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Weekly Analysis is one of CSRS' publications, which significantly analyses weekly economic and political events in Afghanistan and the region. The prime motive behind this is to provide strategic insights and policy solutions to decision-making institutions and individuals in order to help them to design best policies. Weekly Analysis is published in local languages (Pashto and Dari) and international languages (English and Arabic).

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Preface

Criminal offenses are one of the rampant challenges that Afghans have to deal with. Crime rate has increased in all major cities particularly in Kabul. It is due to the increased number of crimes that the media often do not broadcast reports about them. In this regard, you would read in the first part of the Weekly Analysis.

In the second part of the Analysis, you would read about the dismissal of the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The Supreme Court of Pakistan dismissed Sharif due to his involvement in corruption. This case of corruption against Nawaz, in which the leader of Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan also played a role, was disclosed when a legal company called Mossack revealed millions of documents about the properties of some of the leaders of the world in foreign countries. Sharif's daughter Maryam and his two sons Hassan and Husain were also accused of embezzlement and having companies and properties abroad.

What are the main reasons behind the ouster of Sharif? What are the impacts of the recent development in Pakistan on the region and Pakistan? In this regard, you would read in the second part of the Weekly Analysis of the Center for Strategic and Regional Studies (CSRS).

At the end of this issue of Weekly Analysis, you would read a report about the publication of CSRS biannual Journal *Tahleel*.

Criminal Offenses: A Rampant Challenge in the Major Urban Centers



According to the statistical organs, thousands of incidents of criminal offenses occur annually all over the country, and it is hard to present an inclusive and comprehensive picture from it. Kabul city is considered to be one of the relatively safe urban centers in the country, but the high statistics of crimes in this city shows different picture.

Although the security officials speak of the reduction of the level of offenses, some statistics and the ground realities indicate the high level of heinous crimes in the country in general and in major cities in particular. Besides people's claims, the place, time and the type of some of the crimes suggest that due to a high level of corruption in the security sectors, security officials are also, somehow, involved in these crimes.

There is no precise statistics about the criminal offenses in the country because according to a survey by Asia Foundation the reports of almost half (49%) of these offenses are not documented in the government organs. Moreover, the statistics that are presented do not seem to be exact nor are they affirmed by credible independent organizations. However, according to the official statistics, the level of these crimes is increasing in the country.

Here you would read about the ascending statistics of crimes in the major cities of the country, reasons behind these offenses and solutions to reduce crimes as well as some incidents that have occurred in the past several days in Kabul city and the researchers of the Center for Strategic and Regional Studies (CSRS) have accessed to some details about it.

The higher rate of crimes in major cities

The statistics of the offenses was increasing in the past one decade in Afghanistan. The total number of crimes in 1387 (this and other years in this article are solar years) was 6786, but only in the first three-quarter of 1395, this number was 16046, which shows a remarkable increase compared to a year ago (1394). However, in some years, these crimes were unprecedentedly increased for instance only in 1392, the total number of crimes were 27122. (*See Table-1 for more info*)

Table-1: the statistics of crimes in Afghanistan (1387-1396)

Crimes	1387	1392	The three first quarter of 1394	The three first quarter of 1395	The first quarter of 1396
Murder	1075	2941	1673	1752	640
Abduction	279	253	157	188	41
Robbery	119	231	153	289	89
Sexual Assault	225	996	482	471	168
Theft	1496	4191	2244	3472	895
Injuring	1499	5980	2868	2769	924
Other crimes	2052	12239	6647	5707	1558
Total crimes	6786	27122	14619	16046	5047

Resource: the quarterly and annual statistics of Central Statistics Organization (1387-1396)

On the other hand, crimes are increasing in the major cities. Only in Kabul city, the number of crimes has increased from 1345 in the first quarter of 1394 to 1779 in the first quarter of 1395, and 4950 incident from the total crimes in all over Afghanistan have occurred in Kabul city. The statistics of crimes in the first three

months of the current years is also high in Kabul and from a total of 5047 criminal offenses 1315 incidents were registered in Kabul.

On the other hand, heinous crimes such as murder are increasing annually. In the first quarter of 1394, 1395, and 1396 the statistics of murder have been respectively 538, 606, and 640, a yearly increase.

Heinous crimes and the armed robberies

The residents of Kabul have a bitter memory of crimes which have interrupted their lives. Recently five children from a family aging from four to sixteen years old were mysteriously killed in Wazirabad area of Kabul. The neighbors and the relatives of the family say that the victims of this incident were first killed by axes and then their bodies were burned.

CSRS has evaluated some of the incidents that have occurred in the past few days in Kabul. Mirwais a resident of Kabul who did not want to name his respective district said, "It was noon. There were only women in our neighbor's house. Several individuals dressed in police uniforms have entered the house saying armed people were hiding in the house and then they have taken all the cash, gold and other valuable things with them. When people informed the closest security checkpoint, they did nothing."

Dr. Faiz Mohammad who is head of a construction company in Kabul says, "At 10 am, I took some money from one of the Banks which was located in Mirwais Maidan (Kota-e-Sangi). I was driving on the street of central Silo towards the Kabul University's street when I saw that two Hilux vehicles were following me. Since I was suspicious I changed my way and drove on the Kota-e-Sangi-Dehmazang main street but I was close to Karta-e-Chahar that they blocked my path and armed individuals dressed in the police uniform descended from the cars and some of them blocked the street and some other started beating me. When I became unconscious, they left with \$54 thousand that I had taken from the bank to spend on one of my projects. I called 119 about ten times; it did not answer. Hours later they called me to take a report about the incident."

Another source who did not want to reveal his name said to CSRS that he had seen two corpses in the daylight in Kabul city. He stated, "At 5 pm, someone was murdered and dropped in the Karta-e-Parwan on the street. The other day I saw the dead body of another individual lay on the University Street."

Some others speak of stealing of high model cars from the safest areas in Kabul for instance; there are reports that in the nearby areas of the fifth police headquarter the owners of cars were killed or injured as a result of pistol shots by armed thieves. Most of those who spoke to CSRS about these criminal incidents have emphasized that security officials were involved in these incidents and the weak performance of the security forces may have led to such a mentality among the citizen of Kabul. However, the security officials say that these are just allegations.

The Forces behind the Crime Offenses

Corruption in the security and judicial sectors of the country is one of the main reasons behind the increasing statistics of crimes in the country. Most of the heinous crimes such as murder, abduction, armed robberies are directly carried out by mafia circles and organized groups. Nonetheless, when the members of these groups are arrested, due to the support of high-ranking officials of the government, they get released after a short time, and then they continue their activities.

On the other hand, poverty and unemployment also play a role in increasing the number of crimes. According to a joint report of the Afghan government and the World Bank, the level of poverty in the country has increased compared to the previous years, and 39.1% of the population in Afghanistan lives below the poverty line.

It is at a time that since 2014 war is continually increasing in the country and hundred thousands of our youth are forced out of the country for unemployment reasons.

Solutions to Reduce Criminal Offenses

Crimes cannot be uprooted from society, but with undertaking some measures, its occurrence can be reduced to minimum rates.

Since most of these crimes occur in secure areas, a mentality has grown among the public that the security officials are involved in these crimes. Therefore, the powerful people must be prevented from meddling in the appointment of security officials. Moreover, steps must be held to eradicate corruption in the security and judicial sectors in the country.

The anti-crime organs must be strengthened, and besides training the employees of these organs, their salaries must increase as well so that the level of corruption could be reduced. Measures must be taken to reduce unemployment and to create job opportunities so that the youth who get involved in such crimes due to unemployment can be prevented from committing crimes. In addition, the government must take a tougher stance against crime and its perpetrators so that the inclination toward crimes could decrease. Another factor that can help the reduction of crimes in the society is to prevent the broadcasting of programs in the media that are contrary to our religion, law, and culture and these programs must be substituted by proper informative programs.

The Dismissal of Nawaz Sharif: Its Impacts on Pakistan and the Region



The Pakistani Supreme Court ousted Pakistan's Prime Minister and the head of the Muslim League Party Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif due to the corruption cases. With Sharif added to the list, none of the Pakistani Prime Ministers in the 70 years history of Pakistan has ever made it to the end of their tenure.

The Pakistani Supreme Court started its investigation after the Panama Papers came out in April 2016 and Tehreek-e-Insaf party, with Imran Khan as its leader, fiercely criticized the Prime Minister for his involvement in the corruption cases. Three out of five judges of the Supreme Court considered the information gathered against Sharif as insufficient and, therefore, their decision was in favor of Sharif. However, in the meanwhile, they formed another group of six people for further investigations about the issue, and after their assessments, all the five judges of the Supreme Court said that the Pakistani Prime Minister was not "honest" and, hence, he was ousted from his position.

Nawaz Sharif did not challenge the verdict of the court and resigned shortly after the court announced its decision. Sharif announced Shahid Khaqan as his successor who also won the confidence vote in the Parliament.

Why and how was Nawaz ousted? How was his relationship with the Pakistani army and intelligence service? What will be the implications of his ouster on Muslim League party, Pakistan and the region? These are the questions that are analyzed here.

Nawaz Sharif and his Relationship with Pakistani Military

If one reviews the history of Pakistan, one will find out that a strong military and a weak democracy had always been dominant in this country. (Among the weak democratic governments in Pakistan, the exception was the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, which was overthrown by a military coup d'état by Zia-ul-Haq.)

A civilian politician, Nawaz Sharif is not an exception either. Nawaz has served thrice as Pakistan's Prime Minister and twice as the Chief Minister of Punjab. In the beginning, the main reason behind his success was Zia-ul-Haq's support. In 1990 Parliamentary elections, the strong spy services of Pakistan provided financial assistance to Nawaz's coalition group the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad against Benazir Bhutto.

After several years, Sharif's government was overthrown by Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Later when in 1997, Nawaz once again won the parliamentary elections, his government was overthrown by a military coup d'état in 1999. This time the difference was that Nawaz Sharif tried to prevent Pakistani Chief of Army Staff's plane from landing in Karachi, but he failed and finally after the Kargil crisis, General Musharraf took power after a military coup d'état on 12 October.

Nawaz was imprisoned by Musharraf, and then with the mediation of Saudi Arabia, he went to Jeddah. He returned to his homeland in 2008 and took part in the elections; his party took over the government in Punjab, and in the central government, Muslim League formed a coalition with People's Party but left the coalition later. In 2013, once again, Sharif's party won the Parliamentary

elections, and he became Pakistan's Prime Minister for the third time. Nevertheless, in mid-2017, he was fired and, hence, could not complete his five-year tenure.

Military's role in the ouster of Nawaz Sharif

The former Pakistani Prime Minister was not ousted due to the revelation of Panama Papers or corruption, but it was rather due to his confrontations with Pakistani military since 2013.

After the formation of the government in 2013, the Muslim League Party (Nawaz Sharif) trialed the former Pakistani Military Chief of Staff. It was the first time in Pakistan's history that a Pakistani Military Chief of Staff was being tried in the trial. In 2014, the leader of Tehreek-e-Insaf Party started demonstrations for allegations of fraud in 2013 elections. These protests prolonged for several weeks and created a crisis in Pakistan. At that time, the Pakistani media repeatedly telecasted reports about "Umpire's" finger going up but nothing happened. By "Umpire" the Pakistani media meant Pakistani military.

In the meanwhile, in an interview after the elections, Nawaz Sharif told an Indian Media outlet that it was necessary for the civilians to have the upper hand in Pakistan and that the Prime Minister was the "boss" in Pakistan, not the Chief of Army Staff.

The gap between the military and Nawaz's civilian government increased when the Pakistani Prime Minister tried to take over Pakistan's security and foreign affairs, and to serve this end, he appointed Sartaj Aziz as the National Security Advisor as well as the Advisor for foreign affairs. However, after the demonstrations by Imran Khan, Nawaz Sharif reconciled with the military and appointed the newly retired General Nasser Janjua as the new National Security Advisor.

Despite these developments, relations between the civilian and military administration were normal. Later according to a report published in *DAWN*, visiting the military, the Pakistani Prime Minister criticized military's policy of using some "terrorist" groups as "proxies". This report was known as "DAWN

Leaks”, and the army fiercely criticized the civilian government for the disclosure of this report. Due to this pressure on behalf of the military, Pakistan’s Minister of Information was obliged to resign.

The Pakistani military was also directly involved in the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif because in the combination of the team that was appointed to investigate his case were a member of ISI and a military spy. Overall, the team had six members; therefore, it is quite probable that the military has played a solid role in the ouster of the Prime Minister.

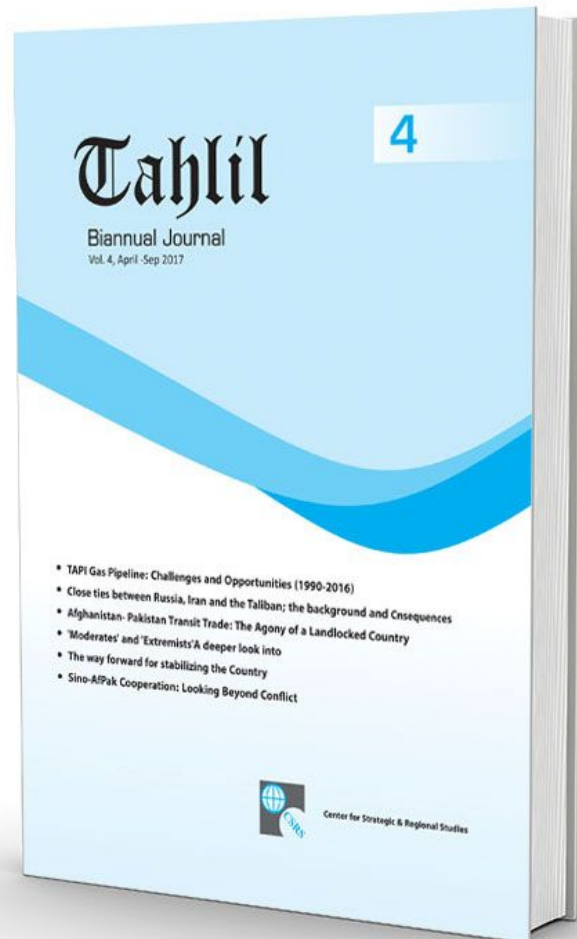
The implications of Nawaz Sharif’s ouster

Sharif’s dismissal will, first of all, affect Pakistan’s Muslim League Party and sequentially Pakistan’s internal politics. Muslim League has been divided since the revelations of Panama Papers. That is why, the current Pakistani Minister of Interior Chaudhry Nisar, who is also a member of Muslim league, criticized some of the ministers for creating distance between him and Nawaz Sharif and, thus, were gradually marginalizing him.

On the other hand, whether how much the dismissed Nawaz Sharif will be able to keep Muslim League strong is a question that only time can respond. But the ouster of a Prime Minister who would in the past four years criticize the military over a series of issues will strengthen military’s stance and control in the internal politics. Moreover, Muslim League’s success in 2018 Parliamentary elections will also be under question and most of the people, especially in the urban cities, will vote the other parties particularly Tehreek-e-Insaf.

In the meanwhile, although there are a variety of analysis about the implications of Sharif’s dismissal on the region and particularly on Afghanistan, his ouster will rather affect internal politics than foreign policy because Pakistan’s foreign and security policy is at the hand of the Pakistani military and it was in their hands even in the past four years of Nawaz Sharif and; therefore, no change will occur in the foreign policy of Pakistan.

CSRS Releases the Fourth Issue of the *Tahlil* Journal



Tahlil is the six-month scientific and research magazine which includes analysis of various national, regional and international issues.

This issue of the Journal of *Tahlil* contains articles about the country's political, economic and security situation as well as the existing opportunities and challenges and the ways to deal with these challenges.

In this issue, in addition to preface, you would read the following contents:

- TAPI Gas Pipeline: Challenges and Opportunities (1990-2016)
- Close ties between Russia, Iran and the Taliban; the background and consequences

- Afghanistan- Pakistan Transit Trade: The Agony of a Landlocked Country
- A deeper look into 'Extremists' and 'Moderates'
- The way forward for stabilizing the Country
- National Stability and Development: Need for Modification in Government Policies
- Book introduction: “Afghanistan in the past one and half decade”
- English articles and English translation of abstracts of the articles

It is mention-worthy that in the first English article of the magazine the issue of cooperation between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan is assessed and areas of practical cooperation are indicated. In additions, recommendations about how to increase the trilateral cooperation are also recommended.

The second English article discusses the ways to succeed the peace efforts in Afghanistan, and the third English piece has analyzed the future of the Taliban and ISIL.

We hope that this issue of The Journal of *Tahlil* will help in finding solutions for the existing challenges in the country.

The end

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Note: Please let us know your feedback and suggestions for the improvement of Weekly analysis.

