

---

## What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/05/28 22:53

---

In 1999, General Musharraf thrown out the corrupted Prime Minister Sharif. He was then condemned by US and Commonwealth.

Then, after 09-11 attack, they need him to fight Al-Qaida.

What do you think ?

Is he a man who try to save his country from extremism of just a dictator ?

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/04 14:18

---

Here is an article very critical to General Musharaff

[http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/ci\\_6263621](http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/ci_6263621)

What do you think ?

=====

## All about Pakistan

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/12 13:59

---

### WHY MUSHARRAF MADE HIS COUP D'ETAT ?

Since 1988 to 1999 The power has been alternately taken by two chiefs of party : Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. The two have never finished their five-year tenure involved in corruption cases.

Nawaz Sharif came back to power in february 1997. With a very large majority in parliament he became more and more authoritarian. After he met the Indian prime minister Vajpayee in Lahore in february 1999, the people and the army were afraid that a deal with India could be a blow to the sacred cause of reunification with the Indian part of Kashmir. So the Army, under cover of Kashmir militants, took several military positions on the Indian side of the line between the two parts of Kashmir.

A local war erupted between India and Pakistan in the aera of Kargill. Under the pressure of Bill Clinton, Sharif ordered to the Army to come back to the Pakiskan side of the border.

So, relations between the Army and population, on one side, and sharif on the other side went more and more tense.

On 12 october, taking advantage that general Musharraf was out of the country, Sharif dismissed him from his duties. Even his plane was denied from landing on Karachi airport.

Few hours later, in the night, Sharif and all the main politicians in the country in a bloodless coup were arrested.

At that time, a very large majority of the Pakistaneses approved Musharraf action.  
[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/1999\\_Coup.jpg](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/1999_Coup.jpg)

Post edited by: Jacques, at: 2008/02/22 18:48

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/16 22:40

---

Here the point of view of Sumit Ganguly from Opinion Asia

---

<http://www.opinionasia.org/AreMusharrafsdaysnumbered>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/19 22:14

---

Here is a 4 may 2006 profile of President Pervez Musharraf profile by Louise Tillin

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/4797762.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4797762.stm)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by linsi - 2007/07/20 22:20

---

Critics of the general have often accused him of being soft on Islamist militants, and there is no doubt his regime has sometimes had murky dealings with them - in the struggle with India over Kashmir, for instance. Amid signs of western frustration over his performance, there are suggestions that Washington may be eyeing Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, as a possible replacement (though General Musharraf says he intends to secure another presidential term later this year).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/pakistan/Story/0,,2120969,00.html>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/21 23:24

---

The reinstatement of the Pakistan's chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudry is a very big blow to general Musharaaf

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PAKISTAN?SITE=ASIAONE&SECTION=TOP\\_STORIES&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2007-07-21-05-08-38](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PAKISTAN?SITE=ASIAONE&SECTION=TOP_STORIES&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2007-07-21-05-08-38)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/26 02:22

---

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/6913739.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6913739.stm)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/07/29 03:06

---

Hi Linsi,

You said the US are eying to Benazir Bhutto to replace general Musharraf. She has been two times removed from premiership for corruption and her husband has been in jail for that.

It was when she was in charge that general Babar supported and gave weapons to an extremist group called the Taliban.

Here is one of the best article I have read on Pakistan and Musharraf situation.

---

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/columnist.php?aid=11305>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/04 23:12

---

Where is going general Musharraf ?

After secret talks with BNP leader Benazir Bhutto, one of Pakistan's main opposition leaders, Javed Hashmi, serving a life sentence for treason and inciting mutiny in the armed forces, was freed Friday by the Supreme Court in its first significant ruling since the reinstatement of Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry. Hashmi has been one of the most vocal opponents of the president, General Pervez Musharraf, and belongs to the political party of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was removed from power in 1999 in a coup by Musharraf.

If the corrupted Bhutto and Sharif come back in politics, all what have done Musharraf to eradicate this plague since 1999 could have failed

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/08/03/asia/pakistan.php>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/10 15:05

---

An opinion poll found that Musharraf approval ratings had plummeted to 34 % for 60 % in June 2005

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/08/09/asia/pakistan.php?page=1>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/12 22:46

---

Military action and diplomacy are key in the fight against a rise in Taliban extremism currently plaguing Pakistan, the country's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, said during a joint Afghan-Pakistani peace jirga in Kabul.

<http://edition.cnn.com/ASIA/> [http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/musharraf.jpg](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/musharraf.jpg)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/14 13:58

---

On 14 August 2007, the Pakistan daily DAWN published a survey showing that 54,5 per cent urban Pakistanis believe that military should have no role in politics and 65,5 per cent want General Musharraf to quit the office of the president.

<http://www.dawn.com/2007/08/14/top4.htm>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/24 20:16

---

MUSHARRAF DOWN, BUT FAR FROM OUT

The news on August 23 that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will be allowed to return to Pakistan after seven years of exile has widely been interpreted as yet another blow to president Pervez Musharraf. But it is not shure.

---

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/IH25Df01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/IH25Df01.html)  
[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/Nawaz\\_Sharif\\_7.gif](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/Nawaz_Sharif_7.gif)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/24 20:54

---

### MUSHARRAF DOWN, BUT FAR FROM OUT

The news on August 23 that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will be allowed to return to Pakistan after seven years of exile has widely been interpreted as yet another blow to president Pervez Musharraf. But it is not shure.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/IH25Df01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/IH25Df01.html)  
[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/Nawaz\\_Sharif\\_7-304ad82867e268d239365341f79c0116.gif](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/Nawaz_Sharif_7-304ad82867e268d239365341f79c0116.gif)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/08/25 21:47

---

For the problem posed by the return of Nawaz Sharif, I add this good article

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/08/24/asia/pakistan.php>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/09/06 12:47

---

On 5 june 2007, Ahmed Rashid rised the question

### DOES THE WEST NEED MUSHARRAF ?

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/6710597.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6710597.stm)

in addtion, here is a MUSHARRAF PROFILE

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/4797762.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4797762.stm)  
[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/2002\\_02\\_13\\_Bush.jpg](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/2002_02_13_Bush.jpg)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/09/26 05:34

---

Thanks to A.O. member Zia for this shared article by Nasim Zehra from Khaleej Times

Time comes for Musharraf's last battle

<http://www.khaleejtimes.ae/ColumnistHomeNew.asp?section=nasimzehra&col=yes>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/09/26 05:35

---

---

Thanks to A.O. member Zia for this shared article by Nasim Zehra from Khaleej Times

Time comes for Musharraf's last battle

<http://www.khaleejtimes.ae/ColumnistHomeNew.asp?section=nasimzehra&col=yes>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/09/26 06:08

---

On the question of this forum "what do you think about general Musharraf" here is the answers of Aljazeera readers under another tittle

Can Pakistan overcome political chaos ?

<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/E9A36960-AB5A-43E7-A637-4628328249EB.htm?choice=3&dgDiscID=183&dgPoolID=54c0b38f-87a1-4faf-8430-3bf6b4e429f1>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/09/26 22:05

---

Even if I don't like the military coups, I sympathised with the Mussaraf one because I was fed up with two alternating leaders several times dismissed on corruption charges

But really now, I don't know what to think

Here is an shared article by Zia

<http://www.gulf-news.com/opinion/columns/world/10156051.html>  
[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/Musharraf\\_caritature\\_2.jpg](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/Musharraf_caritature_2.jpg)

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by zia - 2007/09/27 14:23

---

Most of people said that right now Pakistan is suffering through political and constitutional crisis because of Gen. Musharaf.

There are various issues specially international pressure regarding war against terror is basic pretext to retaining him as a president.

No doubt people got fed up due to his continues rule as a uniform president. In this regard west specially USA is playing major role. USA`s continues backing to Gen. Musharaf and back of Pak Army its very difficult to remove him from presidentship.

An other major issue is politicians who r supporting Gen. Musharaf for their dominance and some opposition parties also supporting him from back door channels to get some place in next government. Specially MMA`s leader Fazal UI Rehman and PPP`s leader Banazir Bhutto.

Necessary of dominance in future bringing Gen. Musharaf and both political leader closer to each other but from back door diplomacy. Some political parties who are not in favor of military rule. But they don't have strong influence over masses.

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by zia - 2007/09/27 14:27

---

Most of people said that right now Pakistan is suffering through political and constitutional crisis because of Gen. Musharaf.

There are various issues specially international pressure regarding war against terror is basic pretext to retaining him as a president.

No doubt people got fed up due to his continues rule as a uniform president. In this regard west specially USA is playing major role. USA`s continues backing to Gen. Musharaf and back of Pak Army its very difficult to remove him from presidentship.

An other major issue is politicians who r supporting Gen. Musharaf for their dominance and some opposition parties also supporting him from back door channels to get some place in next government. Specially MMA`s leader Fazal UI Rehman and PPP`s leader Banazir Bhutto.

Necessary of dominance in future bringing Gen. Musharaf and both political leader closer to each other but from back door diplomacy. Some political parties who are not in favor of military rule. But they don`t have strong influence over masses.

---

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/10/05 00:01

---

So general Musharraf has chosen his successor as top military leader, Lt general Ashfaq Pervez Kiani, but only if he is reelected President of Pakistan

[http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/Ashfaq\\_Pervez\\_Kiani.jpg](http://www.asiaobserver.com/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/Ashfaq_Pervez_Kiani.jpg)

Post edited by: Jacques, at: 2007/10/05 00:08

---

## No political legitimacy for Musharraf

Posted by zia - 2007/10/05 00:20

---

THE split judgment on the petitions challenging Gen. Parvez Musharraf's holding of two offices and also his candidacy for the October 6 presidential election does give him a legal 'go-ahead.' However, it does not give Gen. Musharraf and more importantly the process, through which he seeks re-election, political legitimacy.

Some legitimacy the process has earned through the two additional presidential candidates who have filed their papers for re-election — Justice Wajeehuddin and PPP leader Amin Fahim. Rest he hopes he will get in this very divisive polity, when PPP will decide not to resign from the assemblies.

There are other issues overriding the presidential election. Most importantly how is the Supreme Court judgment received.

It seems it's always politics that is determining the response. The MQM and other coalition partners and the PPP, now in negotiations with the government, have all supported the judgment. The APDM parties are opposing it. And these parties opposing the verdict will now hope to exert pressure on Gen. Musharraf through political means. They will bank on assembly resignations and on massive street protests. Yesterday, when protests by the lawyers and APDM had been organised outside the Election Commission, was the D-day when we all got a taste of the politics to come.

Clearing the mess

Matters have come full circle. The issue is back to where it started from, i.e. politics. Frustrated by the government's bulldozing ahead on many fronts, the opposition took the political mess to the court and wanted the court to clean it up. It wanted Gen. Musharraf to surrender his army position and not to seek re-election as president. Their list of complaints against Gen. Musharraf was unending.

---

In Friday's judgment the majority in the court essentially said to the opposition look you created the mess, you passed the 17th Amendment and don't expect us to clean the mess. The dissenting judges thought otherwise. The ones rejecting the maintainability of the petitions must also factor in that after all the courts had given two judgments relating to Justice Rafiq Tarar's election as president that created a precedent for the two-year waiver to those holding government jobs. Also as some judges observed during the hearing that it is the politicians who took steps to give Musharraf the constitutional cover for holding two positions. That gives him cover until November 15. That deadline he intends to meet in becoming a civilian president.

#### Parliament only forum

Obviously conclusion of the majority on the bench was that the current political polarisation and confrontation does not have a legal dimension. That it has a constitutional and political dimension and for that parliament is the forum the contesting politicians must go to.

Many of us would have liked the court to have ruled that Gen. Musharraf remove his uniform before the legislators cast their votes for or against him. Unquestionably an Army Chief getting votes as a president is a caricature of democracy. It's a counter-reality to democracy. Yet fortunately this should alter within a few weeks. He will definitely shed that uniform. And also go for a vote of confidence by the newly-elected assemblies in January 2008.

That is the road that our power scene, now much closer to an accountable scene than ever before, will allow for now. Clearly it's not a radical revolutionary political path we are on. It's also not one that will yield villains or heroes. We are on a gradualist and evolutionary democratic path. Fortunately the changing dynamics of power within Pakistan puts us on an irreversible democratic path.

But in the political fray there is impatience, frustration, rage, search for instant results and deployment of multiple tools to battle the opponents. Hence most of the opposition, minus the PPP, since the post-verdict period, are completely junking the Supreme Court of Pakistan. By contrast earlier they were far more appreciative of the country's apex court. Now they are gunning for it.

#### Rejectionist position

The blatant attacks on the judges and on the process are disturbing. Simply put it about being negative about situations, developments and decisions that do not support their positions. Similarly the lawyers and their presidential candidate are taking the rejectionist and attacking position vis-a-vis the Supreme Court. This speaks volumes for the maturity and the discipline of the lawyers.

They are abandoning the hallmark of their profession; discipline, uprightness and respect for law and for the country's apex court.

If they disagree with the verdict they should simply say we will take legal recourse to challenge it and also we will, with the political parties take other political measures to stop Gen. Musharraf the army chief from contesting the presidential elections.

In the run-up to the presidential election Pakistan promises to be a hotbed of confrontational political activities; both within and outside of parliament. The onus will now be on those opposing Gen. Musharraf to make winning moves in the political battlefield. Unless any wholly unexpected developments take place, they may not manage any moves that would threaten Musharraf.

Please note, although no boardcode and smiley buttons are shown, they are still useable

=====

### Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/10/05 05:45

---

Who, in Pakistan has legitimacy ?

=====

### Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/10/06 22:17

---

---

So, general Pervez Musharraf has been reelected as President of Pakistan

Here is the comment of our member Zia

Pakistan's October 6 presidential elections, the focus of furious political jockeying in the last few weeks, held little suspense. Despite serious challenges to his authority this year, Gen. Pervez Musharraf easily won a new term (BBC) from parliament and provincial assemblies dominated by ruling parties. But the vote was just the first step in a complicated process aimed at sorting out the country's leadership in the months ahead. That process will involve a Supreme Court ruling on the legality (BBC) of Musharraf's candidacy; the court threatened on the eve of elections to retroactively label it illegal if Musharraf refuses to shed his military leadership role. Also just before the voting began, Musharraf signed a "reconciliation ordinance" that drops corruption charges (CNN) against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and sets the stage for a power-sharing arrangement with her.

To protect his future interests, the general named a loyalist, Lt. Gen. Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani, the former chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) spy service, to succeed him as the nation's top military officer. Musharraf's plan to shed his military role did not come easily, since he derives much of his authority from the post. But in Kiyani, Pakistan gains a skilled commander at a time of demoralization in the army, and a staunch supporter of Musharraf (Newsweek Int'l).

But a Musharraf victory, analysts warn, does not necessarily translate to stability. The army is struggling in its fight against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces, who have aggressively expanded their influence and operations in the tribal and border areas, pushing large parts of the country beyond government control (WashPost). Pakistan's army, like its population, is deeply divided over the "war on terror," and analysts see recent incidents of mass army surrenders to smaller groups of militants as a sign that the military will not fight (NewKerala.com) an internal war on behalf of what many of its officers view as Washington's interests. "This is not our war; Taliban, al-Qaeda are not criminals in our country," a major from the Pakistani army told the Atlantic. Selig S. Harrison, an Asia expert at the Center for International Policy, warns of a radical "Pashtunistan" (IHT) should events deteriorate further. Others, citing the nuclear-armed country's miserable educational system, its faltering financial institutions (Bloomberg), and an economy which can't keep pace (PDF) with population growth, fear worse.

Unpopular views of the war on terror, already rampant in Pakistan's ISI, which helped create and fuel the Taliban movement during the 1990s, may be even more widely held among the general public. A new survey (PDF) conducted by Washington-based research institute Terror Free Tomorrow shows that 46 percent of Pakistanis hold a favorable view of Osama Bin Laden. Musharraf and United States remain very unpopular in the country.

Bhutto scores highest in the popularity poll (with 63 percent favorable), and analysts assume (ISN) Washington sees her as the best way to secure a smooth transition to democracy. In this Online Debate, Pakistani analyst Moeed Yusuf argues that, similar to Musharraf, Bhutto has been rallying U.S. support by posing herself as the only hope to save Pakistan from extremists. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters this week the United States regards this election as pivotal in terms of Pakistan's future but neither he nor other U.S. officials have openly discussed the Musharraf-Bhutto talks.

Still, Pakistanis see Washington's overt support for Musharraf and the Pakistani army in a different light. Pakistani nuclear physicist Pervez Hoodbhoy sums it up in Foreign Policy: "All countries have armies, but in Pakistan things are reversed. Here, it is the Army that has a country."

A new report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies notes that, with the exception of earthquake relief in 2005, most of the \$10 billion in American aid to Pakistan since 2001 has been directed towards short-term counterterrorism objectives. The report advocates a redefined U.S. strategy where Washington pursues a broader and diversified relationship with various stakeholders including civil society and the private sector in Pakistan.

=====

**Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?**

Posted by Jacques - 2007/10/09 00:22

---

Despite his success in winning a majority of votes on 6 October 2007 election, Pakistan's president general Pervez Musharraf faces a host of challenges both at home and abroad

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/news.php?aid=12698>

=====

**Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?**

---

Posted by zia - 2007/10/12 23:25

---

A majority of people in Pakistan think that the country is heading in a wrong direction and the present government does not deserve to be re-elected because of its poor performance.

According to a survey conducted by the International Republican Institute (IRI) of the US Republican Party and released here, 56 per cent of the people said their economic condition had worsened over the past one year and 65 per cent said they felt less secure today.

Another interesting finding of the survey is that a majority of respondents were opposed to a deal between President Pervez Musharraf and Pakistan People's Party chairperson Benazir Bhutto.

The poll was conducted between August 29 and September 13 and the randomly selected sample consisted of 4,009 men and women from 256 rural and 144 urban areas of 60 districts in the four provinces.

The survey says: "As the national mood continues to sour, President Musharraf continues to bear the brunt of this voter dissatisfaction and his approval rating has dropped to an all-time low of 21 per cent, from a high of 63 per cent in September 2006."

In addition to declining approval ratings, Gen Musharraf's points fell in several other categories as well. The percentage of voters saying that President Musharraf should resign increased by seven points to 70 and his favourability rating dropped by 13 points to 22. Further, when asked to name the best leader for Pakistan, Gen Musharraf dropped to third place, behind both Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif.

---

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/11/25 23:40

---

3 NOVEMBER 2007

Pakistan president General Musharraf imposes emergency rule and suspends the country's constitution, provoking huge demonstrations and arrests

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7076670.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7076670.stm)

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7077136.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7077136.stm)

---

---

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/11/25 23:48

---

25 NOVEMBER 2007

To see the last posted, go down at the bottom of this page

Today, Ex-prime minister Sharif came back to Pakistan. Here is the analysis of Asia Observer very active member Zia

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is set to return to Pakistan after eight years in exile.

He left the country in 1999 after current President Pervez Musharraf toppled him in a coup.

Although Mr Sharif attempted to return in September and was turned back, he will not be stopped this time.

He is thought to have made a deal with Gen Musharraf to prevent former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto doing well in forthcoming parliamentary elections.

When Mr Sharif attempted to return in September, Gen Musharraf was at that time facing the biggest political challenge of his eight years in power.

Pakistan had been engulfed in months of political turmoil triggered by Gen Musharraf's crude attempt to sack the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

At the same time, Islamist militants were engaged in continual attacks on the military.

---

The government's response to Mr Sharif's return was unequivocal.

Soon after his arrival he was bundled onto another plane and sent back to Saudi Arabia.

The government was adamant that if he had stayed in Pakistan he would have been locked up.

This time the government - in public anyway - appears to be almost ignoring his homecoming.

And Mr Sharif and his family are not making too much of an issue about his planned arrival in Lahore either, with no plans for a huge welcoming rally.

Flip-flop politics

The lack of mud-slinging from Mr Sharif and Gen Musharraf's advisers may seem surprising. So what's going on?

For veteran political observers it is just another example of Pakistan's flip-flop politics.

"The problems started when she landed in Karachi", says one analyst - "she" of course, being Benazir Bhutto, the "other" former Prime Minister, who flew home in October after nearly eight years of self-imposed exile.

It is estimated that nearly half a million people came out to greet Ms Bhutto, the leader of Pakistan's largest political party, the PPP.

The huge turnout stunned Gen Musharraf and his advisers.

Ms Bhutto's return was all part of an agonised political deal with Gen Musharraf.

Even though the two dislike each other intensely, Ms Bhutto agreed to support Gen Musharraf's bid for another term as president - in return for being allowed to become prime minister for a third time.

The United States and the UK were supportive of the scheme.

Western diplomats were getting more and more worried at Gen Musharraf's growing unpopularity and his failure to take on the rampaging pro-Taleban militants.

The hope was that a genuinely popular democratic government led by Ms Bhutto would be far more effective in taking on the militants.

If Mr Sharif had been allowed to return before that, it could have disrupted Ms Bhutto and Gen Musharraf's plans.

Thus the silence from Ms Bhutto when her fellow democratic politician was deported by a military leader did not surprise many here.

Early cracks

But the grand political deal soon began to unravel, and the mistrust between Ms Bhutto and Gen Musharraf became increasingly visible.

Gen Musharraf continued to make clear that he was being forced into allowing "corrupt leaders" back into Pakistan.

Ms Bhutto repeatedly said she was only talking to a military dictator for the sake of democracy.

The cracks appeared sooner than most expected, and the mass turnout for Ms Bhutto's homecoming was what destabilised the deal.

President Musharraf's team knew that Ms Bhutto would always be strong in Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital.

But they were alarmed at how many people had travelled from Punjab province to greet her.

Could it be that she would do far, far better in the promised parliamentary elections than they had anticipated, thus making her too powerful a figure?

Gen Musharraf's imposition of emergency rule on 3 November aggravated relations with Ms Bhutto's supporters and

---

senior PPP leaders began to clamour for a complete break with the general.

Things finally came to a head when Ms Bhutto was put under house arrest to stop her leading any more mass public rallies.

All possibilities of a deal with President Musharraf "are now finished", she told reporters.

Thinking the unthinkable

The pressure was on Gen Musharraf again, not least because of the international condemnation of emergency rule and criticism from his ally, President George Bush.

The governing PML-Q now looks increasingly likely to fare badly in the January elections

So, once again in Pakistan, the unthinkable has begun to look like the palatable.

A few days ago Gen Musharraf flew to Saudi Arabia for a quick meeting with the country's monarch.

Four days later, the Sharifs announced they would be coming back to Pakistan - another deal had been done.

Many observers believe Gen Musharraf is only allowing Mr Sharif to return home because he is the one political figure who can prevent Ms Bhutto succeeding in Punjab province.

Whoever wins the Punjab wins the election.

The best outcome for Gen Musharraf would appear to be a divided electorate, resulting in no one party dominating parliament.

"That is the only thing that can keep General Pervez Musharraf relevant anymore", is how one analyst put it.

"But, even then, there are no guarantees, after all this is Pakistan."

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by Jacques - 2007/12/03 22:38

---

3 DECEMBER 2007

Musharraf's new man

<http://www.mysin Chew.com/node/3614?tid=10>

=====

## Re:What do you think about General Musharraf ?

Posted by VendeTTa - 2008/01/07 17:21

---

Peace!

President Musharraf, one of those countless ex-dictators who considered them to be savior of a particular nation. Most of the people, especially those who belong to my nation, criticise his every effort for the country, whether it may appear beneficial or rather harmful. Pakistani History manifests the regime of several army generals, who, by far, could not stand anywhere around Mr. Musharraf as far as capability and political policies are concerned. You may think that I might be one of those "ChamCha" or spoon of Mr. Musharraf, but no. There are countless other reasons and facts which placed Mr. Musharraf in my hate list. He calls out slogans of democracy and declares Pakistan as Islamic state. But he never takes opinions of locals, neither consider them of any importance when taking any decision. Furthermore, westernising or 'turning anglacised' disguised as 'Moderation' has sown seeds of unrest throughout the country. And currently, swat is experiencing the outputs of his this policy.

He indulged army into a war which was my far romantic and inappropriate, atleast for us. These are just few of the reasons which caused the unpopularity of Mr. Musharraf among his own people of different creed.

---

But, his policies about constructing sources of basic necessities is, no doubt, undebatable. But since there are groups, hungry for power in the country, their baseless opposition reveals great obstacles to achieve those goals. Kalabagh dam is the major example. And because of this, the country faces countless problems of electricity.

Overall, Mr. Musharraf is almost like previous generals who 'developed tiny quarters by ruining most of the building'.

=====

## All about Pakistan

Posted by Jacques - 2008/02/22 18:54

---

22 February 2008

What do you think of General Musharraf ? has been changed for All about Pakistan  
Here will be the main news and analysies on this country

After the February 18 general elections

In this article is the official result on 22 February  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7258318.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7258318.stm)

What is the balance of forces after the elections  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7078656.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7078656.stm)

Post edited by: Jacques, at: 2008/02/22 18:56

=====

## Re:All about Pakistan

Posted by Jacques - 2008/08/07 15:42

---

7 AUGUST 2008

The decision by Pakistan's new ruling alliance to impeach the country's President, Pervez Musharraf, has sparked jubilation as well as fears across the country.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7548382.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7548382.stm)

=====

## Re:All about Pakistan

Posted by Jacques - 2008/08/21 14:22

---

21 August 2008

Columnist Ahmed Rashid in Islamabad takes a look at what many see to be Pakistan's last chance to make democracy work there after the resignation of President Musharraf

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7571085.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7571085.stm)

=====