



TARIQ MUSHTAQ

## INJURIES OF SHARIF

**“Wise men don’t need advice. Fools won’t take it”**

(Benjamin Franklin)

As the time passes, injuries are piling up on Nawaz Sharif, and so are the insults. Just have a look;

***Injury:*** Panama papers declare that he is involved in corruption and has purchased flats in London.

***Insult:*** He, as the Prime Minister of the country, had to face the supreme court of Pakistan. He could not prove the trail of money. People wonder, purchase of flats has absolutely no value than his involvement in misappropriation of funds (national exchequer). Allegation of monetary corruption is a big insult for a person who was holding the highest chair of an atomic power, and also the first Islamic nuclear authority.

***Injury:*** Nawaz Sharif had to leave the office of Prime Minister.

***Insult:*** This was third time he could not complete his term, though he had managed this option in convenience of Zardari and had altered the constitution, allowing a person at the highest chair for more than two terms.

***Injury:*** He had to travel from Islamabad to Lahore expecting huge crowds on the road.

***Insult:*** He was wrongly advised, crowds never turned up, rather his brother Shahbaz Sharif avoided speech in Lahore. He should have kept in

mind the previous experience when he and his brother tried to land in Pakistan, but could not. Not a single person objected Musharaf's decision.

## **“History is a vast early warning system”**

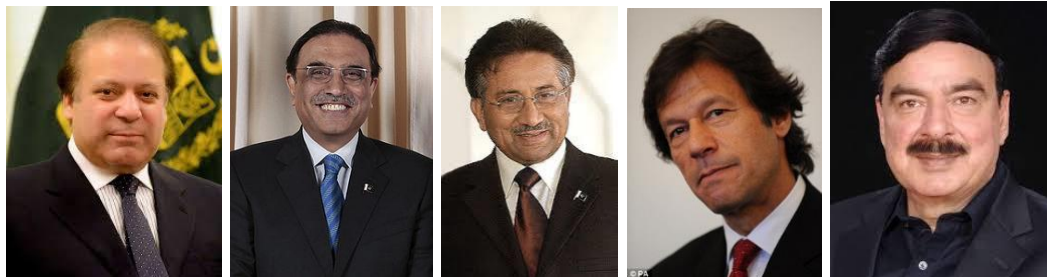
(Norman Cousins)

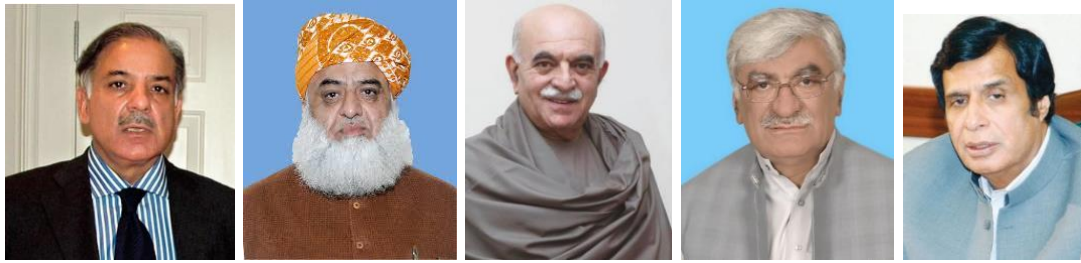


**Injury:** The three amigos, Asif Ali Zardari, Imran Khan and Parvez Elahi, having managed change of government in Balochistan and also elections and selection of Chairman Senate.

**Insult:** They are now a united front, and all are speaking the same language in the similar tone.

## **“Politicians are like sperms. One in a million turns out to be an actual human being”**





**Injury:** Nawaz, when the decision was announced against Yousaf Raza Gillani had suggested him, rather had delivered a speech, that he should go home and an in-house change is required. But, when faced the same circumstances, he refused to accept the Court's decision and adopted a haughty way, challenging the highest legal forum. It was unusual for him; he during his second term in the office has torn apart the Supreme Court and the judges. This time he could not digest the legal step taken by the Supreme Court.

**Insult:** To nation's good luck, **Justice Department is united and defiant.** They are working purely on legal grounds without any trepidation or pressure.

The gale-force winds that used to blow around Jati-Umra, and make summit winds on Prime Minister House seem calm, never appear to muss much about the ex-prime minister, other than his comb-over. But I wonder if this latest round is different. Like many, I've wondered whether the laws of political chemistry, which seem to have been suspended for Nawaz Sharif for so long, would reassert. His inner circle is almost completely upset with the departure of Dar, who played such a soothing role for him and for those who clamor and hector for the ex-premier's attention. They are also getting shaky with their tones getting lower than usual. His son-in-law, himself a retired Captain, behaves in an ugly manner to his parent institution. Nawaz's erratic political nature is also forcing number of members to flyaway and find their own way. Nawaz exhausted many of us since a long time, but he now seems to be exhausting those closest to him.

Now maybe one could understand Nawaz's behavior if he was doing nothing but winning, except that he isn't. The best interpretive framework through which to understand his leadership is psychological rather than ideological.

## **“Root of all evil is abuse of power”**

(Patricia Cornwell)

Most of the coverage suggests Nawaz feels liberated in particular by his decisions not to negotiate with opposition like Bhutto did during his last days. Had Zia not jumped in, matter was almost solved.

Nawaz should have fired his strong-willed advisers who told him to declare war against institutions or take it so easy on Judiciary or decide on a whim to stage an equal protest through rallies, without realizing that government never behave the manner he tried to hip-hop the matter and confront all including opposition, Judiciary and the garrison.

One would think that a prime minister with historically high poll numbers, now facing an investigation by the accountability bureau, heading (in all likelihood) toward a disastrous that has lead to loose his 37 years old power. He has presided over an administration run on the favourable stuff of bureaucracy without observing the management principles, now has lost its controls on establishment, and has fallen into a ditch from where it appears difficult to come out. Now, perhaps out of desperation, the insiders indicate that Nawaz's increasingly flailing decisions are the function of a party loosing in confidence. Having decided that he has gotten the hang of the position, Nawaz has lost patience with opposition and institutions. He seems not frightened but giddy.

How can Nawaz feel emboldened when there is almost no sign that he would win the legal battle or his party wins the next coming elections? The explanations for this behavior range from fear of defeat to straight-out egotism. The world has not yet ended, or to put it another way: Nawaz feels he's been trapped but he is in a position of winning. This geography is planted in his mind by his gibberish advisers, on top of which are his daughter and son-in-law.



Nawaz has such a short-term worldview that if something calamitous does not happen immediately after he does something, it bolsters his assumption that he's bulletproof. Despite doom saying predictions of a crashing economy and worst three years of political instability, he claims his success towards development. To some extent he is right, during his tenure duration of load-shedding really reduced to a comfortable level. Completion of certain projects, also are credited to him. Perhaps that's why he was thinking that masses will favour him, but he should understand that people have short memories for anything good and sharp memories for any thing negative.

Despite dire warnings from some of his party men, that the legal battle would trigger a war against the institutions, despite much clucking about the impropriety of shifting from "maximum pressure" on the highest legal forum to a planned pinnacle, his claptrap team could not maintain the requirement of time.

Let me be very clear here: I am not saying any of Nawaz's moves are his own ideas; he was and is surrounded by a bunch of hogwash personnel who show him different figures about his popularity, whereas in reality his graph has fallen badly. But it hasn't triggered immediately catastrophe either, if handled carefully. If an adviser keeps warning you that bad things will happen and then they have not yet come to pass, you would start to doubt their worth as well. Still, he needs, not good but excellent advisors, if he wants to keep his party in power.

The key word in that there are many, many ways that this political mathematics could go positive real fast. If Nawaz thought about it he would

probably realize some of his self-initiated moves, like firing at the innocent citizens at Model Town, have been calamitous. As Prime Minister, not trying to resolve issues with the opposition especially Asif Ali Zardari who always stood beside him at all hours, not trying to negotiate by himself instead of his pawns, to resolve the issues with PTI and PAT. Nawaz really does pose a massive systemic risk now, and local or international markets just can't see it or can't price it. There was only one risk which he could not face, a midterm election, it perhaps haunted him, which led to the present situation he is facing. Had he been brave enough or had used his brains to resolve the matter positively like a politician not like a Chief Executive, the position may have been different today.

In essence, since long he is acting like he is invincible. And people, who think they are invincible, tend to find out they are not in the harshest way possible.

**“Leadership cannot be given it must be earned,  
it cannot be taken away you lose it by lack of  
performance”**

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