

*"Musharraf-Shaukat policies have made the rich richer and the poor poorer. The extent of inequalities in the country has increased to scandalous proportions during the last eight years. The government's economic survey admits that the top 20% are getting at least 400% more than what is being received by the lowest 20%. According to another study, out of every 100 rupees added to the national income, only Rs3 go to the lowest 10% and over Rs40 to the upper 10%. The stock exchange and real estate boom has only been instrumental in producing millionaires and billionaires because of speculation, not through real value-addition in the economy."*

*Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, in his review of Federal Budget 2007-2008*

"Executive Secretary reporting to MD of large education network, fluency in spoken and written English, command on (sic) computer usage and excellent secretarial skills must. Female with cute personality, willing to work, anything & everything, for long hours, be able to keep MD pleased and relaxed, salary 20,000 – 40,000/-. Send resume with recent photo."

A classified "Wanted" advertisement in a national daily

"The investment on port and related projects is exceeding Rs100bn. Its interest cost at 10% will be Rs10bn/year at least. To earn Rs10bn, there will have to be a turnover of Rs100bn or more. Would facilities at Gwadar create that much activity? Not possible by any means. The chances are that after investing Rs100bn, the government will have to spend Rs10bn/year on the maintenance of those facilities. Today the biggest drain on national resources is so-called development projects like Gwadar port."

Abdul Majeed, "The Truth About Gwadar", published on 31 July 2006. Mr. Majeed is a transport economist and served as Chief of the National Transport Research Centre in Islamabad.

"Three to four women come to us everyday for abortion. We do encourage child spacing but advice women not to go for abortion as it can be harmful to their health."

According to Dr Wasim Iqbal (Shah Faisal Maternity Home and Child Healthcare Centre), the number of women seeking abortion is high. (Aug 13)

'I did not desert the force because I feared death, but I was not sure whether the fighting in tribal district Waziristan was Islamic or not.'

A soldier from paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) told the Daily Times as scores of Pakistani soldiers refuse to fight Militants.

"We work under utmost unsanitary conditions that make us vulnerable to fatal diseases. The facilities at the SWM-

approved health centres are insufficient. Lack of proper medical cover has resulted in death or permanent disability of several of our colleagues in most cases. There are hardly a few sanitary workers who are in good health after attaining superannuation."

A SWM worker claimed. About 3,000 Solid Waste Management Workers in Lahore Suffer from Hepatitis B & C

Koran "Calls on Muslims to oppress, persecute or kill Christians, Jews, dissidents and non-believers, to beat and rape women and to establish an Islamic state by force". "Ban this wretched book like Mein Kampf is banned!"

Dutch populist MP Geert Wilders wrote in De Volksrant newspaper on Aug 14

"It was a holocaust, one where millions disappeared. It was a necessary holocaust in the British view because they thought the only way to win was to destroy entire populations in towns and villages. It was simple and brutal. Indians who stood in their way were killed. But its scale has been kept a secret."

Amaresh Misra, a writer and historian based in Mumbai, argues that there was an "untold holocaust" which caused the deaths of almost 10 million people over 10 years beginning in 1857

"When she is an accused person why should not she be arrested? I am not aware about any law which prohibits her arrest." An Official of Pandu Police Station. Under the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act, 2006, a woman cannot be arrested in cases of fornication and no court could take cognizance of such offence unless a complaint had been filed with it. The chairman of the Voice of Prisoners, Noor Alam Khan, told Dawn that the police had been misusing the law as women offenders could no longer be arrested on charges of fornication and adultery. (Aug 23)

"Under this secular system, religion, in general, and Christianity, in particular, have become increasingly sidelined and toothless... The issue dominating the

forum's agenda is that why mosques are always complete while churches deserted even on Sundays!"

Christophe Roucou, the French Catholic Church's head of Muslim-Christian Dialogue Department. Estimates show that 50,000 French have embraced Islam in recent years. (Aug 18)

"Over the years, Pakistan has earned the epithet of an 'organ bazaar' where people from all over the world come to buy cheap kidneys for \$15,000 to \$20,000. The organ trade is flourishing in Pakistan because there is no law, thanks to the government and people who are powerful enough to influence the government."

Professor Adibul Hassan Rizvi, Director of the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT)

"We introduced Kevlar-lined hooded tops earlier this year and off the back of that a few parents asked us if we could alter school uniforms to make them stab proof." Adrian Davis of Bladerunner, told the BBC: Seven boys aged under 16 have been killed in London so far eight months into 2007.

"We will teach the lesson to US if it dares to come forward to attack upon us. Americans are coward nation and they can do nothing. Army should not target their brethren. US aid is like killer disease AIDS, we curse it. The whole nation does not want US aid. Those who are targeting humanity and justice are terrorists. Those who are engaged in freedom war are freedom fighters. US ship is close to sink. It is hurling threats like a coward." Treasury member Ejaz Chaudhry

"Pakistan was created in the name of Islam. But we have been running it in the name of the Devil. The Devil must be jubilant!" Commented AH Khayal, a columnist (The Independent)

"Hey Ysrail and USA, dont kill children and other people. Peace for ever. No war." UN website hacked briefly by "karem125 M0sted and Gsy i.e. CyberProtest" displayed a message

protesting US and Israeli policies in the Middle East. (Aug 12)

"Before, our children would salute our soldiers when they passed. Now they spit on them."

Zahoor Ahmed described the feelings of his hillside village, Kohu, a three-hour drive from the capital, Islamabad. (Aug 8)

"Islamic banking is a few steps ahead of German-Franco model of banking in which social considerations are given equal weight with profit maximization." Azhar Qureshi, Executive Director Development finance group of State Bank of Pakistan: Seminar on "Islamic Banking Investment - progress and potential"

"Every piece of new evidence shows that the age of criminality is becoming younger and younger. This demonstrates only too clearly that some of the fundamental answers to Britain's broken society start in the home and the school."

David Davis, the shadow Home Secretary, UK

"The majority of Korans we sell are for Christmas presents. I know, because we wrap a lot of them."

Maja Nordholm, manager of Arnold Busck bookstore in Odense, told Kristeligt Dagblad newspaper. In the first month since its release, nearly half of the 10,000 copies available have been sold, sending philologist Ellen Wulff's translation to number two on the non-fiction list.

"The purpose of editing and burning Abraham Holy Books is to eliminate homophobic hate. Both ancient books are terrorist manuals."

Gay Artist, Charles Merrill, burns rare \$60,000 Koran in Chicago

"Mr. Prime Minister, there would be at least 200-300 divorces if Aunty Shamim's book gets published."

Unidentified MNA: On the publication of a book by a brothel owner who claims to possess the richest clientele list of this sort in Pakistan which includes MNAs, Army Officers, and Judges.

"...we already have an Islamic System in the country and under the Constitution no law can be imposed that is repugnant to the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah." Gen. Musharraf speaking to the Extremists (Jul 17)

"Love death more than you love your 5,000-rupee salary, nude pictures of Indian actresses and liquor... We know that you have become America's slave and are serving infidel Musharraf and have become a traitor to your religion for food, clothes

and shelter."

Mujahideen-i-Islam, distributing Pamphlets in Waziristan, titled: 'Till Islam Lives in Islamabad' (Jul 23)

"Islam is the official religion and we are an Islamic state. But as an Islamic state, it does not mean that we don't respect the non-Muslims. The Muslims and the non-Muslims have their own rights (in this country)... We have never been secular because being secular by Western definition means separation of the Islamic principles in the way we govern a country... We have never been affiliated to that position. We have always been driven by our adherence to the fundamentals of Islam."

Deputy Prime Minister Datus Seri Najib Tun Razak (July 17)

"As long as we keep working, singly and together, for the refinement and improvement of the Islamic Banking industry, it then really is Islamic." Michael Saleh Gassner, German, Islamic Financial Consultant on 'Is Islamic Banking Really Islamic?'

"The students of this (prevailing educational) system are helplessly indecisive even in small issues and individualistic in nature having neither little or no confidence nor any passion to become effective leaders."

Somair Feroz, Director, Youth Leadership Program (YLP), Karachi

"It is completely illogical and impractical to imprison a person for selling prostitutes for up to 25 years and only upto 5 years for committing illicit sexual intercourse (i.e. fornication)! It is something to which no meaning can be attached barring the inference that protection is actually being meant for the fornicators through this law (WPB)."

Abdur Rehman critiquing on the newly-passed Women Protection Bill (WPB)

"A Muslim who supports Israel's right to exit as a Jewish State is central to the definition of a moderate Muslim."

Gary Ratner, Executive Director of American Jewish Congress (AJC)

"Pakistan, for example, is home to a vocal and politically potent fundamentalist segment; it also has a significant traditionalist population; and politically, it wishes to affiliate itself with the modern international community. How can the country reconcile these goals on the issue of Islamic criminal justice? Abandoning shari'a law would alienate the fundamentalists and portions of the

traditionalists, but amputating hands and stoning adulterers would lead to international condemnation and alienate domestic modernists and some traditionalists. The solution: Impose shari'a sentences but do not carry them out."

"The military will continue to be an influential political actor across the Muslim world. In some countries—Pakistan, for instance—the military will likely control the state for the policy-relevant future. More often than not, the military is on the fore front of the war on terrorism. In Turkey and Indonesia, the military establishments are also pillars of their respective countries' secular political institutions. Therefore, military-to-military relations will be of particular importance to any U.S. shaping strategy in the Muslim world. Rebuilding a core of U.S.-trained officers in key Muslim countries is therefore a critical need. Programs such as International Military Education and Training (IMET) not only ensure that future military leaders are exposed to American military values and practices but can also translate into increased U.S. influence and access." Cheryl Benard in 'Civic Democratic Islam: Partners, Resources, and Strategies'

"Before our intervention, CSWs were reporting about four per cent use of condoms.... Promoting safe sex to ward off chances of many STDs and even HIV, we started doling out condoms in 2005." Aleem Baig, Amal Human Development Network

"Muslims did not ask us to give up our ideals and values. On the contrary, it is the West which does not honour these very ideals when dealing with Muslims and Islam."

Karen Armstrong, a Catholic nun turned Christian theologian.

"Jinnah was a great Muslim leader. He played a dynamic role in the creation of the nation of Pakistan in 1947. And to me he is George Washington of Pakistan," Mike Colle, Ontario's Minister for Citizenship and Immigration.

"In my soul, I can't tell you how dark it is, how painful, how terrible -- I feel like refusing God." In 1956, she wrote: "Such deep longing for God and ... repulsed empty no faith no love no zeal. ... Heaven means nothing, pray for me please that I keep smiling at Him in spite of everything." Mother Teresa, "Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the 'Saint of Calcutta'"