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# WISDOM

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## Potential pressures

In an interview to ABC News on Sunday, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta criticised Pakistan's sentencing of Dr Shakil Afridi, who had helped the CIA trace Osama bin Laden, on a charge of treason. Panetta never one to mince his words said, "It's so disturbing that they would sentence this doctor to 33 years for helping in the search for the most notorious terrorist of our times," adding that Dr. Afridi "was not working against Pakistan. He was working against al Qaeda." The controversy surrounding the sentence does not end there. If Dr Afridi's alleged offence took place in Abbottabad, why has he been tried in Khyber Agency? As a result, he has been sentenced under a colonial-era regime, the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR). Proceedings under the FCR do not constitute due process; it does not allow the accused legal representation, presentation of material evidence or cross-examination of witnesses. Critics have labelled it a 'kangaroo court' decision. Although the FCR rules out appeal, Dr Afridi's brother has delivered a power of attorney to Peshawar Central Jail where the doctor is currently being held and urged the Supreme Court Chief Justice to intervene and help him exercise his right to appeal. Dr Afridi's conviction has added another fissure in Pakistan's already fractured relationship with the US.

After the two sides met in Chicago at the NATO summit, the latest point of friction has been the issue of what price Pakistan is willing to accept for reopening the supply routes. Although the US has slammed Pakistan's demand of \$ 5000 per truck, this is an issue that can be resolved if the two sides

RASHEED AHMAD CHUGHTAI

The well-known name of His Eminence Imam Khomeini (s), the most influential figure of the 20th century reminds us about his unprecedented knowledge and thoughts on mysticism, philosophy, jurisprudential sciences, governance and politics as exemplary Imam. The events and happenings of the contemporary world show that even after more than two decades since the departure of Imam Khomeini (s), there is a significant change in the world political landscape influenced by Imam's ideology. The resistance movements are still being inspired by his academic discourse and intellectually battling and challenging imperialism across the world. Three revolutions shook the world in the 20th century. Both the Russian and the Chinese experience had a wider appeal-for two reasons: they came in the wake of an oppressive capitalist system, which had squeezed the blood of the down trodden sections of society; and, the change was on the basis of an ideology that was new, and rather novel, for the humanity which had been afflicted, both by the exploitative bourgeoisie and the tyrannical church. The Iranian revolution was, however, unique,-neither had it derailed the human soul from the root of its faith nor berieved it of the fruits of social uplift; a thing considered, particularly in conservative societies, as repugnant to the spirit of religion. The greatness of Imam Khomeini lies, not in his being a religious cleric but in his universal approach to life-in all its aspects and manifestations.

The Imam infused the spirit of Islam in the Iranian youth but did not leave them to be swayed by the specific interpretation of faith, com-

## Imam Khomeini - Eminent leader

mon to the contemporary half-educated clergy. He gave them a vision which could see the worldly affairs and the religious faith as two aspect of the same unit- the life. If, in the West, the 17th century Industrial Revolution had shaped the direction of soio-political thoughts and the future practical experience - also pursued by the comparatively secular Far Eastern societies, thinkers in the Islamic world still wandered in the deserts of bewilderment: Not that Islam had lost its vigour to lead the man into the ages but lack of Ijtihad had rendered it a mere collection of rituals to ward off evil spirits and attain paradise- No realization that Islam is a complete code of individual and collective life and it offers best solution to the minutist problems of all societies and all times. The onslaught of Western thought had already shaken the hearts of Muslim scholars like Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Syed Qutub, Moulana Moudoodi and the confined themselves to recollecting Islamic thoughts and reorganizing the political forces of the Muslims, only Allama Muhammad Iqbal an Imam Khomeini could crown their efforts by practically shaping human societies according to their ideals-the misfortune of the Pakistani nation being that their benefactor could not live long to guide them into their new life.

The leadership capabilities of Imam Khomeini would look more distinct when viewed in the background of the life existent in Iran before the Islamic revolution. King reza Shah, backed by the county's rich influential class and the mighty world power, on the one hand, and

the most Westernized Iranian class, on the other, The Imam had to fight against all these odds with an ideology that, according to most of his countrymen, had outfashioned had was no more able to meet the modern day challenges. The onslaught of Western culture on Reza Shah's Iran had given the sense that Islam was not able to meet the modern day challenges. Iran, before the revolution, was virtually the most Westernized and advanced country of the Muslim world. It was not called the Switzerland of the East just for its natural beauty-in which many other Eastern countries also abounded. It was due to the modern fashion and values of the Iranian people that the country had drawn attention of the East and the West. Western culture and values had dominated Iran to the extent that terms like Islamic culture, Islamic values and Muslim nationalism were thought the most despised and outmoded terms. In such and environment, those defending and promoting religious ideologies, were being looked with contempt and treated as hateful creatures. This had created and inferiority complex among the youth, struggling for the supremacy of Islamic values. Nobody, in a society boasting of Western culture, would pay heed to such inferior beings or consider them worthy of leading the society. Imam Khomeini brought these dejected youth out of the slims of inferiority complex and infused a spirit of self-respect and egoism among them, teaching them that not the teddy pro-Westerners but those proud of Islamic culture were the ones to boast of themselves and to be followed by others.

He also created self-confidence among the Iranian youth, giving them the power to change the destiny of their nation. Prior to the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian youth considered the Westerners as superior being, capable to show marvels in all fields of science and arts and worthy to be followed but now they became convinced of their ability to shape the future of their nation and excell in all arenas of science and technology. It was this spiritual change which made the Iranian youth to fight against the cruel forces of the King, making them an iron-wall against the oppressive and tyrannical might of the state. This spiritual potentiality convinced the Iranian youth that they can trample down all the hurdles in the way of their revolution. The modern day Iran is rightly the manifestation of the religio-political wisdom of Imam Khomeini. The state and the society of the Islamic Republic of Iran today gives the look of a compact whole- a unity in the diversities of religion and worldly progress: a leviathan in the comety of Muslims nations the possesses all the capabilities to attain material and scientific development. Despite the hurdles and the hardships created by the antagonistic Western powers and in spite of perishing of the mantle of the population in the eight-year long war with Iraq, the Iranian society today stands out, from all aspects, in the societies of the East Culturally, the revolutionary Iranian nation is exemplary.

With 83 per cent of its population educated, Iran today represents a society of high morale and energy in the region. From political administration and statehood the socio-



economic management, form agriculture to industry, from defence to defence production, and from education to science and technology- the post Revolution Iran is considered to be a success. Another distinction of the Iranian revolution is that, contrary to other Eastern and Muslim communities, the Islamic Republic has fully engaged its women folk in the socio-economic and political life, making them a useful and essential component of the society. Today, women can be seen working in all sectors and fields of the Iranian national life. Without this factor, the dream of creating an advanced and stable society could have not been realized, particularly when more than 50 per cent of the male folk had been consumed in the war. Such a big social upheaval would have never been possible in a male-dominated Eastern society. The Iranian nation is certainly very fortunate that they not only found a legendary leader like Imam Khomeini but also that be led them through all stages of their moral and material promotion. Very few reformers in the history of mankind have been capable of achieving the fruits of their struggle in their life time. -(CHUGHTAI12@YAHOO.COM)