first year of independence.

Almost all governments since Ayub Khan's government in 1958 made a lot of noise about rampant corruption and the need for rooting it out, disqualification of the so-called corrupt politicians and making a fresh start. Yet almost all of them improved upon the level of corruption. Adhocism was responsible for it.

One hears about account-

first. Then they will not only be able to have a stable democracy but also be able to keep the civil/ military bureaucracy at its place. Pakistan has as many perils as it has got the opportunities for itself. Life does not stand still, like the interests of the foreign powers. History is constantly on the march, making it necessary to evolve new forms to cope with new developments.

This perennial opposition between life and form has now been intensified, because the pace of life is much faster than it has ever been in human existence. Unless leaders are endowed with vision, wisdom and courage, they can not see through the intense conflict between dynamic reality and static forms.

The leader today must have the vision and integrity to remain at the crest of the movement which brought them to power, otherwise they are doomed to become the flotsam and jetsam of history. At this epochal juncture fathomless opportunities and awesome consequences stand shoulder to shoulder before Pakistan. We need a leadership that could make the best of the opportunities for Pakistan.

tem and improve the quality of their life.

The irony is that these are the leaders who claim to speak for their people although they

any more. It would also many of the facilities the Baloch are expected to pacify them.

qu for the Baloch in federally managed public service projects.