



True democracy?

BY SYED ATIQ UL HASSAN *12/18/04 Democracy*

Historical facts show All India Muslim League failed to obtain the support of the majority of Muslims in the Muslim-majority provinces till 1946 in United India. In the general election of 1937 the Muslim League could not achieve the prominent support from the Muslim voters in the Muslim-majority provinces. In Sind, Punjab, Balochistan and Frontier where the landlord culture had been ruling, Muslim League could not obtain mandate from the people as the landlords in these states had not yet announced the support for the then Muslim League.

When Pakistan was close to reality, the far sighted landlords started shaking hands with Mohammad Ali Jinnah (the founder of Pakistan) to secure the survival of their command and culture. In Punjab after realizing the situation the big landlords like Mumtaz Daulatana and Nawab Mamdot changed horses and joined the Muslim League. After the fateful Indian general election of 1946, most of the feudal class became the part of Muslim League and the forefront leaders of the Muslim League when Pakistan came into existence on 14th of August, 1947.

In Sind, the State was in the hands of changing coalitions of Muslim and Hindu landlords. Their social background was much the same as of the Unionists in Punjab. The big landowners' families like Bhutto, Mukhdoom, Jatoi, Talpure felt the need of the time to join the ruling Muslim League. Similarly, in the Frontier, Congress was in power until the creation of Pakistan and Balochistan was too isolated in the political campaign.

Hence, the landlords of Sind, Punjab, Balochistan and Frontier were the first gift to Pakistan with their traditional culture. They became the frontline politicians in Pakistani politics and politics became their family business. Since then the feudal cul-

tion of the military.

When one army dictator introduces a civil chap the other kicks him out. Ayub Khan brought Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Zia ul Haque threw him out from the power and hanged him on murder charges. Zia ul Haque brought Nawaz Sharif who then became the prime minister. Pervez Musharraf threw him out not only from the power but from the country.

Now Pervez Musharraf is bringing Shaukat Aziz, a man who does not have any political background but is being introduced as a technocrat. One has to see who is going to end his story.

To satisfy the outside world, similar to the British Rulers in India before the partition of India, the army in Pakistan ran a parliamentary system with keeping the ultimate power in their hands. To legitimize their supremacy when required the constitution of Pakistan is changed through their employed parliamentary system.

The deep rooted strong army, bureaucrats and feudal relationship can be measured by analyzing the profiles of the people serving the top positions in the government whether as a bureaucrat or a minister or a CEO of any governmental body. One would find they have family relationships and business partnerships among each other. If not the same face but the member of the same family would be enjoying the role. Even the children of the military dictators joined politics without having any political academicism. General Ayub Khan's son Gohar Ayub became the foreign minister of the country. Eijaz-ul-Haq who has no political qualification except that he is an ordinary bank officer and the son of General Zia-ul-Haq, at present, he is holding a ministry in the present government.

Victimized by the unfair favouritism culture many high-level profes-