**View from the distance**

**[Muhammad Zahid Rifat](https://nation.com.pk/Columnist/muhammad-zahid-rifat)**

January 27, 2021

According to good old parliamentary practices and traditions, which surely and certainly need to be upheld and strengthened, the government of the day and the opposition are like two wheels of a vehicle. Both these wheels have to move together in a smooth manner otherwise the speed of the vehicle will be adversely affected and it may not be able to keep moving straight on the road. If one wheel gets or becomes defective, then the people at large suffer more than the government as the speedy and timely implementation of ongoing development works is hampered directly and indirectly and the fruits of developmental activities do not reach the people as intended and desired by the government.

Furthermore, in a parliamentary system the opposition leader in the National Assembly is regarded as the prime minister-in-waiting. In a number of other countries like Britain, the opposition even has a shadow cabinet though the shadow cabinet tradition somehow does not exist in Pakistan.

[Turkish serials rate high in popularity in Bangladesh](https://nation.com.pk/07-Feb-2021/turkish-serials-rate-high-in-popularity-in-bangladesh)

In a democratic system, which is quite fortunately prevailing in Pakistan for some years, opposition also has the right to criticise the government policies, programmes and developmental activities. Such criticism is good and even welcomed by the government if it is healthy criticism aimed at improving things, here and there with good intentions and objectives. Merely criticism for the sake of criticism or for political point scoring is neither liked and welcomed by the government nor is it productive in any manner. Needless to mention here that negative criticism by the opposition hampers progress and the development of the country, both directly and indirectly and in all fairness is not appreciated by the people at large besides the government against whom such negative and hostile criticism is carried out. Democratic rights so given to the opposition in a democratic system is for affecting improvement, pointing out shortcomings and faults in the implementation of development works and procedure adopted for execution of development projects for setting things right timely and in the overall larger interest of the country and the nation. Such criticism should obviously be done for improving things and supporting the government if it is doing something good and not for trying to pull down the government, hampering its developmental activities or obstructing its pro-people welfare measures.

[India’s actions clearly pose danger to Int’l peace, security: Munir](https://nation.com.pk/07-Feb-2021/india-s-actions-clearly-pose-danger-to-int-l-peace-security-munir)

Following the last general election, held on July 25, 2018 in a free, fair and transparent manner, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI), headed by Imran Khan, came into power at the national level for the first time. Former ruling parties and other minor parties were the losers. They did not accept the election results saying these were rigged and a selected prime minister was imposed on the country and its people.

The opposition parties and their leaders continued their hostile outbursts against PM Imran Khan and his government for some time, individually calling it inefficient, incompetent, selected and what not; calling for him to step down. Then out of nowhere, the Maulana emerged on the national scene, contacted the opposition leadership and as a result of his efforts, 11 major and minor opposition parties formed an alliance some months back to exert pressure on the democratically elected peoples’ government and asked the prime minister to resign and go home packing. The newly -formed opposition alliance apparently had only a one-item agenda of pulling down the PTI government.

[Prince Harry and Meghan Markle secretly met with California governor ahead of US election - report](https://nation.com.pk/07-Feb-2021/prince-harry-and-meghan-markle-secretly-met-with-california-governor-ahead-of-us-election-report)

The people by and large including this scribe, irrespective of their locations, were and continue to view, per force, the protest activities of the opposition parties alliance, as a host of tv channels gave their protest activities excessive coverage, firstly as live coverage and then prominent coverage in their news headlines bulletins subsequently. What follows here as such, is based on distance viewing of the opposition protest activities against the government.

The alliance has so far held almost a dozen protest public meetings and rallies in different parts of the country and has been addressed by 11 major and minor parties thriving on only a one-item agenda of ouster of the present regime, calling the democratically elected Prime Minister all foul, filthy and nonsense names to say the least.

All the political parties firming the opposition alliance are based in Pakistan. But quite surprisingly, shockingly and regretfully at none of their protest meetings and rallies, the national flag was seen on stage. Utterances by some of the alliance leaders were pretty hostile, against national interests, national security and defence institutions. These anti-Pakistan utterances were not condemned by other alliance leaders sitting on the stage.

[First ever Int'l marathon race takes place in Karachi](https://nation.com.pk/07-Feb-2021/first-ever-int-l-marathon-race-takes-place-in-karachi)

Throughout, the opposition leaders have so far failed to tell the people including the participating workers and the people at large viewing and hearing them through tv channels as to what they planned to do for the well-being and welfare of the people at large and what policies they would be following once they are “able” to throw out the democratically-elected government and the Prime Minister by persisting and exerting pressure consistently day in and day out. Will the country thus be left in the lurch and vacuum so to say?

While the opposition alliance is clamouring for the early hearing by the Election Commission foreign funding case against the ruling party PTI, they also held a protest demonstration in this regard outside the Election Commission; They did not ask to also probe foreign funding of the former ruling parties. The Election Commission of Pakistan, according to the reports, has since required all major and minor parties represented in the parliament to submit accounts and details of their foreign funding.

[Govt moves for open Senate vote amid dissent](https://nation.com.pk/07-Feb-2021/govt-moves-for-open-senate-vote-amid-dissent)

Furthermore and more importantly, a number of former ruling parties and other opposition parties are facing corruption, money laundering and other cases in the superior courts, Ehtesab courts and inquiries and investigations before the national watchdog, NAB. It would have been better and advisable if they had utilised their time and energies to get themselves cleared of these cases and inquiries and getting a clean slate. Then their criticism of the incumbent government would have carried some weight which is missing and lacking presently.

One may ask the opposition leadership as to who is funding their protest meetings and rallies, lavish lunches and dinners as such huge arrangements of stages and chairs, and gathering and revelling of workers and madaris cannot be made for free. Everything comes by spending a little or more money.

One can go on discussing the undemocratic activities of the opposition alliance and leaders but for want of space, this is avoided. More about the opposition alliance leaders and their hostile anti-government activities and the prevailing indecisiveness in their ranks as to how to go about further to exert more pressure and force the Prime Minister to resign and go home at some other time in some detail, as distance viewing of their protest activities continues per force courtesy tv channels.