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## GENDER AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

### Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality

#### Raising Voices against Harassment

More than 30 trainee nurses at District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ) staged a protest against harassment and lack of facilities at the hostel. They held banners and placards, inscribed with slogans against the “unacceptable attitude” of the DHQ Deputy Medical Superintendent (DMS) Dr Akhtar Bugti and hostel administration. They alleged that the DMS “never let go the chance of sexually harassing trainee nurses” and routinely used abusive language while delivering lecture in class. They said that their tolerance has been tested to the fullest and they can't bear this harassment anymore. The nurses said that the hostel administration is not providing them with any facility and they have to manage everything on their own. Whenever they complain, they are threatened against our careers. This insecurity is keeping them from performing their professional duties. The nurses demanded the Punjab government to dismiss the DMS as soon as possible, and also press the hostel administration to provide them all basic facilities. They said their protest will continue till their demands are met. They also boycotted classes and chanted slogans against Dr Akhtar and the hostel administration. The DMS, while rejecting the allegations leveled against him.

[The Express Tribune - August 05, 2011]

#### Women Join Men's Ranks, but Not in the Battlefield

They can treat all the wounded soldiers but they can't go to the battlefield. Not yet at least. Thousands of women have been inducted in the Pakistan armed forces over the last five years but there is no policy to induct them in the infantry and armor department yet. Dressed in crisp khaki sari, hair tied back, and straight posture, female officers in the armed forces, however, believe they are ready to face all challenges, including those in the trenches. Women outside of the armed forces face even greater challenges than those in the army, said a female officer. She said that her uniform and rank make another person think twice before harassing her. Women in other fields are more vulnerable and have to struggle to seek justice when harassed at workplace or elsewhere. She said she joined the army due to 'job security' in pursuit of a secure life but the day she donned her uniform, a 'sense of responsibility to fight for my country took over.' While the women in the armed forces have to undergo the same hurdles as men, some rules and regulations are amended to accommodate them. They have to keep in mind the socioeconomic setup, norms of the society and abilities. While men have to clear high-school level, women need to have a postgraduate degree and be older than 28 before they can appear for the exam. They subsequently undergo training for six months while the men train for two years before they get a rank. Women were inducted in the Pakistan army in 2006 – prior to that they were inducted only in the medical department. More than 3,000 women appear in the test every year while a total of 41 were selected in the first batch. The number has grown steadily since. Women are treated as equals and they have proven to be better than men in various areas. At present, there are almost 3,500 female officers serving in the Pakistan Army. Of them, approximately 2,400 serve in the armed forces nursing service with 600 female doctors serving at all ranks between captain and major general. About 350 officers are working in other military branches including ISPR, communication, military college of signals and military college of engineering.

[The Express Tribune - August 18, 2011]

### **Underfed Women Serve Their Husbands, Children First**

At dusk, a Hindu woman dressed in a saari worked quietly in her family's dimly lit twig hut. The hut's small round interior was lit only by the fire of a tandoor. As she squatted near the flames, preparing rotis, a tiny girl, still unaccustomed to standing on her own, clung to her mother's dupatta. Nearby, the girl's two brothers shared a plate of sliced mango. Here women feed their husbands first, their children second, while they themselves eat whatever leftovers remain; explained by Dr Shankar Lal, a doctor in Tharparkar and member of Baahn Beli, an NGO that works in the area. He explains this imbalance as it is part of their tradition but it leaves the women undernourished. Every day, this woman travels 3 kilometers on foot to fetch drinking water. Her daily routine is the same as that of thousands of women in the district. In addition to the labor involved in gathering water, women spend grueling days working under the sun, in the open field. They also cook and care for their children and husbands, causing them to expend an enormous amount of calories each day. And thus, malnutrition consistently plagues a population of over one million people. It is the combined effect that poverty, illiteracy and weak family planning have on the region. A lack of regular access to food coupled with economic hardships often force people to survive on far less nutrition than is required. The problem is compounded when an average of eight children have to be fed per family. An intake of around 2,600 calories is essential for an average human adult to remain healthy, yet the majority of residents here are forced to survive on less than 1,600 calories a day. Malnourished people are more susceptible to conditions such as anemia and hepatitis as well as viral and non-viral diseases. Residents of Tharparkar eat a few rotis, some cooked vegetables and tea. Access to meat is limited, as livestock are raised primarily to produce milk. Butter can be produced in the rainy season when the animals are healthier because there is more grass. The excess milk is stored and using traditional methods, families can produce butter. However, due to a lack of infrastructure such as functional roads, selling this butter at the market becomes difficult.

[The Express Tribune - August 04, 2011]

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### **Dancing Women Who Brought Disaster in Northern Areas**

Naming natural calamities after women is not common in Pakistan but attaching such disasters to moral degradation surrounding women is a dominant way of thinking. This is especially true in some areas hit by floods last year where women claim to know exactly why the disaster struck. Naseema Bibi, lost her 17-year-old son in the floods. She is convinced it was Allah's anger over what went on at the festival. She said that women danced there and Allah never forgives such deeds. His wrath came in the shape of floods. Naseema blamed that it was the dancing women who invited trouble. Her 10-year-old son agrees with his mum by saying that she is right because there was music and women danced. Therefore, everyone knows floods came because of that. The boy never attended the festival himself and learnt about the events from his Qari (religious tutor). Similarly, for women their sources of information are often men who learn about such justifications from religious leaders. The festival in question was staged from July 11-18, 2011 marking the return of peace to Swat Valley cleared of militants by the Pakistani military.

The event was a big success and attracted visitors from across the country after a two-year break because of the military operation in the valley. Suddenly, the hotels and restaurants were doing brisk business as tourists began streaming in. The festival helped revive jobs for as many as 20,000 people in the area. The newspapers and television channels termed the festival a breakthrough for Swat's ailing tourism. A car rally and a music show comprising folk singers and others were the significant features of the festival, inaugurated by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Tourism and Culture Syed Aqil Shah. The festival's long over but it is not Naseema's fault to think the way she does. She is an uneducated woman. Her farming family does not even have a television at home. If some families in the area do have this luxury, they cannot even watch Pakistan Television as the terminals destroyed by the Taliban have yet to be repaired. But

it is not people like Naseema who have such views. Ask Maryum Rehmat, a professional doctor belonging to Swat and she would tell you her own version of the calamity and why it happened. She said that the floods were the result of moral degradation of women in the area as the latest fashion in Swat is that girls make 'mehndi' tattoos on their backs at a place where they can easily be seen. The women in Swat are very beautiful and many have become prostitutes. Interestingly, no such views were shared by women about men or the men themselves. Maryum had no answer when asked if she had ever thought about the sins of men that possibly could have brought the natural calamity.

Tahira Noor from the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) says these communities believe that bodily and societal conduct of women and girls play positive role in maintaining and balancing the moral fabric and character of the whole society. The catastrophic 2005 earthquake was completely attributed to women and girls for not behaving in a proper way and not living their lives according to Islamic way. The more we notice the deep-rooted stereotypical mindset behind this popular theory is in the area. A member of one of the community organizations said that the social and moral fabric of society is being extremely disturbed and destroyed by women and girls. They wear makeup, dress fashionably; attend schools where co-educations systems exist. The young girls have been interacting with stranger men and boys which are against the fundamental teachings of Islam. Women are strictly prohibited to interact with '*namahraams*', it is '*haram*' in Islam. This is earning us Allah's wrath in the form of natural disasters. Poor and honest men and children are being punished for the wrong doings of women. People in these areas strictly believe that Islam means having complete control and command over women's lives and choices. According to them, women need to fulfill their reproductive roles only, catering to children and elderly, meeting the husband's demands, cooking, cleaning and nurturing and raising children. They do not accept women in productive roles. For them it is 'haram' for a man to live on his wife's earning or money. The men claim that Allah has entrusted this responsibility on men to cater to the food and shelter needs of women. However, it is all together a different debate that to what extent these holy men are sincere and honest in fulfilling this Godly and divine duty.

[The News – August 16, 2011]

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### **US Must 'Do More' To Protect Women from Violence: UN**

A UN human rights expert has criticized the US for failing to properly protect women from domestic violence, citing a 1999 Colorado child slaying case. The US Government should reassess existing mechanisms for protecting victims and punishing offenders, and establish meaningful standards for enforcement of protection orders and impose consequences for a failure to enforce them, its causes and consequences. US laws on domestic violence lack substance and aren't properly enforced. Manjoo singled out the case of Colorado woman Jessica Lenahan whose three daughters were killed by her estranged husband. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights last week sided with Lenahan in a complaint against the US. The Washington-based civil-rights tribunal recommended the US government carry out a full investigation of the case and strengthen legislation against domestic violence. Not knowing where her daughters were, Ms. Lenahan contacted Castle Rock Police Department eight times on the evening of June 22 and the morning of June 23 1999. That morning, Simon Gonzales drove his pick-up truck to the department and fired through the window. In an exchange of gunfire he was killed. The bodies of the three girls were found in his truck. Manjoo noted that she conducted a fact-finding mission to the US earlier this year. In discussions with Government officials, victims, survivors, and advocates, including Jessica Lenahan, a lack of substantive protective legislation for domestic violence victims in the US was found, as well as inadequate implementation of certain laws, policies and programs.

[The Nation - August 24, 2011]

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### **Women Must Report Violence**

Women must raise their voices against injustices and report the police without hesitation about violence incidents to help control increasing crime rate. While Non-Governmental Organizations and media should play role for raising awareness among women as they are reluctant to file FIR and do not want to disclose their identity or leave their homes. The Women Police Station is committed to provide speedy justice to the women, facilitating them at every step from reporting of an incident till submission of case in the court within 14 days of investigation, in accordance with the national judicial policy. Around 4-5 cases are reported every week and are usually related to violence, torture, harassment, threatening or degrading a woman and registered under different sections. The investigation process is completed within a time period of 14 days. Sometimes, the investigation process cannot be completed with two weeks due to complexity of the cases so incomplete challan is submitted to the court. However, the investigation continued and the remaining challans are submitted after completing inquiry process and then court give final decision. Parveen who took charge in February this year said, 51 cases were registered from January to August, out of which, 35 cases are under investigation while remaining has been submitted to the court for final verdict. Cases received are related to beggars on daily basis who are big threat to the security of the city. Our squad is working round the clock to ensure safety of the residents. The women police officials are also appointed at Eid bazaars to save people from pickpockets and beggars. Women Police Station is equipped with all the facilities including Mobile van, wireless system and others but lack of staff is a major problem which sometimes hinders the investigation process. Earlier, women have to go the Police Stations along with their male counterparts where no proper facility was available for them but now separate stations for women are facilitating them for lodging complaints against any kind of crime.

[The News - August 28, 2011]

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### **Illiterate and Ignorant: Pakistani Women Continue To Suffer**

Illiteracy, ignorance of rights, absence of relevant laws and the prevalence of social taboos are factors responsible for the hardships faced by Pakistani women. Young lecturers and researchers from various local universities stated this during the inaugural session of a two-day conference titled “Women’s studies”, organized by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) in collaboration with the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW). The conference aims to share findings and promote studies on women’s rights by young researchers. With the passage of time, trends and situation change and these studies will help provide new mechanisms and techniques to cope with women-related issues, such as violence against women. Fatima Jinnah Women University Lecturer Adeela Rehman shared the findings in her study on “Women’s indigenous knowledge about folklore and riddles in Punjab’s rural society”. She said that riddles are mostly produced by women in rural areas during their leisure time, which “might just be a game, but also promotes gender stereotypical norms and values in society”. Karachi University Lecturer Aliyah Bilgrami shared her findings on “Women prisoners in Pakistan: changing practices to enforce law and rights”, saying that Pakistani women are unaware of their rights and are easily incarcerated for crimes they never committed.

Bilgrami said that imprisoned women face “The most terrible of conditions,” and noted that 55 to 60 per cent of women in police custody are raped, physically and sexually abused and face violence from male police officials. She said that many women in Karachi jails don’t even know under which law they were imprisoned. She said that homosexual acts and drug use are quite common in jails, adding that the majority of women are imprisoned for kidnapping children or involvement in drug trafficking. She said that during her research, she came across a woman who had to get an abortion after being thrashed by jail staff while pregnant. When she tried to lodge a complaint, she was threatened with dire consequences. Another respondent said that she lost her baby after she was subjected to violence by a lady constable in a women police

station. This indicates that even women police stations are not providing protection to women. Custodial violence passes undetected by state authorities and contributes to the lack of protection for women that are victims of such violence. Researcher Asma Fatima highlighted the flaws in family laws under her study titled, "The tyranny of verbal divorce, the disinherited female and the abandoned child: A strong case for reforming Muslim personal laws in Pakistan." She said that the Muslim Family Law Ordinance does not recognize if a woman has had prior marriages and conflicts with Shariah Law in practice.

[The Express Tribune - August 28, 2011]

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## Articles / Reports/ Books on Gender

### Crimes against Women Go Up By 18 Pc in a Year

Crimes against women, including forced marriages and sexual assaults, registered an increase of 18 percent over a period of one year, according to a comparison of cases registered in 61 districts across the country. Based on the comparison of number of the first information reports (FIRs) pertaining to anti-women crimes in 61 districts, the number of total reported crimes increased from 849 in May 2010 to 999 in May 2011, FAFEN report on crimes against women. The number of cases on forced marriages, incidents of insults and sexual harassment increased significantly while the spread of more serious crimes like rape and honor killing increased. Attacks on modesty increased the most during the reporting year as 58 percent more FIRs were registered compared to May 2010. Cases of forced marriages and sexual harassment went up by 42 percent and 17 percent, respectively. However, FIRs registered against rape, honor killings and offences against marriage decreased by 25 percent, 17 percent and 1 percent, respectively. Crimes against women were more widespread this year as the number of districts reporting them increased in May 2011 compared to May 2010. FIRs against 181 incidents of rape were registered in 34 districts in May 2011 compared to 241 in 30 districts the same month last year. Similarly, 25 cases of honor killings were reported in 12 districts in May 2011 against 30 reported in nine districts in May 2010. It is difficult to ascertain the true pattern of occurrence of both rape and honor killings based only on the number of FIRs registered nationwide. There is a strong possibility that many cases go unreported because the victims do not file complaints or because the police are reluctant to register an FIR against these crimes.

In May 2011, the highest number of honor killings cases, four, were reported in the predominantly urban district of Faisalabad. However, in May 2010 the highest number of honor killings in a single district – Charsadda - was more than that reported in May 2011. Charsadda police had registered eight FIRs against honor killings in May last year. As many as 439 FIRs against forced marriages were registered in 33 districts in May 2011 compared to 308 FIRs in 31 districts last year in the same month. Though Karachi district reported the highest number - 46 - FIRs against forced marriages in May 2010, the number went down by half in May this year to 23 FIRs. Faisalabad district reported the highest number of FIRs against this crime in May 2011 – 47, a marked increase from 36 FIRs in May last year. FIRs against attack on modesty of women were reported in 31 districts this year compared to 21 last year, resulting in an increase in the number of reported cases from 146 to 230. Punjab's 21 districts in May 2011 registered 206 FIRs against attacks on modesty, whereas 134 were registered in 16 districts in May 2010. In other regions, difference in number of registered FIRs was offset by increased or decreased reporting districts.

[Daily Times - August 06, 2011]

## HR WATCH

### Women & HR

#### Reported Cases of Violence against Women Show a Marked Rise

The number cases of violence against women (VAW) reported in the first six months of 2011 was significantly higher than 2010. A total of 4,448 cases of VAW were reported during the first six months of 2011; 3,107 from Punjab, 819 from Sindh, 389 from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and 133 from Balochistan. During the same period in 2010, 4,061 cases of VAW were reported across the country. This was revealed at a press conference on “Biannual Statistics of VAW”, organized by Aurat Foundation at a local hotel. Aliya Mirza, Member of VAW Watch Committee, said that Punjab had the highest number of reported cases of abduction/kidnapping of women, amounting to 986; where Sindh, K-P and Balochistan had 160, 179 and 40 cases reported respectively. She said that excluding honor crimes, women were murdered for reasons such as property dispute and men opting for multiple marriages (799 women). In addition, 396 cases of rape/gang rape of women have also been reported. Mirza said that during the first six months of 2011, a total of 402 suicide cases of young women have been reported, “which is alarming as it indicates a violent environment for women in the country”. However it is believed that these statistics are the tip of the iceberg as majority of cases of violence against women remain unrecorded due to social and traditional norms, lack of access to reporting system and the so-called tradition of ‘keeping family’s respect unbroken. She said in larger cities cases of domestic violence against women are reported more due to awareness among people. However, the reason behind the surge in such cases is that domestic violence is still disregarded as a crime.

Concern over the staggering 72 cases of VAW cases reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) alone was shown. The figure included 15 cases of murder, 12 of abduction/kidnapping, nine of domestic violence, three of suicide, three of rape/ gang rape, three of sexual assault, two of acid throwing, among others. They said that the authorities need to pay attention to the situation, “because if we aim to end violence and crime in our society, we will first have to establish an ideal situation in ICT”. They blamed the lack of legislation as one of the main reasons behind the increase in cases of violence against women, and urged for uniformity in the domestic violence bill and the creation of a witness protection law/system in the country. VAW Watch Committee Member Samar Minallah said that if there are more provinces in the country, it will be easier to highlight and address such cases as each region is unique in its ways of inflicting violence on women. If we learn the diversity of the ways how violence is inflicted on women in different regions, that might help us address the issue culturally. We want all provinces to have uniformity in the domestic violence bill adding that the domestic violence bill will be soon tabled before K-P and Sind provincial assemblies. She blamed the lack of legislation as one of the main reasons behind the increase in cases of VAW and urged to have a witness protection law/system in the country.

[The Express Tribune - August 17, 2011]

### Child Rights

#### Watta Satta: Father Weds Off 5-Year-Old Daughter to Get a Bride

According to police officials, a team raided a village in Deputy Wala Chak-466GB after a wedding ceremony had been contracted and the guests were having food. Guests at the function told police officials that Chiniot resident Akram’s wife had died three years ago and he intended to contract a marriage with local resident Irfan’s sister. In exchange, Akram agreed to marry his

daughter Sana with Irfan, 25. Irfan arrived in Deputy Wala with wedding guests. The couples were having food when Bhowana police raided the scene following the nuptials. Police arrested the bride's father, grandfather and the nikah khawan Muhammad Nawaz. Police officials also apprehended seven wedding guests and took Sana Shehzadi into custody. Both the bridegroom and the girl's father ran away when they saw the police but Akram was caught. Akram wanted to marry Irfan's sister Humera, 21, and he offered up his daughter instead. The child didn't seem to have any clue as to what was going on.

Muhammad Nawaz, a registered nikah khawan of the locality solemnized the nikah of Sana Shehzadi with Irfran in the presence of more than three dozen witnesses, including the girl's grandparents. After being arrested Nawaz said that he had not done anything wrong. This marriage is allowed in Islam and it is not against the law. Her father is her wali and he has the right to contract the union on her behalf. The child had no idea what was happening. She didn't know she had gotten married or that her father was also getting married to her new sister-in-law. Police officials rounded up a total of ten people at the function including Sattan Bibi – Sana's grandmother. Among others who were arrested include Nusrat Ali, Muhammad Raiz, Nikah Registrar Maulvi Muhammad Nawaz, Ramzan and Aslam etc. The police have also taken Sana Shehzadi into custody and said that she would be presented before the area magistrate within the next two days. The child will be sent to a Darul Aman and a case has already been filed against her father and the bridegroom. Action is being taken against the accused under the Child Protection Law and he will be presented before the court. Irfan is still at large but a team of police officials is searching for his whereabouts.

*(The child's name has been changed to protect her identity)*

[The Express Tribune - August 01, 2011]

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### **CRM to Launch Advocacy Drive for Ratification of Protocol**

Child Rights Movement (CRM) is all set to launch an advocacy campaign for the ratification of the Optional Protocol (OP) where 10,000 post cards addressed to the prime minister have been printed that would be sent to the PM by the civil society including children from across the country to demand for the ratification of the OP. CRM Coordinator Imtiaz Ahmed said that radio campaign would also be launched in major cities of the country to generate demand for the ratification of the OP. The need for the ratification of optional protocol of the United Nations (UN) Child Rights Convention (CRS), that is the protection of children under the age of 15 to not to take part in direct hostilities and not to recruit under 15 into armed forces, would be stressed during the campaign. Imtiaz Ahmed said that Pakistan, despite being among the first 20 countries to sign and ratify the UN CRC has failed to ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (ratified by 128 countries). The rehabilitation and reintegration of children used as child soldiers is also the right of such children. Pakistan however, has failed to protect the rights of these children and despite the fact that it has signed the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict way back in October 2001 it has failed to ratify it. According to information, the Optional Protocol to the UN CRC was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly resolution in 2000 and entered into force in 2002. Currently 139 countries has signed and ratified the said Optional Protocol. The need for this Optional Protocol was felt and discussed as article 38 of the UN CRC was not consistent with the protection of children as it mentioned the age of 15 year olds not to take part in direct hostilities and not to recruit under 15 year olds into armed forces. In 2009, the Pakistan army had identified some 20 cases. It is believed that the aim of the Taliban was to turn these children into informants, bombers or even suicide bombers. These children included eleven boys, the youngest being at the tender age of seven.

[The News - August 18, 2011]

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## Conflict Watch

### **Violence Claims Eight More Lives in Karachi**

Eight more people, including two activists of the Awami National Party (ANP), were killed in the ongoing targeted violence. After a brief pause, the killings once again resumed from the Surjani Town area when two bullet-riddled bodies were found there. Police said they received information that two bodies had been found in a vehicle parked in Sector-7C, North Karachi, at the Northern Bypass. A police mobile rushed towards the spot and shifted the bodies to a hospital. They added that unidentified criminals had tortured the deceased persons badly before killing them and later threw the bodies in the area. During investigation, the deceased were identified as Bacha Rehman and his nephew Sajjad Khan. Both were activists of the ANP, attached to the Khwaja Ajmer Nagri ward, and were residents of Surjani Town. As the news of the incident reached the area, tension developed there and armed men resorted to aerial firing, forcing traders to shut down their businesses. Moreover, in the same area, a group of armed men started firing on people in the streets, injuring three persons, including a teenage boy. The injured were rushed to a hospital where all the three succumbed to their injuries. Police said one of the deceased was identified as Tahir, 32, while the other two remained unknown. Soon after the incident, violent activities intensified in Surjani Town and stretched to two more of its areas, Taisar Town and Khuda Ki Basti, where armed groups clashed and openly used firearms. Two shops were also torched in Taisar Town. Meanwhile, police teams of District West, under the supervision of SSP Asif Ijaz Sheikh, reached the area and launched a crackdown against the criminal elements.

Another bullet-riddled body was found from the Pak Colony area. Police said the body was lying near the Kabari Market in Shershah. They added that the deceased, who was of about 25 years of age and was badly tortured before being shot dead, could not be identified. The case was reported at the concerned police station. A bullet-riddled body of a man was found from the Pakistan Bazar area, the body was found near the Millat School in Sector-18A, police said and added that the deceased was brutally tortured and then killed with firearms. The case has been reported at the police station. Later, two armed men gunned down a passerby near Urdu Bazar in the Arambagh area. Police said on investigation from eyewitnesses, it was found that a motorcycle stopped near the Urdu Bazar Chowk and two riders shot dead the third person who was with them. They dropped his body there and fled. The Arambagh police said the identity of the deceased was still unknown, adding the case had been reported and investigation was underway. The situation in the city was tense till our going to the press. The killings brought the number of dead to more than 320 in the month of July, the highest death toll in a single month in about 20 years.

[The News - August 01, 2011]

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### **The Quintessential 'Un-City'**

One of the challenges we face in trying to understand the dysfunction of Karachi today is the question of how far back we must go to pick up the thread. For some Sindhis, perhaps the combustible Zulfiqar Mirza is speaking the truth when he implies that Sindh was rent asunder when the first Urdu-speaking migrants (or Mohajirs) from India began to pour into the province. For many of the children and grandchildren of those Mohajirs, the real troubles begin later, when a systemic discrimination against them takes shape in the form of quotas for rural Sindh under the post-1971 Zulfiqar Bhutto regime. For many outside the province of Sindh, Karachi became an intractable beast in the mid 1980s when the APMSO leadership morphed into the MQM and began to establish a network of political influence, based at least partially, on brute force and violence. For others still, Karachi's problems assumed gigantic proportions after 1992 and the brutality that had previously only been unleashed on Balochistan was unleashed

on parts of Karachi during Operation Cleanup. Finally, many see Karachi's problems from the perspective of only its most recent ethnic cleavage – the Pakhtun versus Mohajir conflict that has been ignited by a significant but as yet, un-quantified net inflow of Pakhtuns fleeing from violence in Swat and KP province.

One important question is why Karachi does not have such a police force. Part of the reason is the farce known as public administration in Pakistan. One of the world's largest cities is managed, administratively by a provincial government. The short spell of the district government in Karachi only made a marginal difference to the city, because the model of local governance applied to Karachi was speciously distinguishable from the model of local governance applicable to Jacobabad or Charsadda. The cookie cutter decentralization of the Local Government Ordinance (LGO 2001) was never going to address the underlying urban development issues faced by Karachi. If we're to arrive at a comprehensive and sustainable solution to Karachi's problems, we have to have a more rooted explanation for its problems. The failure to police Karachi effectively is not simply a problem of administrative and legal complexities. Nor is it a product of ethnic diversity. Far more diverse cities than Karachi exist and thrive. We rarely hear of one hundred people getting gunned down over four days in political violence elsewhere. At least some of the answers lie in examining the role of the Pakistani military in Karachi. To understand the intimate involvement of the military in helping to ruin Karachi, we must take each strand of Karachi's key dysfunctions separately. For two generations, right smack in the middle of every major cleavage that exists in Karachi, the military has made political decisions with enduring consequences.

Karachi's structural and administrative dysfunction is also not disconnected from the profit-obsessed foundations and companies linked to the Pakistani military. Whether this profit is manifest in personal promotions and jobs for retired or deputed officers, in agencies such as the Karachi Port Trust, or it is more explicitly pursued through the Defense Housing Authority – which is often piloted by serving members of the Pakistani military. The overall area that comprises Karachi is under the administrative control of over thirty different federal, provincial and local agencies. No more than a third of Karachi is actually under the jurisdiction of the city district government – and after the expiration of the LGO 2001, that too is now under the amorphous control of the district management group's assistant and deputy commissioners. Karachi now constantly lives on the precipice of an all-out violent conflict. The fragile peace is based on a constant re-shaping of the cake of political patronage and associated economic rents. The government's new growth strategy rightly identifies cities as being at the heart of a Pakistani future that is prosperous and peaceful – but Karachi seems far beyond the jurisdiction of the planning commission. Sadly, Karachi is a magnification of humanity's weaknesses. It is quintessentially, the “un-city”.

[The News - August 02, 2011]

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### **Sectarian Violence Spikes in Ramazan**

The eruption of sectarian violence just as Ramazan commenced has shaken the entire country. The worst incident took place in Quetta where 18 people were killed in just 14 hours, while another man was shot dead in southern Punjab. Both incidents were allegedly aimed at avenging the death of two Deobandi leaders, killed earlier in Quetta. On July 30, gunmen opened fire on a vehicle in Quetta, killing 11 Shias, including a woman, and wounding another three in a suspected sectarian attack. The vehicle was passing by a bus stand when gunmen in a car opened fire killing at least 11 people and wounding three, “police officials had said. Police officials said that the incident was sectarian in outlook because all of the deceased belonged to the Shia community. The attack came a day after seven people were killed and 25 were injured in two separate bomb and gun attacks in two districts of Balochistan. In both incidents four Sunni people from Punjab, and another Sunni Iranian citizen, were also killed. A prominent Deobandi leader was killed a day before the incident. The first leader was killed about a month

ago. A massive clean-up operation had been launched with the help of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) and around 200 suspects had been detained. For the first time in Balochistan police's history, Saryab Road had been raided with the help of FC personnel. The incidents of sectarian violence increased before Ramazan in the same way they did before Muharram. A local journalist said these acts specifically targeted the Hazara community. In another incident, a Shia activist was shot dead while another was critically injured in the Khanewal district. The vice-president of the Shia Ulema Council, Punjab, Fida Hussain Ghalvi, condemned the incident, and has urged the government to ensure the early arrest of killers, besides calling for provision of adequate security to the Shia community.

[The Express Tribune - August 06, 2011]

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### **103 Held, Torture Cells Found In Lyari**

Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said that across-the-board action is being taken against the terrorists and raids are being conducted in different parts of the city, including Lyari, on the orders of the President. He said this while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the State Guest House in reaction to the allegations leveled against him by former PPP senior minister Zulfiqar Mirza. The interior minister said that the operation against terrorists and extortionists would be continued in Karachi till they were eliminated. He made it clear that there was no pressure on him against taking action in Lyari, as the entire operation was being conducted on the orders of the President. Intelligence agencies and police had been given a free hand to take action wherever they felt that terrorists had been hiding in any area, adding they did not need to take his (Malik's) approval in this regard. He said that when an operation was being launched against criminals and terrorists in Lyari, women and children came out of their homes as a shield due to which the operation had to be abandoned, which was totally unjustified. Malik further said that when the criminals and terrorists were arrested, some members of the PPP came to him and complained to him about meting out "injustice to them". He said that every action and decision was being taken against terrorists and criminals with the consent of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah since such actions were being taken across the board and without any discrimination. He said that it was due to his efforts that the Sindh government announced Rs. 0.5 million as compensation for each of the deceased and Rs. 0.1 million for each of those injured in the Chakra Goth incident. Malik said that so far 103 people had been arrested, of whom 15 were Urdu-speaking, and 12 Kalashnikovs, seven repeaters and ammunition were seized from their possession. Two torture cells were also discovered in the area. Malik said that on the advice of certain quarters, action was taken against suspects belonging to the MQM and the ANP but they never said anything, adding that the operation was being carried out against extortionists and terrorists across the board.

[The News - August 29, 2011]

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## **Target Killings in Karachi**

### **Nine Areas Identified For Operation**

Sindh Home Minister Manzoor Wasan has said that nine areas have been identified for an operation in Karachi whose names could not be disclosed beforehand as the operation is aimed at making arrests. Hoping for positive results from the operation, he said that the government has decided to restore peace in the city. At the 12th Eagle Force passing out parade held here at the Razzaqabad Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Police Training Centre, Wasan informed that some 11 target killers have been arrested so far and suspects arrested in connection with the police bus attack in Korangi are also being interrogated. He expressed satisfaction over the training of policemen for dealing with internal and external challenges. He said that policemen would be given scholarships for their children, high rise complexes for the accommodation of their

families and salaries at par with those of the Punjab police. Some 328 males besides nine female personnel participated in the passing out parade. PPI adds: Wasan said President Asif Ali Zardari has approved Rs. 5 billion packages for the provision of latest weapons and gadgets to Sindh Police in order to enhance its performance. On the occasion, the Sindh home minister was briefed that 328 Eaglet Police Commandos were given special intelligence training along with ways to counter terrorists, kidnappers, dacoits and other law breakers in the most tense of situations. He was also told that these commandos have received training of night firing. The Eaglets also took oath in the passing out parade. They demonstrated their skills of horse riding, motorcycle riding, etc. At the end of proceedings, Wasan awarded medals to the outstanding commandos and gave Rs 10,000 each to nine women who took part in the Eaglets training course. In recognition of their performances, six Eaglet Commandos were also awarded Rs 5,000 each. IGP Sindh Wajid Ali Durrani, Additional IGP Falak Khursheed, DIG Training Shahab Mazhar and other officials were also present on the occasion.

[Daily Times - August 25, 2011]

### Target Killings and Other Terrorist Incidents in Karachi during August

Following are the major incidents of target killings which took place in Karachi during the month of August:

- August 10:
  - Four Police officials were killed and 14 others were injured when Police encountered assailants involved in violence in Karachi.
- August 18:
  - In Baldia Town of Karachi, the assailants dumped three dead bodies in gunny bags near Saabri Mosque. One of the victims was identified as Liaquat Azhar Farooqi, an employee of Lyari fire station. The other one was identified as Azeemullah, while the third victim is yet to be identified.
  - In the remits of Baghdadi Police Station, three more dead bodies were found from near Kukri Ground. The victims were identified as Rao Hanif, Zubair and Junaid.
  - Four more people were killed in firing and torture incidents. A man was shot dead in Gulshan-e-Iqbal area while two people injured in PIB and Sheerin Jinnah colony succumbed to their injuries.
  - Four bullet-riddled dead bodies were found in Ganji Dohri area in Mastung District. The victims were identified as Tariq, Mehmood, Hamid Nasir and Abdul Latif, belonging to the Bangulzai tribe.
  - Three people belonging to Pakistan's Punjab province were killed in Splinji area of Mastung District.

(Compiled From Different Dailies)

### Terrorist Incidents in August

SR. NO.	DATE	PLACE	KILLED	INJURED
1.	August 1	South Waziristan Agency, in FATA	4	-
		Munda area near the Afghan border in Kurram Agency	3	-
2.	August 2	Qutab Khel village in North Waziristan Agency of	4	-

FATA				
3.	August 3	central Kurram Agency in FATA	6	12
4.	August 4	Mehraban Kali area of Kukikhel in Khyber Agency of FATA	6	-
5.	August 7	New Saryab Police Station in Killi Shahnawaz in Quetta	3	-
6.	August 8	upper tehsil of Orakzai Agency in FATA	6	4
		Eastern Bypass area of Quetta	4	-
7.	August 9	Mamozai area of Orakzai Agency	5	2
8.	August 10	Miranshah in North Waziristan Agency of FATA	25	-
		Shawal area of South Waziristan Agency	9	-
9.	August 11	Zaka Khel village in Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency in FATA	5	1
		Gulbahar Police Station in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7	17
		suburban area of Peshawar	2	1
10.	August 12	Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	-
11.	August 13	Sholaam area of Sarokai tehsil in South Waziristan Agency (SWA) of FATA	6	5
12.	August 14	Dera Allah Yar town in Jaffarabad District of Balochistan	15	23
		Miramshah, North Waziristan Agency	3	25
		Orakzai Agency of FATA	7	-
13.	August 16	Tirah valley of Khyber Agency in FATA	12	-
		Miramshah, North Waziristan Agency in FATA	4	-
14.	August 17	Tarkhokas, Bara tehsil, Khyber Agency in FATA	10	-
15.	August 19	Khyber Agency in FATA	56	123
		Shin Warsak, South Waziristan Agency	4	-
		Kurram Agency	3	3
16.	August 20	Akakhel village, Khyber Agency of FATA	5	-
17.	August 21	South Waziristan Agency in FATA	3	5
		Tirah valley, Khyber Agency	6	-
		Miramshah, North Waziristan Agency	3	-
18.	August 22	Mirkhunkhel, North Waziristan Agency of FATA	7	3
19.	August 23	Tirah valley, Khyber Agency in FATA	10	-
20.	August 24	Kangri, Musakhel District	3	3

21.	August 25	Risalpur, Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12	17
		Mamozai area of Orakzai Agency in FATA	11	4
22.	August 27	Chitral District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	51	-
23.	August 28	Mach area, Kachhi District, Balochistan	3	19
		Darya Khan Town, Bhakkar District, Punjab	3	6
24.	August 31	Quetta	11	22

(Accessed From: <http://www.satp.org>)

## Minority Rights

### Minorities Call For Dual Voting Right

Speakers at a conference have called for safeguarding rights of minority communities and end of all forms of discrimination against them. They also called for dual voting right to minority people so that they could elect their representatives on their own instead of current methodology in which political parties nominate representatives of minorities. The conference was organized by the Young Hindu Panchayat at a local hotel. Balochistan Minority Minister Jai Parkash alleged that administration officials are also involved in kidnapping cases of Hindus in Balochistan. He supported integration among minority communities failing which they would be marginalized. Five per cent quota of jobs in the government departments fixed for minorities is not given to them. In Sindh elected minority representatives don't visit their people which are disgusting. There is no discrimination against minorities in Balochistan at government level. General Secretary of the PPP's Sindh chapter Taj Hyder said that people are provoked against minorities on different grounds and minorities are discriminated against through blasphemy laws. A constitutional amendment would be needed to enable minorities to elect their representatives themselves. Hindus need to be organized in view of a developing modern society. MNA Kishan Chand Parvani said that his proposal of posting a minority fellow as chairman of Evacuee Trust Property (ETP) in parliament didn't get support. He said that he had worked with PML-N, PPP and Musharraf but no political party is sincere with minorities. People elected on reserved seats represent parties, not minorities. He said that when minority representatives speak in parliament they are snubbed that they are not directly elected. 'Either reserved seats should be abolished or minorities be given dual voting right to elect their representatives themselves. MPA Nusrat Sehar Abbasi said that those who are elected to represent minority communities must be held accountable. Communities should keep a check and balance on them. Advocate Kalpana Devi likened minority community's slackness to a character of Mahabarat, saying they are not aware what are issues confronting them and how are they to be resolved. Daniel Fayyaz of Christian community said that minority doesn't mean small numbers but these are the ones who live in the heart of majority. It's up to government to protect minority like its other citizens. He said that assailants of Shahbaz Bhatti are not nabbed yet. Strong relations between minority and majority are needed to resolve issues. YHP patron Jai Parkash took exception to the fact that why Hindus are divided into upper and schedule caste as it is reflective of discrimination. He claimed that so far 650 Hindu families have left for India from different parts of Sindh but no leader in Sindh took notice of it. It is also a conspiracy so that their properties can be occupied. JJ's Hafeez Bijarani, PML-N's Haneef Siddiqui and representatives of different Hindu Panchayats of upper Sindh also spoke.

[Dawn - August 02, 2011]

## HR Related Issues

### Religious Intolerance Rising Globally, Says Report

While Pakistanis bemoan the maltreatment of Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Chechnya and Kashmir, they'd balk at hearing that their own country is among those most restrictive or hostile towards religious minorities, and increasingly so. Nearly a third of the world's population lives in countries where it is becoming more difficult to freely practice religion, a private US research group reported. The Pew Research Centre's forum on religion and public life said government restrictions and public hostility involving religion grew in some of the most populous countries from mid-2006 to mid-2009. During the three-year period covered by the study, the extent of violence and abuse related to religion increased in more places than it decreased," according to the report "Rising Restrictions on Religion." Only about one percent of the world lives in countries that saw more religious tolerance during those years. The Pew Centre review of 198 countries found those deemed restrictive or hostile in the previous report were growing even more so, while the opposite was found for those with more religious tolerance. A substantial rise in public hostility toward religious groups was seen in China, Nigeria, Thailand, Vietnam and Britain, while government restrictions rose substantially in Egypt and France.

The Pew Centre looked at laws or other government policies aimed to ban particular faiths limit preaching, give preference to particular religions or prohibit conversions. To measure hostility, it looked at sectarian violence, harassment over religious attire and other types of intimidation. The countries most restrictive or hostile towards certain religions, besides Pakistan, included India, Indonesia, Egypt, Iran, China, Myanmar, Russia, Turkey, Vietnam, Nigeria and Bangladesh – although most of these did not show much change in the three years. People were killed, physically abused, detained, imprisoned, displaced from their homes, or had their property destroyed for religious reasons by governments in 101 countries in the year ending mid-2009, compared to 91 a year earlier, the report said. Such violence rose in more countries than it declined over the three years. Christians and Muslims, the world's two largest religious groups, were harassed in most countries. Other religions also saw harassment, but Jews, who make up less than 1% of the world's population, saw restrictions or harassment in 75 countries. In five European countries – Britain, Denmark, Russia, Sweden and Bulgaria – religious tension focused on the rapidly growing Muslim population.

[The Express Tribune - August 10, 2011]

### Bludgeoned To Death for Making Sexual Advances

Upon enquiry, Murad admitted to beating Zameer up with a rod for making sexual advances towards him at night. One blow of the rod hit Zameer in the head and he fell to the ground. Murad thought Zameer was only unconscious and would be alright in the morning. He was terrified and did not know what to do, before picking up the rod, Murad tried to dissuade Zameer many times. Zameer's body was taken to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences for autopsy, after which it was handed over to his family in Chakwal. The postmortem established that the blow on the head was the fatal hit — Zameer died of internal bleeding in his unconscious state. The police added that Murad was arrested and booked for murder after he confessed to killing his 16-year-old roommate. They added that the rod was also recovered from the room. The investigation officer said they found no evidence to suggest that Murad was lying or making up a story. He added that the 16-year-old Murad will be produced before the court to obtain a judicial remand, after which he will be sent to Adiala jail to be locked up among adult prisoners, as there are no separate cells for juveniles.

*Names changed to protect identity*

[The Express Tribune - August 01, 2011]

### **Labor Rights for Home-Based Workers Urged**

The government should recognize informal sector as a major contributor to the national economy and acknowledge home-based and domestic workers, especially women, as collective workforce. This was consensus among participants of a seminar on 'Recognition of labor rights in informal sector: Ratification of ILO C 177 and C 189,' arranged by the HomeNet Pakistan in collaboration with Labor Education Foundation. Former MNA Mehnaz Rafi, Labor Education Foundation director Khalid Mahmud, economist Dr. Qais Aslam, Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) regional head Salman Abid, HomeNet Pakistan Executive Director Ume Laila Azhar and Labor Party Pakistan leader Farooq Tariq spoke on the occasion. The speakers were of the view that the government should implement the decisions of ILO convention C177 for home-based workers and ILO convention C189 on domestic workers in letter and spirit to improve the lot of the working community in informal sector in the country, particularly the home-based workers. They deplored that the home-based women workers (HBWWs) despite their massive contribution to the national exchequer could not be recognized as workers yet.

The meeting proposed that the informal sector workers — some 73 per cent of the total workforce should be brought into the mainstream, collective community based approaches be adopted to include men in awareness raising on labor exploitation among women, women rights educational process should be a key tool in awareness raising amongst informal sector and women, sector-based approach be adopted to organize HBWs, particularly where contractors and sub-contractors had been visible and mobilization of trade unions for the recognition of informal sector. They also called for adoption of informal sector research methods to determine implementation of National Policy on home-based workers with particular emphasis on HBWWs, along with their registration, decent wage determination and social security, provision of cost of production payment scales which must include physical space rental to HBWs by the business enterprise, besides development and implementation of legal mechanisms for employer-employee dispute resolution for home-based and domestic workers. The seminar was informed that women laborers' participation in various sectors has enhanced from 1 to 10 per cent, accompanied by 40 per cent decline in self-employment.

Women have been much more disadvantaged in work than men and get employment where they are vulnerable and there is no decent employment for them. They are employed mainly in the informal sectors of the economy and constituted 71.7 per cent of the workforce in 2008. The monthly income of more than three-fourths of the employees` of the informal sector is less than Rs. 1,500. They said around 76 per cent of women had joined the home-based sector, especially during the past 15 years. More specifically, the trend for home-based work had intensified from the 1990s onwards. Based on the countrywide enumeration, the total workforce of HBWWs was approximately 12 million. The urban HBWWs in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa has been 1,275,022 (41.9 per cent), 748,056 (24.6 per cent), 905,401 (29.8 per cent) and 111,790 (3.7 per cent), respectively. According to a conservative estimate, out of \$160 billion economy of the country, over \$32 billion have been in the informal sector. An approximate assessment shows 32 per cent of the informal workforce has been in the wholesale and retail business, 21 per cent in the manufacturing sector, 17.5 per cent in community and social and personnel sector, 13.8 per cent in construction and 11.1 per cent in the transport sector. The seminar was informed that the new ILO standards set out that domestic workers around the world must have the same basic labor rights as being granted to other workers; reasonable hours of work, weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind payment, clear information on terms and conditions of employment, as well as respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

[Dawn - August 2, 2011]

### **Only 8% of Population Involved In Entrepreneurship**

Only 8% of the population in Pakistan is currently involved in entrepreneurship activities, which is quite low and needs to be enhanced through effective linkages between the academia and policy-making organizations. The increased emphasis on entrepreneurship is the only way forward in terms of employment generation and revival of business activities in the country. There are upcoming BSF programmes for entrepreneurship development that included franchising Pakistan and creation of an entrepreneurship support fund for providing easy access to finance for new business start ups. The centre has been developed to compliment the policy objectives of the government to support entrepreneurship in the country. The center will act as business incubation and support facility for the new entrepreneurs to develop fresh and innovative products and cater more effectively to the evolving needs of the domestic and international markets. Khushhalibank President Ghalib Nishtar appreciated the efforts of SME Business Support Fund in promotion of entrepreneurship in the country. He stressed that the economic growth today is possible only through encouragement of entrepreneurship and initiatives such as CEL will definitely pay dividends in terms of increased exports, enhanced GDP, job creation and improved overall competitiveness. SZABIST Director Syed Asad Hussain assured that the centre will allow the university students to get practical support in their quest for new and successful business start ups. Other speakers including the National Institutional Advisor, Planning Commission, Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Uzma Qureshi from United Nations, highlighted the role of entrepreneurship and its effects on the economic growth of Pakistan.

[The News - August 02, 2011]

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### **Corporal Punishment Contributing To Increasing Dropouts**

Corporal punishment has negative effects on children's psychology and personality. Harsh, punitive environment is destructive to growth and learning. The provincial government should take measures to impose a ban on corporal punishment in schools, religious institutions and workplaces, said Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) Programme Manager Imran Takkar in the press release. He said that 41 cases of corporal punishment were reported from January to June. He added that because of the fear of corporal punishment, students often escape from schools and contributes to the increasing dropout rates. Students should be taught in a friendly manner, as it not only increases their interest in studies, but also has positive influences on their personalities. The press release added that SPARC had observed that physical punishment was more prevalent in state-run institutions as compared to private institutions. Takkar called upon the government to take pragmatic steps and impose ban on corporal punishment in learning institutions and make legislation in this regard. He also demanded the government to take action against the teachers involved in physically punishing their students.

[The Express Tribune - August 12, 2011]

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### **Unions Call For Reform in Labor Law**

Trade union leaders have welcomed the Industrial Relations Ordinance 2011 but called for changes to strengthen the law, according to a press release issued by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). The new ordinance was reviewed at a meeting organized by the HRCP that was attended by major labor leaders. The participants welcomed the ordinance for providing for trade union activities and the resolution of industrial disputes in the federal capital and for facilitating the registration and functioning of trans-provincial trade unions. But

they also voiced concern about some provisions of the law and urged the government to note the Supreme Court ruling on the post-Eighteenth Amendment situation and to meet the objection to its authority to legislate for trans-provincial unions. They also urged the government to ensure it complies with international obligations such as ILO Convention 87. The labor leaders said that there was a need for legislation to cover the rights of workers in the informal sector, which has grown much bigger than the formal sector. The unionization of agriculture workers should be encouraged, they said.

1. Remove the bar on formation of general trade unions in an industry when workers are serving many employers
2. Include PIA security staff and Pakistan Security Printing Corporation or Security Papers Limited employees in the ambit of the law
3. In the definition of “lock-out”, the workers and employers should be placed on the same footing
4. The definition of “business” should include “industry-wide trade unions having membership in more than one province”
5. Drop the condition that each establishment must have two trade unions
6. The provision that if a trade union has 5,000 members or more in more than one province the term of the collective bargaining agency shall be increased from two to three years is welcome. Other office-bearers in such trade unions should also get three-year terms
7. Delete Section 11(5), which states that the registration of a union shall be cancelled if any officer is elected in violation of Section 18, as it is an unjust provision
8. The government must consult the chairman of the National Industrial Relations Commission when appointing the registrar for trade unions in each industry. The authority to appoint presiding officers of labor courts should be transferred from the government to the superior judiciary.

[The Express Tribune - August 30, 2011]

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## GOVERNANCE WATCH

### Political Governance

#### Legislative Watch

#### Bills Passed By the National Assembly

11th August, 2011: The Regulation of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electric Power (Amendments) Act, 2011

[URL: <http://www.na.gov.pk/en/bills.php?status=pass>]

#### New Accountability Law to Be Introduced Soon

The government is likely to introduce a new accountability bill in parliament as soon as the prime minister agrees to the proposals prepared by the parliamentary panel on law and justice affairs. Another bill, drafted in 2009 and tabled by then law minister Babar Awan, remains stalled as Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), failed to make any headway on some contentious clauses. The Accountability Act of 2009 promised to disband the National Accountability Bill (NAB) and create a new independent accountability commission. It was vital to present the bill in parliament as the country's top accountability organisation had become dysfunctional in light of an apex court judgment. Last week, a meeting of the panel was cancelled, due to the PML-N lawmakers of not being serious in sorting out the controversy. A meeting with the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, had also not yielded any positive results. PML-N lawmakers Zahid Hamid and Anusha Rehman Khan had submitted dissent note. They want some amendments in the controversial clauses, but the PPP did not entertain their dissent note. This indicated that the government was not serious in activating the accountability laws. PML-N also suggested around 58 amendments to the bill. PML-N supports the idea of across the board accountability, but the PPP government wants accountability of public office holders after 1985. Appointment of the chief of new accountability commission and his powers are also major hurdles as the PML-N wants its top slot to be filled by a sitting judge of the apex court. Pakistan Muslim League-Q and Muttahida Qaumi Movement want early enactment of the new accountability bill as early as possible.

[The Express Tribune - August 01, 2011]

#### Government Devising Laws to Curb Gas Theft

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources Secretary Ijaz Chaudhry informed the special committee of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that the government would soon bring in legislation in parliament for making gas theft a cognizable offence. The Ministry of Petroleum had proposed amendments in Offences Law against Property of Theft of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) 1860 to check gas theft and the piece of legislation would be soon introduced in parliament. The committee, which met with Yasmeen Rehman in the chair, expressed serious concern over the absence of any law to deal with gas theft cases. The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) managing director told the committee that OGRA had prevented the company from registering FIRs against gas thieves. Committee member Qamar Zaman Kaira said how could OGRA ask any gas company not to register FIR against gas stealers? FIRs should be registered against the person who had given such order. The petroleum secretary also told the committee

that an influential person in Punjab was involved in gas theft and a sum of Rs 230 million was outstanding against him on account of arrears. His gas supply was disconnected but he restored it on his own. Now an FIR will be registered against him. The proposed legislation has amended the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898). A new chapter (XVII-A) has been inserted after Chapter XVII of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860) to provide for punishment for the acts of subversion and theft of oil and gas. On the other side, a high official of the SNGPL told that 100 percent control on gas theft was impossible even after the imposition of the law, as the SNGPL had not enough staff to monitor 75,000kms of supply network.

[Pakistan Today – August 16, 2011]

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## Federal & Provincial Governments

### President Signs Amendment, 4 Seats for Non-Muslims

The amendment in the Senate (Election) Rules 1975 came in compliance with provisions of the 18th constitutional amendment, which envisage four seats for non-Muslims, one from each province. Each provincial assembly will elect a senator in the next Senate polls, scheduled for March 2012. Although 10 seats are reserved in the National Assembly for minority members, there is no representation for minorities in the 100-member Senate. The amendment in Article 51 of the constitution, introduced through the 18th amendment, discusses reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in the National Assembly and has been challenged in the Supreme Court. The court is yet to decide on the fate of the amendment but during the course of hearing of petitions challenging the 18th amendment, the court had observed that the process of nominating persons to seats reserved for women and non-Muslims was “selection, and not election” made on personal likes and dislikes of party heads. J Salik, a minority leader and former federal minister, had contended before the court through his petition that the system of proportional representation introduced by amending Article 51 under the 18th amendment was against the basic structure of the 1973 Constitution. Minorities’ leaders are of the view that the amendment will deprive them of their fundamental rights, which have been guaranteed in the constitution, of electing their representatives.

[The Express Tribune - August 26, 2011]

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### PM Pays A Visit: Watan Cards, Loans to Rescue Rain-Hit Badin

A token visit by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani to the rain-ravaged districts of Sindh fell short of their expectations as he only had assurances to offer. He has directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to do rescue and relief work for the rain-displaced people. According to the people there, the Army Model School relief camp in Shaheed Fazal Rahu tehsil, did not even have medicines. Actually, it had been set up one day before Gilani’s arrival. Badin has been hit hard by the monsoon rains – 475 millimeters have been recorded. Also affected are Tando Muhammad Khan, followed by parts of Mirpurkhas and Tando Allahyar districts. Thousands of people waded into the hot, knee-deep waters to seek shelter, leaving behind inundated crops. For the affected farmers, Gilani offered just a ray of hope by saying that he will ask the finance ministry to consider waiving their loans. The Zarai Taraqati Bank had also been asked to provide loans to the farming community. He pledged a survey so that compensation can be offered later on. The National Database and Registration Authority will register the people for the Watan Card and they will also receive support from the Benazir Income Support Programme. Losses to property and crops will also be surveyed. According to Sindh Works and Services Minister Zulfiqar Mirza, who accompanied the PM and is from Badin, more than 80% of standing crops have been destroyed in the area.

A desperate Badin DCO, Kazim Hussain Jatoy, while briefing the prime minister, demanded Rs. 100 million in financial support, 200 suction pumps, 2,000 tents, 50 boats, 100,000 ration bags and helicopters. In return, the PM only nodded to the air force support for rescue. On an emotional note, the PM said he felt sad to see the plight of the people of Badin who had become victims of another natural disaster in less than a year's time. However, he sidestepped dredging up the irrigation and drainage problems, which contributed to the misery brought on by the natural disasters. One of the problems is that a breach developed in the Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD), which is the biggest saline nullah of Asia. The gap is 200 feet wide and inundated more than 100 villages. No meaningful work had been done to reinforce the irrigation system in the last three to four decades. The PM and his team were taken up for an aerial view from Tando Muhammad Khan to Badin, including the Sindhri area of Mirpurkhas. According to estimates, 100,000 families have been displaced. The army has moved about 200 families to safety. He advised Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar to prepare a plan with a permanent solution so that Tando Muhammad Khan district is protected in the future. Qamar said that the people of Tando Muhammad Khan had never seen such rain and the losses were estimated at Rs. 5 billion. Many of the people from Badin have fled to Mithi where the district administration has set up 122 relief camps. Tharparkar DCO Shakeel-uz Zaman said that more than 16,000 people have been affected by the rain in Thar.

[The Express Tribune - August 16, 2011]

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### **Zardari Directs Speedy Development of Balochistan**

President Asif Ali Zardari said the speedy development of Balochistan was the top priority of the government and all steps would be taken to end a sense of deprivation among the people of the province. The speedy development of Balochistan is the top priority of the government. The president urged the state functionaries to step up their efforts for an early completion of the projects. Briefing the media persons about the meeting, Spokesperson to the President, Farhatullah Babar, said that separate presentations were given to the president on the development of infrastructure, transport & communication system, and water sector projects under the Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan. The meeting was informed that out of 1180 ongoing projects being executed through the PSDP of current year (2011-12) throughout the country, 133 projects costing Rs. 305 billion were being carried out in Balochistan alone. A sum of Rs. 126 billion has already been spent on these projects up to June, 2011 and an additional allocation of Rs. 28 billion has been made during the current year for federal projects in Balochistan out of the PSDP. The meeting was also informed about various schemes and projects being carried out in Balochistan as a part of the Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan including Dera Bugti Development Package, Quetta Development Package, Kohlu Development Package, and Sui Package. Secretary Water and Power Imtiaz Kazi, and Chairman Wapda Shakil Durrani, while giving presentation on water sector projects, informed the meeting that at present, 23 water sector projects were being financed including small dams costing over Rs. 111 billion. Over Rs. 10 billion had been allocated during the current financial year for the projects, they said. The chairman Wapda said two water sectors projects — Mirani Dam and Sabakzai Dam — had already been completed at a cost of Rs. 8 billion.

[The News - August 17, 2011]

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### **Cut in Government Expenses: Auditor Asks For Compliance Report**

In order to verify the performance of the government with regards to the nationwide austerity measures approved by the federal cabinet last year, the auditor-general of Pakistan has asked the presidents and prime minister's secretariats and all other ministries to submit compliance report. The letter has been circulated to all ministries and divisions, seeking a report on the recommendations made by the cabinet committee on austerity. The letter written by director

general audit reads that kindly advise the staff to keep an update ready on the status of recommendations concerning the ministry/ division for the quarters ending March 2011 and June 2011 on priority. The detailed action plan on austerity measures is also attached with the letter which all ministries concerned have been advised to comply with. Under the austerity plan, the president and prime minister had to reduce expenditures on foreign visits by 40 per cent in fiscal year 2010-11. Similarly, the ministries have been asked to submit a report on whether they have also reduced their expenditures on foreign visits by 30 per cent in the last quarter. The cabinet committee on austerity also decided to cap utility expenses of the president and prime minister after imposing 25 per cent cuts. Similar action was recommended for governors, chief ministers, federal and provincial ministers and other government officials. All ministries and divisions have also been asked to submit a compliance report with regards to the 30 per cent cuts in entertainment expenditures, recommended by the committee. Furthermore, it was also decided that supplementary grants would be presented quarterly to the parliament under austerity measures; however no grant should be more than 10 per cent in the individual accounts of each ministry. The auditor-general has asked for the compliance report to verify whether the ministries implemented austerity measures recommended by the cabinet committee. The letter concludes that during the current month of August, a team of auditors will visit the officials concerned in the ministry/ division to collect the information along with evidence of compliance.

[The Express Tribune - August 18, 2011]

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### **Three New Ministries Being Ignored, Left On Their Own**

The new ministries of National Harmony, Human Resource Development and Professional and Technical Training created have become the victims of the Cabinet and Establishment Divisions' negligence and are yet to become fully functional. Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani constituted these ministries on July 29 under Rule 3(2) of the Rules of Business 1973 with immediate effect for which notification was issued by the Cabinet Division. A source in the Ministry of Professional and Technical Training told that despite the passage of more than three weeks and repeated requests by the federal minister, the Establishment Division had not provided the minister with staff members and he was being assisted by a secretary and few staffers only. After the removal of Sohail Ahmed from his position of establishment secretary, principal secretary to the prime minister, Khushnood Lashari has been working on the additional charge of establishment secretary. Due to hectic engagements of Lashari with the premier, the affairs of the Establishment Division are not being run properly therefore the division has failed to fulfill its responsibility of posting required human resource in the newly created ministries. The Cabinet Division had also failed to resolve legal and technical issues attached with the placement of National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) under the Ministry of Professional and Technical Training. Federal Minister for Professional and Technical Training Riaz Hussain Pirzada said currently he had not been provided with complete staff which was needed to run the ministry smoothly. The situation in the Ministry of National Harmony is not different from the other two newly formed ministries as it has also not provided full staff by the Establishment Division as well as the Finance Division has yet not allocated budget for the ministry.

[Pakistan Today – August 24, 2011]

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## Local Governance

### Government Set to Extend Election Deadline

The Punjab government plans to extend its deadline for issuing an election schedule for local governments by another year, having failed to formulate a new system, draw up boundaries for electoral wards or compile voter lists since it set the deadline a year ago. The Local Government and Community Development Department, after consulting with the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, will soon send a proposal to the chief minister for an amendment to Section 179-A of the Punjab Local Government Ordinance (PLGO) 2001. The Punjab Assembly approved an amendment to the same section in October 2010 which gave the government exactly 365 days to notify a schedule for local polls to the Election Commission. Now it plans to extend that date by another six months to a year. The amendment bill approved last October also gave the government the power to appoint interim administrators exercising the power of nazims, naib nazims and union councils under the local government setup that expired in February 2010. The chief minister should request the governor to promulgate an ordinance to incorporate the fresh changes to the Punjab Local Government Ordinance 2001, but the situation between the two was tense because of recent disagreements over administrative issues and appointments. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government had no intention of holding local polls. They are more interested in the next general elections. Altaf alleged that the PML-N did not want to share executive power, nor state resources, with local governments saying that they fear that they have no candidates for local bodies and elections will expose them. He added that local representatives would take administrative powers and money from the Punjab government. Dania Aziz, the architect of the previous local government system and former chairman of the National Reconstruction Bureau, said that the Punjab government, by further delaying local polls, was hindering the development of a healthy democracy in the country. Punjab government spokesman Senator Pervaiz Rashid was unavailable for comment.

[The Express Tribune - August 02, 2011]

### K-P to Revive Magistracy System

The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government is considering reviving the executive magistracy system in the province as it was in 2001. Addressing the media following a meeting of the provincial cabinet, Hussain said that members discussed the revival of the executive magistracy system, adding that the provincial government has proposed a few amendments in the criminal procedure to bring back the system but the federal government has so far not responded to the request. Iftikhar said that if the federal government does not respond positively, the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government will legislate on its own to revive the system as existed on August 13, 2001. Other matters discussed in the cabinet meeting, that under the Benazir Income Support Programme, the government has earmarked approximately Rs. 500 million for treatment of Hepatitis patients and almost Rs. 200 million of this amount have already been released. The rest of the amount will be spent on the treatment of Hepatitis C patients during the current year. The cabinet also discussed the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Compulsory Education Bill 2011, which proposes compulsory education for children between the ages of five and 12. Various plans have been prepared by the primary and secondary education department which will be reviewed by a committee formed by the cabinet. Members of the cabinet were told that around 1,100 applications have been received for a technical education programme being introduced for young unemployed people. Under the programme, 1,500 people will be trained. Hussain said that the department of technical education has been provided annual funds amounting to Rs. 300 million for this specific purpose.

[The Express Tribune - August 03, 2011]

## PPP, MQM Agree To Restore Local Bodies System in Karachi, Hyderabad

The PPP and Muttahida Qaumi Movement have agreed on a joint formula to restore Pervez Musharraf's local bodies system in Karachi and Hyderabad and the system will be revived through an ordinance to be promulgated any time. Sindh governor had left for Islamabad with this formula to discuss it with President Asif Ali Zardari and this will replace the 1979 LB system through an ordinance and later through bills, after some amendments in the provincial assembly. Legal and civic experts proposed a system to accommodate the demands of the MQM. Sindh Governor Dr Ishratul Ebad handed over this formula to Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah. The 1979 local bodies system introduced by Gen Ziaul Haq will continue in the rest of Sindh while the two cities will have the old Gen Pervez Musharraf system. According to the new formula, 18 towns will be restored in Karachi along with the city district government while the old system of Hyderabad will also be restored as one unit. However, it was agreed by the two parties that the commissionerate system will continue after some amendments. Insiders disclosed that the future of the districts restored in Karachi and Hyderabad was still under question. Officials claimed that after the revival of 18 towns and the city district government, there was no need of the districts. President Asif Ali Zardari and MQM chief Altaf Hussain have been holding talks over the phone during the last two days, helping their parties reach a consensus on the issue. The leaders of both the parties — who agreed on the formula after one-month quarelling — also confirmed that the situation will ease within a day or two as the demand of the MQM was fulfilled and the party will rejoin the government. The leaders of the PPP also confirmed that the tussle was over and the two parties had agreed to continue as coalition partners at the Centre and in Sindh.

[The News - August 06, 2011]

## Er... Sorry - We Had Some 'Technical' Difficulties

The difficult task of apologising to the people of Sindh on behalf of the government fell squarely on the information minister. He said sorry on its behalf for issuing two ordinances to revive the local government system of 2001 in Karachi and Hyderabad and rolling back the commissionerate system – all in barely a month. At a press conference at the Sindh Secretariat, Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that it was a “technical mistake” due to which the local government system was revived only in two districts rather than the entire province. Nonetheless, the government still stands by its version that the commissionerate system was an “excellent system”, which can tackle all the problems people in the province face. In a euphemism-laden announcement, Memon said that there had been a coalition government and some of their “friends”, who he did not choose to name, had concerns over the commissionerate and local government system of 1979. Therefore the provincial government rolled back both systems in order to avert further bloodshed in the city. When asked who was involved in the massacre in the city, the minister parried the question, only saying that some elements wanted to create a rift among political parties which is why a law and order situation was being created.

The minister referred to the Sindhi nationalists, who had protested against the LG system. He scoffed that they had not even been able to win a union council seat but had started a campaign against the government and had spread propoganda that Pakistan Peoples Party ministers and other leaders had gone underground when they started to protest against the “division” of Sindh. The PPP had not compromised on Sindh's issues whether it was Kalabagh Dam, the Thal Canal or National Finance Commission award. There would be no disparity among the people of Sindh and the government will discourage any kind of system that creates confusion. And then, on a more philosophic note, Memon said that in politics nothing was final – and the system changed with each passing day. When asked whether the commissionerate system would be revived, he did not respond. To a question, Memon said that they would start a dialogue with all coalition partners, including the Awami National Party (ANP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Pakistan Muslim League-F and -Q in order to make amendments to SLGO 2001 before

tabling it in the house of representatives. Regarding the MQM's decision to rejoin the government, he said that PPP still believes in the reconciliation policy.

[The Express Tribune - August 10, 2011]

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### **PPP Members to Oppose Nazim System at Party Moot**

The Pakistan Peoples Party may have appeased its uneasy ally, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, by shelving the commissionerate and 1979 local government systems to return to the 2001 version, but now its own members are crying foul. The internal rift is so bad that party MPAs has decided to vote against the ordinance to restore the 2001 system if it is tabled in the upcoming session of the Sindh Assembly. Even members of the federal cabinet from Sindh were sharply critical of the deal, with Law Minister Maula Buz Chandio going so far as to call his predecessor Babar Awan a 'viceroy' trying to dictate policies to Sindh. Within Sindh, meanwhile, the atmosphere appears tense within the ruling PPP. The chief minister and parliamentary leader of our party were champions when it came to repealing SLGO 2001 and restoring the commissionerate system. Now they have taken a U-turn. Given the situation, the PPP has convened a Sindh council meeting to try and persuade its members to back its decision. Most of the local leaders have decided to register their protest against the government's decision to roll back the commissionerate system and Sindh local government ordinance of 1979. The MPAs are angry that first the party told them to plug the commissionerate and 1979 systems and then backtracked a month later. The MPA, who chose to remain unnamed, recalled how during one of the PPP parliamentary party meetings, one of their lawmakers had argued with the CM in favor of restoring the 1979 system. After that, the MPA had no choice but to accept it. The party leadership persuaded and also mobilized the voters about the significance of the commissionerate and old local government system.

For such senior leaders it is difficult to take dictation on Sindh's matters from federal ministers such as Babar Awan and Rehman Malik, who swoop in to Karachi to make decisions for the province. The recent decision was made just to appease "someone". Even PPP MPA Humera Alwani said that during the Sindh council meeting she would also support the 1979 system because parallel systems were 'not acceptable'. She also pointed out a technicality; the ordinance issued by the governor to revive SLGO 2001 has no legal grounds because the old local government system of 1979 was implemented through an act of the assembly. One man to argue otherwise was Agha Siraj Durrani, the minister for local government, who had also championed the commissionerate system. He now said that they had done their job in public interest. People who raised their voice against the government have no vote bank and the people of Sindh have rejected them. It is also unclear how the PPP members plan on voting against the decision of their own party leaders, since the 14th Amendment to the constitution prevents legislators, under the penalty of disqualification from the assembly, from voting against their party's stance, as defined by the party leaders.

[The Express Tribune - August 11, 2011]

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### **Former Local Government Officials in Trouble**

Six former officials of the defunct local government Attock District are in troubled waters as they are facing graft charges. The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) on August 9 registered an FIR against the former Tehsil Nazim of Hassanabdal, Shafqat Ali, former Naib Nazim Syed Sada Hussain Shah and four union council nazims and councilors, for 'misappropriating' Rs. 10 million from the funds for town administration. They had obtained the amount in violation of rules to construct a sports complex and a park in 2006. The six officials, on the other hand, have approached the Rawalpindi bench of Lahore High Court for quashing of the FIR saying it was registered only to politically victimize them. According to the contents of the FIR, the ACE

alleged that the elected representatives misappropriated the money provided from Prime Minister's Grant in 2006 for development schemes in Hassanabdal Town. It has been alleged in the FIR that Rs. 10 million were drawn out of the official funds as temporary advance in the favor of the then town naib nazim and a UC nazim to purchase land for a park and a sports complex but the money was kept in the permanent accounts of the recipients in a private bank.

The investigators further alleged that the committee constituted to purchase the land was formed in violation of the local government rules and there were gross irregularities in the six quotations received. All the quotations were typed from one computer, were not apparently sealed and did not carry the required two per cent of earnest money, it was alleged. The ACE also found irregularities in the payment for transfer of land in the name of Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA), after the transfer fee was paid by the seller. On the contrary, the six accused in their petition before the high court have asserted that the FIR has only been lodged to victimize them after the change of government in 2008 general elections. Filing their plea through Advocate Tanveer Iqbal, the petitioners have maintained that the ACE registered the FIR without following the normal procedure as they did not conduct formal inquiry into the allegations. They said Rs. 20 million were received in 2006 from the federal government for uplift of Hassanabdal and half of the amount was spent on the sports complex project and land was purchased. The land was purchased on cheaper rates and proper advertisement was made in the local newspapers. Further the payments were made to the vendors through cross-cheques. The accused men said the investigators had not raised any finger towards the employees of the TMA. Any mismanagement cannot be carried out without the help of the concerned staff, the petitioners claimed. Calling the FIR politically motivated the petitioners have prayed to the high court to quash the case.

[The Express Tribune - August 16, 2011]

## Demand for New Province

### PML-N Forms Panel on New Provinces

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) set up a special committee to formulate suggestions on the demands of new provinces in the country, keeping national interest in view. The move came just days after an announcement by the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) that hinted at the creation of a new province during the month of Ramazan. The decision to formulate a special committee was taken during the PML-N's parliamentary party meeting at the Parliament House, chaired by PML-N president Nawaz Sharif. The party condemned the recent rise in prices of petroleum products by the government. Meanwhile, Nawaz urged his party's parliamentarians to mobilize the people for a "decisive" anti-government campaign after the summer. Addressing the media at the Parliament House after the meeting, the PML-N president alleged that the government was using the parliament to cover up its corruption. Sharif alleged that state institutions were being pitted against each other for personal gains. Rulers have not accepted the incumbent judiciary, but we will not allow anyone to use the parliament against it. Earlier, the Central Parliamentary Party (CPP) expressed grave concern on the non-implementation by the government of unanimous joint resolutions passed by the parliament in 2008 and 2011 respectively, which it said was "against the sovereignty of the parliament". It called upon the government to implement these consensus resolutions forthwith which express national intent and the will of the people of Pakistan. The party also demanded that the government implement every single order of the superior courts in letter and spirit to uphold the rule of law in the country. The CPP expressed alarm on the government's misuse of the National Database and Registration Authority in the manipulation of electoral rolls and census results.

[The Express Tribune - August 02, 2011]

### **Hashmi Wants Punjab Divided Into Four Provinces**

Senior PML-N leader Makhdoom Javed Hashmi has asked the leadership of his own party to announce division of Punjab into four provinces. Taking part in a debate on the Karachi situation in the National Assembly, the veteran leader from the southern Punjab city of Multan rebutted a statement of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif that the demand for creation of new provinces was a 'gimmick' by the government to hide its alleged corruption. Mr. Hashmi, who in the past had openly criticized some policies of the party and decisions of its leadership, said that he had great respect for Shahbaz Sharif, but he do not agree with his statement in which he linked the demand for new provinces to the government's corruption. Answering a question about new provinces at a gathering of supporters in London, Mr. Shabaz reportedly said it was the government's habit to come up with new gimmicks whenever it was criticized for its corruption and lack of accountability. Mr. Hashmi, who reluctantly accepted the office of senior vice-president of the PML-N last month and is also part of the 15-member special committee constituted by Nawaz Sharif to formulate suggestions on the demand for new provinces, said he wanted his party to take the lead and announce "creation of three to four new provinces" in Punjab. Mr. Hashmi, who had almost been sidelined by the leadership because of his open criticism of policies of the party, said that new provinces had become need of the hour with the increase in population. He did not elaborate geographical locations of the new provinces, but it is believed that he was referring to the ongoing debate in media and political circles that Punjab should be divided into South Punjab, Bahawalpur, Central Punjab and Potohar provinces. His call for more provinces, especially in the most populous province of Punjab, is expected to cause unease in the PML-N which constituted a committee on the issue only recently because of fears of a political isolation when almost all major and small parties are openly supporting the calls for new provinces.

[Dawn – August 04, 2011]

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### **Bahawalpur Province under Consideration: PM**

A committee has been formed by President Asif Ali Zardari to look into the formation of new provinces and the final decision will be taken once the committee submits its recommendations. The premier said the government is making all-out efforts for the development of southern Punjab and the area's resources will be utilized for its development. Addressing journalists at Circuit House, Bahawalpur, Gilani asked for the bullet-proof glass at the podium to be removed, saying there should be no obstruction between himself and the people. The present government is trying its best to control law and order in the country, particularly in Karachi. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Sindh cabinet have authorized the president to negotiate with political parties for maintaining law and order in Karachi. On Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) chief Altaf Hussain's latest statement asking Karachi's residents to stock up rations, the premier said there is freedom of speech in this democratic system and there are no restrictions on anyone. He also said that electricity shortage will be resolved soon since a number of projects are under construction while several more are in the pipeline. Earlier, the premier inaugurated a telecom project which will provide internet and telephone facilities to remote areas of the Multan and Bahawalpur division. He also awarded certificates to successful candidates of Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, and Islamia University, Bahawalpur, who recently received information technology (IT) training from Pakistan Software Export Board and the Universal Fund Service. Gilani also announced to set up an IT University at Bahawalpur and its sub-campuses in Rahim Yar Khan and Bahawalnagar districts to meet future challenges and provide better educational facilities to students of the area.

[The Express Tribune - August 05, 2011]

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**Rabbani Warns PPP against Hasty Decision on New Provinces**

PPP stalwart Senator Raza Rabbani has warned the party leadership against taking any decision in haste on the issue of new provinces because it can cause a “backlash” against the party and even bloodshed, particularly in Sindh. In a nine-page letter to PPP Co-Chairman and President, the senator called for convening a meeting of the party’s central executive committee and initiating a process of debate and discussion at every tier on the issue before taking any step. Mr. Rabbani has expressed concern over the PPP’s move to support a resolution in the Punjab Assembly for Seraiki province. In the letter, Mr. Rabbani warned the party against a possible adverse reaction in Sindh and Balochistan if it continued to pursue the demand for division of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa without having done any homework. He also expressed concern over the party’s handling of the local Government Issue in Sindh. The senator asked the party leadership to act fast and hold party meetings from the provincial council down to the tehsil level. He also suggested to the leadership to replace the Local Government Ordinance 2001 in the light of the party’s manifesto and evolve a consensus on it immediately after Eid. Mr. Rabbani is of the opinion that the issue of new provinces should be put on backburner for the time being because of the prevailing “fluid political situation” which has been “plagued by terrorism, extremism, sectarianism and regionalism”. The move will encourage “extreme nationalist forces, particularly in Balochistan, which are working for arrangements outside the scheme of the Constitution”. The PPP leader said: “Making, sponsoring or supporting a move for creation of new provinces by the party will unleash a snowball effect in which regions in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which have claims of possessing ingredients of a province, will get legitimacy and begin to agitate for it.” He warned that “if such a movement picks up in Sindh, it will destabilize, tear the society apart and give rise to a bloody strife which the PPP will not be able to withstand; after supporting such movement, there will be no moral or political justification for the party to oppose any other movement made in this direction”. Mr. Rabbani has also opposed the idea of creation of new provinces on an “administrative basis” — a major demand of the opposition PML-N. The creation of provinces is a historical process and, therefore, these should not be carved out on the basis of administrative convenience. This will further aggravate national, ethnic, linguistic and natural resources question.

[Dawn – August 16, 2011]

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## ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

### Facts & Figures

#### Social Sector Spending Cuts

Here are two basic truths about Pakistan which taken together may seem to be irreconcilable. We are running a huge budget deficit that needs to be urgently addressed but we are going through an economic downturn so it is imperative that the government spend more to alleviate the suffering of the poor. Unfortunately, the government is failing miserably on both counts. In a recent report, the Planning Commission admitted that budget cuts to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) had caused increased unemployment and worsened the power and water shortages in the country. In total, austerity measures have led to a Rs. 100 billion reduction in the PSDP's budget. Basic Keynesian economics dictate that one of the most important weapons in the government's armory during periods of low economic growth and high unemployment is increased spending on development programs. By focusing on infrastructure, the government can provide employment to those without jobs while providing the country with long-term benefits through the construction of dams, roads etc. At such a time, the government needs to increase the budget of the PSDP, not slash it. Ordinarily, governments which are relying on deficit spending would need to increase the rate of taxation to compensate for the increased investment in development. The Pakistan government does not need to do that; it simply needs political will. There is no more obvious solution to our revenue needs than to simply improve tax collection. For far too long, the rich have avoided paying their share of taxes. Now that we know that the real-world consequences of these tax dodgers is reduced spending on development, it is essential that the government crack down on evaders. The government also needs to prioritize its spending. Far too much of our budget is eaten up by defense and debt servicing. Of course, this is easier said than done. The last thing a political government wants is the military and IMF breathing down its neck. For the sake of the country's citizens, though, the government needs to start focusing on something besides its own survival. Reversing the PSDP's budget cuts would be a great way to start.

[The Express Tribune - August 01, 2011]

#### Development Budget to Be Cut, Again

As always, the development budget is the first to suffer the axe. Faced with an increasingly sharp questioning of its fiscal assumptions, the government is scrambling to get control over the projected budget deficit for fiscal year 2012 and is expected to start cutting expenses by reducing the development budget. Planning Commission said that the government has begun a 'rationalization' exercise with two aims: reducing or even freezing funding for projects that are not meeting deadlines, and reducing the overall size of the Rs. 300 billion federal development budgets. The move to begin making drastic changes to budgetary allocations just one month after the money bill passed parliament is unusual and indicates serious flaws in the government's fiscal framework for the year ending June 30, 2012. Yet even as the development budget is being cut, Planning Commission say that the projects initiated at the behest of influential politicians are likely to remain untouched, even if they are falling behind deadlines. Initial reports indicated the cut could be as much as Rs. 30 billion, or one-tenth of the federal development budget. However, Planning Commission officials emphasized that the rationalization exercise has not yet been completed and therefore it is impossible to state an exact figure. The Rs. 300 billion figure had already been far below what had been requested by various ministries for their development priorities. A further cut from an already low budget is likely to adversely impact the completion of several crucial projects.

The government suffered a major fiscal setback on July 23 when the Federal Board of Revenue confessed that it had misled the nation in stating that it had met its revised tax collection target of Rs. 1,588 billion and had been able to collect only Rs. 1,550 billion. That admission disturbed the government's entire budgetary calculations, forcing the government to review both its revenue collection and spending plans. On the revenue side, the government has already been contemplating levying new taxes. Finance ministry officials say that a cut in the development budget 'was not needed' and that the Planning Commission had initiated the rationalization exercise on its own. Even the Planning Commission spokesperson, Asif Shaikh, said that a cut in the development budget was not being considered at this point. But officials within the Planning Commission said the rationalization exercise was being conducted to reallocate funds towards projects that are closest to being completed, with 60% completion being used as a benchmark for funding decisions. The total size of the Public Sector Development Programme is Rs. 4,100 billion, of which Rs. 3,100 billion is currently unfunded, an amount that represents 1,800 projects. The unfunded portion of the development project portfolio has almost doubled in five years, jumping from Rs. 1,700 billion in 2006 to Rs. 3,100 billion this year. The Planning Commission said the number of unfunded projects was increasing due to the approval of many provincial projects without consideration for fiscal constraints. It is unclear how effective the commission's rationalization exercise will be. Officials admitted that a recent exercise that put 1,000 projects into different categories had yet to be implemented when allocating funds.

[The Express Tribune - August 09, 2011]

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### **Trade Deficit Shrinks to \$1.486b**

The country's trade deficit was recorded at \$1.486 billion during the first month (July) of the ongoing financial year 2011-12 against \$1.513 billion during the same period last fiscal year 2010-11 thus registering a decrease of over one per cent. According to the figures released by Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) on Thursday, the country's trade imbalance has shrunk by 1.78 per cent in one-year period, as it has registered at \$1.486 billion in July 2011 against the \$1.513 billion of the July 2010. The FBS data revealed that country's exports showed a handsome growth of over 27 per cent in July 2011 period and totaled at \$2.203 billion against \$1.726 billion of July 2010. Meanwhile the imports also surged by over 13 per cent and recorded at \$3.689 billion in July 2011 against the \$3.239 billion of July 2010. Therefore the trade deficit has recorded at \$1.486 billion in the first month of ongoing financial year. It might be mentioned here that country had achieved record level of exports of over \$25 billion during the previous fiscal year 2010-11. The growth in exports remained broad based as almost all the groups (textile and non-textile) witnessed a high positive growth during the last financial year. However the lion's share of this year's healthy exports came from textile sector and food group. However, business community are showing serious concerns this year, as they claimed that government did not announce any exports target for the ongoing financial year 2011-12 despite passing almost one and half month. They are of the view that government should come with strategy in consultation of the business community to fix the exports target for the present fiscal year. According to the FBS data, the overall exports showed decline of 9.23 per cent in July 2011 if compare with the exports of June 2011. The country exported good worth of \$2.203 billion in July 2011 against the \$2.427 billion of June 2011. However, the imports have decreased by over four per cent in July 2011 against the June 2011, as the country imported good worth of \$3.689 billion during the last month as compare to \$3.863 billion of June 2011.

[The Nation – August 12, 2011]

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### **Pakistan Will Have to Repay \$8 Billion to IMF in Four Years**

Pakistan will have to repay over \$8 billion obtained under the Standby Arrangement (SBA) from the IMF within the next four years up to fiscal year 2014-15 since the State Bank of Pakistan

(SBP) will have to return installments of the \$1.4 billion loan in the ongoing fiscal year starting February 24, 2012. According to the repayment schedule agreed between the IMF and Pakistan, Pakistan will have to return the first due installment of \$413 million — 258 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) — to the IMF on February 24, 2012. This will be paid back to the Fund from foreign currency reserves held by the SBP. The foreign currency reserves rose to over \$18 billion in the wake of a comfortable external account balance but pressure will start to be felt on that side after the initiation of repayments to the IMF loan as well as the possibility of a further dip in exports owing to a decline in the prices of cotton in the international market. The higher remittances are rescuing Pakistani authorities but many economists term this phenomenon 'mysterious' and require further analysis to know reasons for achieving unprecedented growth in this sector. An analysis done by SBP shows that 68 percent transactions of money received from abroad can be termed small transactions. The existing \$11.3 billion SBA program is going to expire on September 30, 2011 as the last two tranches of \$3.2 billion seem like a pipedream in the aftermath of Islamabad's failure to pursue key reforms as well as the emergence of the revenue figures fiasco that has severely tarnished the credibility of the economic team.

The first installment of SBA program worth \$413 million (258.4 million Special Drawing Rights) of the IMF will be due on Feb 24, 2012; the second installment worth \$413 million on May 25, 2012; and third installment of \$113 million on June 29, 2012. The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement the existing official reserves of member countries. SDRs are allocated to member countries in proportion to their IMF quotas. The SDR also serves as the unit of account of the IMF and some other international organizations. One US dollar is equivalent to 1.6 SDR. Islamabad will have to repay 258 million SDR on August 24, 2012, which translates into over \$400 million and 71 SDR on October 2012. The total repayments in year 2012 will stand in the range of 1.418 billion SDR, 2.362 billion SDR in 2013, 1.230 billion SDR in 2014 and 193 million SDR in 2015. The foreign currency reserves of Pakistan stand in the range of over \$18 billion out of which over \$8 billion is loans obtained from the Fund under the existing SBA program. After excluding the IMF loan, the position of foreign currency reserves, which will stand in the range of \$10 billion, will be exposed to vulnerabilities. Despite the outstanding performance of remittances as well as improved performance of the exports sector, Pakistan is left with no option but to seek another IMF programme in the range of \$3 to \$5 billion to give other donors and investors the signal that the country is under tight scrutiny of the IMF.

[The News – August 05, 2011]

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### **Another \$5 Billion Bailout on the Cards**

The government is likely to seek another bailout package of more than \$ 5 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but its approval will hinge upon the support from the United States as well as on the implementation of agreed reforms in the revenue and power sectors. An official source said that there was no option available but to re-approach the IMF for another bailout package. However, he said Pakistan would have to show significant improvement in revenue and power sectors reforms otherwise the IMF would consider the government not serious about reform. He said the support of US was essential to get a favorable new programme from the IMF since the IMF was likely to impose stringent conditions without US support. He said official circles and experts feel the government's financial team wasted an ideal opportunity since the last loan provided by the IMF came with the softest terms ever offered to Pakistan. About the chances of US support, he said that the tensions between the two countries were a matter of concern but the US had not indicated it would not help in civilian affairs. It is Pakistan own desire to remain under an IMF programme to retain the confidence of the international community in its economy. Other international financial institutions (IFIs) and western governments look to IMF reports to decide whether to provide financial assistance to a country. The US and UK had publically asked the government to tax its rich for additional resource mobilization.

The government is aiming to seek a new programme in September before the expiry of the existing programme which remains suspended since May last year. The government was hoping to secure the release of the remaining two tranches after the reviving the programme as an IMF mission was due in July to hold formal review of the economy before deciding on the release of the next tranche. However, clumsiness in finalizing revenue collection figures resulted in a fiasco that led to the resignation of State Bank of Pakistan governor Shahid Kardar that buried the chances of the program's revival. However, the source said that despite the figure fudging fiasco at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the things were moving in the right direction as the FBR had managed to collect Rs. 105 billion in revenue during the first month (July) of the current fiscal year. The real worry for the government, he said, remains power sector reforms on which little progress was made during the last fiscal year. The government increased the power tariff but failed to improve management practices at public sector distribution and generation companies that resulted in a failure in the implementation of the reforms. The ministerial committee on energy would form the basis of convincing IMF of Pakistan's commitment to power sector reforms. For the first time, the committee was presented with the complete picture on issues, impact and reforms in the power sector on short to long term basis. Its recommendations shall be shared with the fund to finalize the next bailout package, the source said.

[Pakistan Today – August 23, 2011]

## Government Policies

### Centre Keeps Billions, Despite Devolution

Federal Minister Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain has been allotted money-spinning organizations like the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) and Employees' Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), having billions in their kitty, while provinces are desperately demanding their handover as per the devolution mandated under the 18th Amendment. The two state-run establishments together hold funds of over Rs. 135 billion. The bureaucracy resisted transfer of the WWF and EOBI to any other federal ministry from the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Division, which was under Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani to save the colossal funds from being frittered away or being used for political pursuits, but to no avail. As a stopgap, these establishments were placed under the IPC division in the hasty consummation of the devolution plan. Both the federal government and provinces have equally set their eyes on the billions lying with the WWF and EOBI. That's why the former is not ready to transfer them to the provinces despite the 18th amendment while the latter is insistent upon getting their control. Chaudhry Wajahat has been given the Human Resource Development Division, which has been assigned the administration of the Workers Welfare Fund Ordinance 1971; the Companies Profits (Workers Participation Act 1968; the Employees' Old Age Benefits Act 1976, including supervision and control of the Employees' Old Age Benefits Institutions; Emigration Ordinance 1979, and the Control of Employment Ordinance 1965; and administrative control of Overseas Employment Corporation, Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, and Foreign Employment and Emigration.

Akram Masih Gill has also been earmarked an important organization like the Evacuee Trust Property Board, which owns vast precious land in different cities. He has been given the National Harmony Division, which also includes policy and legislation with regard to interfaith harmony; international agreements and commitments in respect of all religious communities; representation of Pakistan at UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination to Minorities; Minorities' Welfare Fund and National Commission for Minorities. In a letter to the prime minister in early July, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif described as unconstitutional the retention of at least ten institutions, and their assets and functions by the federal government even after their devolution. He withdrew his request made in an earlier letter to

Gilani to convene a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to resolve these issues on the ground that none of them falls within the domain of the CCI. Among others, the chief minister specifically objected to the retention by the federal government of the administration of the WWF Ordinance 1971, the Companies Profits (Workers Participation) Act, 1968, the EOBI Act, 1976 along with ancillary institutions and assets; and Evacuee Trust Property Board. Since the period stipulated for devolution by the 18th Amendment has already expired, it is imperative that this matter may be taken up on top priority basis and the devolution process be implemented in complete harmony with the constitutional mandate by passing appropriate directions with immediate effect.

According to the letter, the federal government now holds in trust the assets pertaining to the institutions and their subsidiaries, which stand devolved to the provinces. It urged that all expenditure by those institutions be frozen with immediate effect and no charge of any nature whatsoever be created on the assets owned by them. Riaz Hussain Pirzada, has been allotted relatively insignificant Professional and Technical Training Division, which comprises National Vocational and Technical Education Commission (NAVTEC); Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM), Islamabad; Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Islamabad; National Education Assessment Centre, Islamabad; National Training Bureau, Islamabad; Pakistan Manpower Institute; National Internship Programme (NIP); Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development, Islamabad; National Talent Pool Islamabad; Youth Centre and Hostels and all matters relating to the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and National Education Foundation.

[The News – August 04, 2011]

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### **Centre Reconvenes Top Finance Body**

President has made his appointments to the National Finance Commission, as the federal government gears to lobby for a new resource distribution formula between the centre and provinces, barely a year after the implementation of the seventh NFC award. Non-statutory members of the commission, according to the constitution, are appointed by the president on the recommendation of provincial governors. Other members of the commission include the federal finance minister as its chairperson and provincial finance ministers as statutory members. Balochistan is the only province that has opted to nominate a new member, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, in place of Dr Gulfraz who was part of the negotiations for the 7th NFC Award. The other three provinces have retained their members from the previous round of negotiations – Abdul Ghafoor Mirza for Punjab, Kaiser Bengali for Sindh and Senator Haji Mohammad Adeel for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The federal government, however, feels that its fiscal space has drastically reduced after the transfer of 10% additional resources to the provinces. Under the 7th NFC Award, the provinces' share from the federal divisible pool was increased from 47% to 56% for the first year of the implementation, and 57.5% for the remaining four years. Though the Pakistan Peoples Party-led government takes political credit of signing the award after a gap of 14 years, its finance managers complain that a large part of the national burden is borne by the federal government. The existing fiscal arrangement has turned into a structural problem. With limited resources and increasing responsibilities, the federal government cannot restrict budget deficit below 6% of the total size of the economy. The federal government has estimated a 4% deficit for the current fiscal year, but finance managers privately say it is bound to slip to 6% of the GDP.

Architects of the 7th award, however, believe the problem is not with the award but in the federal government's inability to generate additional resources. Gulfraz, a former non-statutory member from Balochistan, said the 7th award's projections were made on the assumption that the federal government would increase tax-to-GDP ratio by one percentage point every year – a cumulative five percentage point increase during the implementation period. Instead of increasing to 10% from the current 9% as projected, the tax-to-GDP ratio dipped to 8.5% by the

end of the last fiscal year. The federal government wants to punish the provinces for its inability to increase federal income. The lobbying may be of little practical significance, however, because for this award period and the following years, the provinces' share in the federal resources is protected through 18th amendment. According to Article 160(3) of the constitution, the provinces' shares in subsequent awards cannot be less than the share from previous award. Any change to that would require a two-thirds majority in the parliament, highly improbably given the current political scenario. Finance Ministry officials, however, say that in order to find a solution to the fiscal problem, the federal government could transfer more responsibilities to the provinces, for instance, devolution of power distribution companies that are causing billions of rupees worth of losses to the national exchequer.

[The Express Tribune - August 19, 2011]

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### **Is Equalized Poverty the Answer to Unequal Prosperity?**

The Planning Commission's "Framework for Economic Growth" (FEG) has been received with intellectual skepticism. Two leading economists of the country have questioned the conceptual foundations of the growth framework. One of the key architects of economic policy during the Musharraf regime, Dr Ashfaq H Khan, has said that the strategy was not 'new.' Dr Khan accused the Planning Commission of intellectual piracy as the 'new' growth strategy was, according to him, built on the 'old' Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper-II, which was released in 2007. The basic question is: do we see any paradigm shift in our growth strategy? On the basis of historical and documented evidence, the answer would be in the affirmative. The most obvious difference between PRSP-II and FEG is their relative emphasis on poverty and growth. According to PSRP-II, To steer Pakistan back on the path of sustained and broad-based economic growth and to create jobs and reduce poverty, Pakistan requires consistently transparent policies that place poverty reduction at the centre of the country's overall economic policies. That PRSP-II builds its entire strategy on poverty reduction is very clear here. The new growth strategy clearly departs from the myth of development economics of making poverty the centre of economic development – something still fashionable in Pakistan. No country in the world has eradicated poverty by focusing on poverty itself. As the examples of China and India suggest, poverty is alleviated by wealth creation, whose pivotal point is free enterprise.

Another major difference between the two documents is of the focus: PRSP-II focuses on macro-economic dimensions and FEG focuses on micro-economics dimensions. According to PSRP-II there are three main structural weaknesses that can be identified for the current economic difficulty: government spending in excess of revenue (fiscal deficit); imports in excess of exports (trade deficit); and inadequate social services to allow the poor and the vulnerable to fully participate in times of economic stability and prosperity and be protected during shocks. On the other hand, FEG states that the essence of the 10th plan strategy is that it pinpoints the microeconomic foundations that will lower the cost of doing business and make markets more flexible. This will create incentives for businesses to expand, therefore, endogenizing the reasons for higher investment. The departure from an exogenous focus on macro-economic stability to an endogenous emphasis on micro-economic reforms could not have been clearer — and timelier. Dr Hussain has argued that this document is built on new institutional economics (NIE), yet ignores its basic postulates of the institutional and political compulsions under which the market is bound to operate. If there is a conceptual foundation of the framework, it may be found in the new growth literature. The new growth strategy represents a paradigm shift in our economic planning. Its emphasis on competition, reducing government interventions, innovation, entrepreneurship and domestic commerce represents a pragmatic way forward to achieve prosperity.

[The Express Tribune - August 29, 2011]

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## ELECTION WATCH

### ECP & Election Related Updates

#### ECP Extends Verification of Electoral Rolls Till 22nd

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) gave yet another extension for the door-to-door electoral rolls verification exercise in view of incomplete printing of the draft electoral rolls, mainly due to Karachi security situation. A meeting to this effect, chaired by Justice (Retd) Riaz Kayani, who is a member of the ECP, asked for commencement of the door-to-door verification of draft voter lists from August 22. Initially, the date was July 18 and it was extended to August 08 and the latest and final date extension was given. Ali Arshad Hakeem informed about printing of draft electoral rolls by Nadra to be used for countrywide verification exercise and its delivery at district level. He also highlighted some practical problems, which hindered the gigantic task of printing of more than 80 million voters and delivery of draft electoral rolls in time and requested for extension of timeline earlier decided by the election commission. The ECP keeping in view the magnitude of the work and adverse law and order situation in some parts of Karachi and Balochistan as well as the requests from the teachers' associations across the country for postponing the verification exercise after the holy month of Ramzan, granted extension in time to Nadra to print and deliver the draft electoral rolls till August 17 and allowed the commencement of door-to-door exercise by the field offices from August 22 till September 30. Riaz Kayani said that no further extension in the time would be permitted and in case of any delay, the department concerned would be responsible. When approached, the Nadra Deputy Chairman Tariq Malik noted that printing of the draft electoral rolls was under way and only 20 per cent in Punjab was remaining though 100 percent was yet to be done in Sindh. He explained the law and order situation, particularly in Karachi had impeded the work and added reduced working hours during the holy month of Ramzan was also one of the causes in this context. Printing was to be done in the port city. Tariq Malik pointed out teachers association was also interested in doing the job of verification in the second half of the month of fasting. However, the draft rolls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Fata and Islamabad Capital Territory were complete while almost ready in Balochistan. Verification of voters would be done with the verification of computerized Nadra identity cards. Verification of voters was being carried out for the first time in this way and he added transportation of electoral rolls to each and every tehsil and district was also a huge task. A meeting, attended by all the stakeholders took stock of the situation here with presentations, among others, from the state-owned printing press and the Census Organization.

[The News - August 06, 2011]

#### PML-N to Constitute Committee to Probe Irregularities in Voter Lists

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to form a parliamentary committee comprised of its members to look into irregularities in NADRA voters' lists and in the national census. The PML-N Central Management Committee decided in a meeting that the party would raise its voice over irregularities in the voters' lists and the census, if any. The meeting decided to create a central media coordination committee to convey the activities of the party to the people. The committee, which is to be headed by the central information secretary, would also include the provincial information secretaries. It also decided to make the local representatives of the party more active, especially in the preparation of voters' lists, which would help to identify the discrepancies in these lists. The committee took exception to ongoing load shedding, particularly during 'iftar' and 'sehri' timings during Ramazan, and showed concern over the failure of the government to honor its own commitment to exempt these times from load

shedding. It also expressed concern over inoperative trains, which it believed would create problems for those people who return to their hometowns to celebrate Eid with their families.

[Daily Times - August 07, 2011]

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### **Nawaz Demands Immediate Elections**

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif has demanded that elections be held in the country immediately. The PML-N chief said that the problems being faced by the country could only be resolved if elections were held immediately. He added that it was the responsibility of the nation to stand up against the government and ensure that no one played with their mandate. On supporting the PPP, Nawaz Sharif said that his party had tried working with the PPP in the past but that there had been no substance to the relationship. He said that all political parties should go to the people and that the people should decide on the future of Pakistan.

[Daily Times - August 18, 2011]

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### **Nadra Completes 80m Draft Electoral Rolls**

The enormous task of printing the draft electoral rolls of more than 80 million eligible voters under the close supervision of the Election Commission of Pakistan has been completed. Legislation approved by Parliament has made computerized national identity cards (CNIC) issued by Nadra is mandatory for the registration and casting of votes. Hence the civil registry was used to prepare the draft electoral rolls. Nadra has registered 93% of the adult population of Pakistan by issuing 86 million CNICs and has an ambitious plan to register the rest in the next six months. Normally, the Election Commission conducts a door-to-door enumeration and registration exercise by hiring more than 200,000 teachers. The information collected manually is usually marred with errors. Thus, this time around, with the help of Nadra, the ECP will verify eligible voters information already printed on forms, thus reducing the error margin significantly. The ECP is going to start its door-to-door verification exercise from August 22, 2011. Printing of draft electoral rolls of 130 districts was possible only after the extensive analysis of Final Electoral Rolls of 2008 (FER-2008) through the close collaboration of ECP and Nadra and after the application of 139,861 census block codes as an aftermath of the door-to-door housing census conducted by the Pakistan Census Organization. The analysis revealed that there were approximately 37 million unverified existed (44 million verified voters with CNICs out of 81 million voters registered in FER-2008). However 36 million new voters with valid CNICs were added to the draft electoral rolls. This augmentation done under the business rules approved by the ECP consists of eligible voters who got ID cards since the inception of Nadra till the preparation of draft ERs in 2011, thus enabling them to exercise the right to vote. The draft electoral rolls now consist of 80.6 million eligible voters with valid CNICs. Nadra has urged all citizens to register to vote and verify if they are already registered by helping the ECP staff knocking at their doors from August 22, 2011. This is truly an equal opportunity for all citizens including women, eunuchs, minorities, rich, poor, young, and senior citizens.

[The News - August 19, 2011]

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### **ECP to Start Verification of 81 Million Voters**

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) expects the number of registered voters to be around 83 million, as it starts the massive task of door-to-door verification of electoral rolls involving 0.124 million manpower. The verification of 81 million computerized electoral rolls based on database of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) would ensure

transparency in election process and give people right to elect their representatives. During the campaign those having mentioned their names in family forms but could not get CNIC, would be facilitated to get their computerized ID cards. Similarly, names of those who had expired but this information could not be communicated to Nadra, would also be deleted from the lists. Making of Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) mandatory for registration of voter is key ensuring transparent electoral rolls. People having two addresses would be given option to get registered as voter at their place. Around 36 million new voters with valid CNIC are likely to be registered as a result of the campaign. According to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), National Database and Registration Authority did not authenticate 37.2 million voters out of 82 million registered voters in the voter lists of 2007. As a result of the campaign the number of total authentic voters is likely to be around 83 million. The important exercise would continue till September 30. NADRA will print another draft list in December this year. People will be asked to pinpoint the anomalies if any in the electoral rolls. The final voters list will be published in March 2012 and next election will be held on the basis of new voter lists. It is pertinent to mention here that the ECP with the help of NADRA is preparing transparent database and the CNIC number would be used as a unique identifier for the existing voters list to discourage the trend of fake voting and to avoid double entry. It is for the first time in the history of Pakistan that such electoral rolls database is going to be prepared, which will eliminate all possibility of double and bogus voter lists. For door to door campaign the country has been divided into 145000 census block. One Census Block contains 200 to 250 houses or 1200 to 1500 people. The ECP is likely to initiate a media campaign from Monday urging people to register their votes. Sources agreed that the registered voter lists might not be completed due to security situation in some areas, including North and South Waziristan and two or three districts.

[The News - August 22, 2011]

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## REGIONAL POLITICS

### Pakistan's Foreign Relations

#### **Pakistan Attaches Great Importance to Its Relations With Japan: Naek**

Pakistan attaches great importance to its friendly relations with Japan and regards the country as an important friend and partner; this was stated by the Senate Chairman, Farooq H Naek while talking to the newly appointed Japan Ambassador to Pakistan, Hiroshi OE. The chairman expressed grief and sympathies for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. He hoped that the resilient people of Japan will successfully overcome these difficulties and crises. He also reiterated Pakistan's full support at this difficult time and said that Pakistan is ready to provide any assistance to Japan to overcome this unprecedented challenge. While appreciating Japanese assistance for socio-economic development of Pakistan, the chairman said that Pakistan's focus is on economic cooperation to help address current economic difficulties and promote greater trade and investment linkages. We seek mutually beneficial ties particularly in economic sphere through joint ventures, project cooperation and public-private partnership. He hoped that two friendly countries might further enhance trade which is far below its potential. The chairman underscores the need for enhanced exchange of parliamentary delegations between two countries to promote people-to-people contacts. The chairman also invited the Japanese parliamentarians to visit Pakistan especially when session of the Senate is on. While reciprocating the sentiments, the Ambassador Hiroshi thanked the senate chairman for receiving him and expressed the confidence that the friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan would further strengthened with the passage of time. He assured that he will make all possible efforts to further consolidate the existing friendly relations between the two countries. On the occasion, the chairman wished him all successes in his diplomatic assignment and assured him of government's full support in the discharge of his official responsibilities.

[Daily Times - August 05, 2011]

#### **Pak-US Relations Facing Challenges: State Department**

US- Pakistan relationship has challenges but remains strategically vital and that American special envoy for the region had productive meetings in Islamabad. State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner said that all along that they recognize that there are challenges in the relationship with Pakistan, but it's in both countries' strategic interests to work through these challenges and build a long-term partnership. Without going into specifics, the spokesman said during Special Representative Marc Grossman's visit to Islamabad the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to shared interests in the region. In his meetings, in general, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the shared interest of our two countries and acting on those interests in a joint way. Besides holding meetings with top Pakistani officials, Grossman also participated in the fourth core group meeting of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States. Responding to a question about the movement of American diplomats in Pakistan, the spokesman echoed Grossman's comments, saying they are able to carry out their work. American diplomats are free to travel, that there are certain regulations and requirements that the Pakistani government has informed them about, and they'll try to figure out how to meet those but in the short term, their diplomats are able to carry out their work and they are certain that they're going to be able to work through these issues.

[Daily Times - August 05, 2011]

**Pakistan Set To Give India MFN Status: Report**

Pakistan has, in principle, agreed to give India Most Favored Nation (MFN) status, a basic international trading procedure that has been languishing on the margins for the last two decades, but which will now allow both countries to conduct normal trade with each other. The trade concession is likely to see the day when Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim comes to New Delhi for talks with his Indian counterpart Anand Sharma. A letter from Sharma inviting Amin Fahim to Delhi was carried by India's high commissioner to Pakistan, Sharad Sabharwal, when he returned to Islamabad after the conclusion of the foreign minister-level talks between SM Krishna and Hina Rabbani Khar. Perhaps it was the stardust that Khar threw in the eyes of the media during her visit to Delhi, which caused both sides to miss the seminal reference to MFN status hidden deep inside the joint statement, issued at the conclusion of the bilateral conversation. Clause number 12 of the joint statement refers to both ministers agreeing that an increase in trade and economic engagement between the two countries would be mutually beneficial. In this context, (they) emphasized the early establishment of a non-discriminatory trade regime between the two countries, including reduction/removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Both commerce secretaries agreed that they would take this "non-discriminatory regime" idea forward when Zafar came to Delhi for talks around November. In the meantime, Delhi got cracking with conducting a study on the impact of the so-called "positive list" that exists between India and Pakistan, about 1,938 items, and what would happen if this list were to be substantially scrapped. In the prime minister's office, too, the idea that trade and commerce should be used as the bait to draw the neighborhood closer gradually began to take hold. While Bangladesh has been a perfect example of that policy, the difference between Pakistan and Bangladesh is that Dhaka currently has an India-friendly government in place. Meanwhile, the Indian Commerce Ministry's study on reducing the "positive list" of items that can be traded between India and Pakistan, seems to have also come to the conclusion that India, as the much larger economy, can easily absorb the consequent opening-up to Pakistan. It is believed that the 1938 items can be pruned to about 200 items. Meaning, save for these items on the list, trade between India and Pakistan will be free.

[The News - August 05, 2011]

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**Pakistan, Turkey to Start Talks on Trade Accord**

Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said that Pakistan and Turkey were factors of stability in the region and were working together to convert challenges into opportunities for a better future for their people. Addressing a joint press conference with her Turkish counterpart Prof Dr Ahmet Davutoglu, she said they had discussed ways of promoting relations and enhancing economic cooperation and trade. Ms Khar said her talks with Dr Davutoglu focused on converting the political goodwill between the two countries into tangible economic projects and framework agreements. She said that we have agreed to start negotiations on a preferential trade agreement and decided to explore the possibility of using our own currencies in bilateral trade. She said the two countries looked forward to early completion of the 'Gul Train' project with the involvement of private sector. Our trade relations are modest and we believe that through these arrangements we can double and even triple the trade volume in coming years. She said Pakistan offered immense opportunities for investment in sectors like energy, housing, infrastructure development, textile, dairy and agriculture and invited Turkish investors to take advantage of the opportunities and liberal investment regime in Pakistan. Ms Khar said there was great scope to strengthen cultural relations by encouraging greater people-to-people contacts, visits of parliamentarians, exchange of students and media persons. Dr Davutoglu assured Ms Khar that Turkey would extend full cooperation and assistance to Pakistan for resolving its energy crisis.

[Dawn - August 12, 2011]

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**Indian Government Plans to Strike off Pakistan from Negative List**

Pakistani companies may soon be able to invest in India as Indian government plans to strike off the country from a negative list that debarred investments from across the border. The symbolic move is not likely to yield fat investments into the country, but offer a political dividend to warm the often-frosty ties between two neighbors. "When we can allow an investment from China, there is no reason to block Pakistan," a senior official told ET. "We can regulate the investments that come." Pakistan Joint Secretary of Commerce Rubina Ather will be discussing blueprint signed by commerce secretaries of India and Pakistan early this year to promote trade and investment. The meeting is also likely to take up Pakistan's offer of extending the Most Favored Nation, or MFN, status to India. Pakistan is only entry in the negative list under the Foreign Exchange Management Act. The government had deleted Sri Lanka in 2006 and Bangladesh in 2007 from the list. Indian Finance and Commerce Ministries are now examining feasibility of removing Pakistan from the list. Pakistan may also allow investments from India on a case-by-case basis. Both countries realize that opening investments will not necessarily result in a flood of investments. Businesses will only invest when they are very sure that their money is safe. The blueprint signed by commerce secretaries of two countries seeks to allow non-discriminatory trade with India by extending the MFN status, permitting trade of petroleum products and electricity, and removal of non-tariff barriers by India. At present, Pakistan allows India to export only a limited number of items included in positive list. Once it moves to a negative list, India can export all commodities except those mentioned in negative list. The list will be examined and will remove as many restrictions as is reasonable and possible. India was genuine in its endeavor to remove unnecessary obstacles to trade. At present, trade between India and Pakistan is pegged at about \$2 billion. Trade between two routed through third countries is estimated at another \$2 billion. A study by Delhi-based Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations estimates the trade potential between India and Pakistan at \$14.3 billion, with India exporting about \$11 billion worth of goods to Pakistan and importing \$3 billion.

[Daily Times - August 23, 2011]

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**South Korea to Help Set Up Water Quality Institute**

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) is setting up a water quality institute in collaboration with Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) at Islamabad. A record of discussions was signed between PCRWR and KOICA on Tuesday, under which KOICA will provide a grant of \$3 million for the establishment of the institute, construction of which would also be carried out by KOICA. The campus of the institute will be constructed within the premises of PCRWR and its objective will be capacity building of the water supply agencies, public health engineering departments, and local governments, which at present are not duly trained to address the water quality issues related to chemical, biological and physical contamination causing serious hazards to human life. It will be a premier institute of the country and will offer certificate and diploma courses in Water Quality Management. The institute will provide trained manpower for induction into water supply agencies to ensure supply of safe drinking water. The institute will work with the government, industry, NGOs and individuals to formulate viable and environmentally sustainable solutions through knowledge-sharing and disseminating best practices. That will highlight the crucial role played by safe drinking water in the achievement of economic and environmental goals through academic productivity, professional leadership and consulting environment, which is in line with the government policy to develop knowledge-based economy.

[The Express Tribune - August 24, 2011]

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## Indian Politics

### India Introduces New Anti-Corruption Bill

The Indian government introduced a new anti-corruption bill in parliament, which activists have planned for exempting the prime minister from the scrutiny of a powerful new ombudsman. The much-hyped "Lokpal Bill" would allow citizens to approach a newly-created watchdog with complaints about officials, including federal ministers and senior bureaucrats who are shielded under India's current laws. The ombudsman will be picked from the highest levels of the judiciary and supported by 10 other officials who would be from the judiciary or people of "impeccable integrity". The final version of the bill has been strongly criticized by civil society activists, who were allowed to participate in the drafting process but complained that their views were marginalized. In particular, they attacked the decision to remove sitting prime ministers and the higher judiciary from the ombudsman's purview. The conduct of MPs inside parliament is also exempt. As soon as the bill was introduced, the leader of the opposition in parliament, Sushma Swaraj, denounced the exclusions. She said that our categorical position is that the prime minister should also be within the ambit" of the ombudsman. India's Home Minister P. Chidambaram told reporters Thursday that any prime minister could be investigated after he left office. The prime minister has not been given immunity. The moment the prime minister demits office the complaint can be enquired into, proceedings can be taken up. India has a dismal record of bringing corrupt senior public officials to justice. In six decades only one senior politician, Rao Shiv Bahadur Singh, has been convicted of graft and served a jail term -- for taking a bribe in 1949. Current laws require the government's approval before any sitting bureaucrat or minister can be prosecuted. Civil society efforts to strengthen the bill were spearheaded by a veteran Indian activist, Anna Hazare, who won concessions from the government in April with a 98-hour hunger strike that gained widespread national support. Arguing that the final draft revealed the government's "empty promises", Hazare, 78, urged all MPs to reject the legislation. As the bill was being introduced in parliament, he symbolically burned a copy in the western city of Pune and said he would start a new fast on August 16. Anna said that by introducing this weak bill the government has clearly shown that they have no intention to fight corruption. Hunger strikes, a traditional Indian protest, have become a focus of resentment over the corruption that plagues all levels of life in India, from massive government contracts to small daily bribes.

[The News – August 05, 2011]

### Anna Hazare Promises 'Revolution' In India

Activist Anna Hazare vowed a "revolution" in India as he began a public fast amid astonishing scenes of celebratory protest that sent an intimidating message to a shell-shocked government. We have to bring a total change in this country, the 74-year-old told a huge crowd of chanting, flag-waving supporters at the open Delhi venue for his 15-day hunger strike to demand stronger laws against official graft. The whole world will see us as an example of how to bring about revolution with non-violence; bespectacled Hazare told the massed audience which cheered at every word. Once seen as just an annoying thorn in the side of the establishment, Hazare has transformed into a national figure whose popularity has destabilized a government elected in 2009 with an unassailable parliamentary majority. His campaign has tapped into a deep reservoir of discontent — especially among India's burgeoning middle-class — with a culture that requires bribes to secure everything from business permits to birth certificates. After leaving the jail cell that had been his campaign headquarters since his arrest three days ago, Hazare was driven to the fasting venue in a triumphal convoy that paralyzed the capital as hundreds of thousands of his adoring supporters piled onto the streets. At times, his open-top truck was forced to stop as the crowds surged forward to throw flowered garlands up at Hazare,

who was protected from driving monsoon rains by a large, camouflage-patterned parasol. The carefully choreographed event was broadcast live across the country by English, Hindi and regional language 24-hour news networks. Although officially released, Hazare had refused to leave his cell until the authorities lifted restrictions on what he had originally called an indefinite “fast unto death”. In an embarrassing climb-down for Singh’s Congress Party-led coalition, he was finally given permission to fast for 15 days in a large open venue normally reserved for religious festivals. The timing could not be worse for Singh, 78, who is already under fire over a succession of multi-billion-dollar corruption scandals that have implicated top officials. Speaking from the covered stage that will be his home for the next two-weeks, Hazare was dwarfed by a giant backdrop bearing a blown-up portrait of Gandhi. A team of doctors was on hand and will continue to monitor his health for the duration of his fast. Hazare has actually been refusing food since his arrest, and told the crowd that he had already lost three kilos (seven pounds).

[The News - August 20, 2011]

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### **India Mulls Lifting Visa Curbs for Pakistani Business**

The Indian government is expected to announce a new visa regime for Pakistani businesspersons, allowing for multiple entry visas and – in what would be a revolutionary step – potentially exempting some businessmen altogether from visas, subject to certain conditions. The Indian interior ministry is examining the proposal. A committee of experts that includes the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of Pakistan – the central banks of both countries – will be constituted to discuss ways to facilitate trade between the two countries. Currently, companies from both sides of the border have to use banks based in New York to conduct transactions which can result in delays and raises transaction costs. United Bank Ltd has applied to set up branches in India while the State Bank of India – a government-owned financial conglomerate – has expressed interest in setting up branches in Pakistan. The committee will also discuss means of facilitating investments from Pakistan to India, which are currently banned. Pakistan, however, allows foreign investment from any country, including India. The proposal to ease the visa regime will be discussed next month when the committee on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) meets. The matter would also be debated during the upcoming meeting of both the commerce ministers of India and Pakistan. Indian Commerce Minister Anand Sharma extended a formal invitation to his Pakistani counterpart Makhdoom Amin Fahim, but there has been no official confirmation yet. This will coincide with the meeting of both commerce secretaries – Rahul Khullar and Zafar Mahmood – as well. Pakistan had earlier stated it would grant Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to India, as it is required to do under its treaty obligation to the World Trade Organization. Pakistani businessmen have a number of complaints about doing business in India. There are often delays in visas, which are frequently rejected without assigning any reason. Indian businessmen have the same kind of problems in Pakistan. Small and medium enterprises owners are especially harassed because they do not have the wherewithal to bypass police verification, which is mandatory upon arrival in India entailing a tedious process of filling up forms and examination of a number of documents resulting in wastage of time and money. Pakistani consignments reaching India have to undergo a rigorous process of checking. The samples are taken to the labs in Kolkata all the way from Mumbai which sometimes results in delays lasting months. Yet trade between the countries is substantial, valued at \$1.9 billion in 2011. However, the volume of business that passes through Dubai is estimated to be even higher. Textiles and agro-based industries’ products are the main items of trade between both the countries. Some of the main items of trade include cement, soda ash, chemicals, cotton, rock salt, tea and jute. In fiscal year 2011 India’s export to Pakistan topped \$1.6 billion compared to Pakistan’s export to India at \$275 million.

[The Express Tribune - August 15, 2011]

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