

The New End Game

(Part 1)

By Mehmood-Ul-Hassan Khan

The new “end game” has been started by the national, regional and international power brokers. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Pakistan has already announced his foremost priorities which are given below as:



Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said there would be no load-shedding after November this year and pointed out that ten thousand megawatts of additional electricity will be added to the national grid. The completion of the ongoing mega projects of energy in different parts of Pakistan would also be one of his national priorities.

Energy Vision

He has a doable vision and projects about renewables (wind, solar, biomass etc.) in the country which he desires to initiate for reducing energy deficit in the country. He wishes to have rigorous energy diplomacy with Central Asian Countries especially, Turkmenistan (TAPI, Energy Charter Conference & Treaty), Uzbekistan (solar projects), Tajikistan (CASA-1000) for the easy and smooth supply of energy from these countries.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is a die-hard advocate of CPEC and considers its timely completion as a strategic objective of Pakistan and China. CPEC is a game changer for the country, as well as for the entire region. Toppling of CPEC is one of the hidden agendas of so many regional countries, and tackling this threat requires constant and close liaison between Pakistan and China.

He has also pinpointed other national priorities which are illustrated below in a diagram



Change in Style & Spirits

Within a short timespan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has initiated meaningful measures, including the appointment of a full-fledged foreign minister, holding of cabinet meetings every week, regular chairing of National Security Council, and last but not the least, close liaison with his party parliamentarians. Now the Office of Prime Minister has become the “real power broker” in true respect where the finance minister always acted as deputy prime minister in the past.

National Reconciliation

Prolonged political uncertainty has produced serious dents in the macro-economy of the country and it has already faced loss of 12 billion \$US. In order to manage the further declining of the economy, the new prime minister has initiated many integrated measures in search of doable “same page” with armed forces of Pakistan which is getting better and better by each passing day.

Political liaison with MQM, announcement of national grand dialogue, better civilian-army relations, more socio-economic uplift of Southern Punjab, more allocations of funds to Baluchistan and FATA reforms have been initiated. The national “end game” has achieved substantial gains recently through the judiciary, but an element of “irrelevancy” at regional and international level has made it happen in the country.



Change in Policy

Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister of Interior has advised and implemented “zero-protocol culture” at all airports in the country which has already translated “feel-good” spirit among the common people. He paid a personal visit to the National Counter Terrorism Authority Headquarter and met with many high officials and discussed thoroughly government’s national policy of counter terrorism to defeat terrorism by working along with all units of the federation. The interior minister said that the federal and provincial governments and security institutions were united to eradicate terrorism. He said that as a nuclear power, Pakistan had a unique status and all the pillars of the state had to be united to face the challenges. Iqbal also said that Islamic scholars had to play their role in preparing a national narrative to defeat terrorism.

The interior minister advised the provincial home ministers to meet every month, and chief ministers should meet every two months to review progress on the NAP.