

# Democracy sans system

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**S**ome circles within the intelligentsia as well as among the politicians are of the considered opinion that simple restoration of democracy without shackles and preconditions, is going to end up all kinds of imbroglios wherever they are taking place or are likely to take place.

Apparently, this seems to be too naïve a view as if democracy's positive fruits work like magic and are likely to put an end to severe inter-provincial or inter-institution or inter-tribe disputes with automation.

Democracy, no doubt, has proven to this day to be the best possible and highly workable system of governance that tends to cater to the needs of all the quarters in an equitable manner given the democracy's focus on representative way of functioning.

Nevertheless, it is purely hypothetical to think that conflicts can be resolved without putting in place the right mechanism that ought to be worked out in consultation with all the key players irrespective of the fact whether the key players belong to the democratic circles or to the opposite camp. The reason is simple to understand and requires a bit study of the role played by our undemocratic forces at times in disrupting the smoothly running democratic systems even despite the fact that those systems were there only for a transitory period.

Even during those periods of time when the country had been under democracy that can be termed somewhat true democracy in the sense that was preceded by totally free and fair elections, many superiors from the undemocratic setups have been meddling with the affairs of the elected, civilian governments to the extent of crippling the democracy.

It is now an established fact that the undemocratic structures and influences have, over the passage of time, virtually transformed into organized entities contributing to some degree to the promotion of interests of many a sector thus obtaining the pleasure and acceptability from various sectors that enjoy considerable clout in the national scheme of things.

Of course, many sectors are most often if not always, available to welcome these undemocratic quarters for their survival or in the best interest of their own gains that are usually compromised if defiance towards government is resorted to.

Take for instance, the business community. Despite the fact that some powerful business cartels have come into being whose influence barely wanes during any period of time without any regard for the fact as to which party or ruler holds the reins of power, the commerce and industry sector has to undergo massive interaction with the government sector. That interaction some times transforms into dependence over the government and this fact holds true not only in controlled economies but also in systems where deregulation and lesser government are the priorities.

It is this particular issue that President General Pervez Musharraf is always exploiting in the garb of continuity of reforms or economic reforms or even under the banner of continuity. For sure, continuity is an important factor provided, however, it does not compromise the representative character of the system of governance.