



# PAKISTAN WATCH

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No. 04

March 2011

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## POLITICAL ISSUES

### Egypt

#### 1. Aircraft being sent to evacuate Pakistanis

Islamabad, Wednesday, 2 February 2011

Prime Minister Gilani ordered a special aircraft to be sent to Cairo to evacuate non-essential staff of the Pakistani embassy along with any other Pakistani national who wished to leave the country.

**Source:** *Dawn*, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/02/aircraft-being-sent-to-evacuate-pakistanis.html>

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#### 2. PIA cancels flights for Pakistanis

Karachi, Sunday, 6 February 2011

PIA cancelled two flights to Cairo on the advice of the Foreign Ministry due to the uncertain situation there.

**Source:** *Dawn*, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/06/pia-cancels-flights-for-pakistanis.html>

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### Iran

#### 3. Iran-Pakistan ties stronger than ever, says CG

Karachi, Friday, 11 February 2011

On the occasion of the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the Iranian Consul General emphasized the close relations between Pakistan and Iran, among other things, with trade having increased to US\$ 1.3 billion between the countries.

**Source:** *Dawn*, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/11/iran-pakistan-ties-stronger-than-ever-says-cg.html>

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## Iraq

### **4. Pak Embassy in Iraq to be functional soon: Malik Amad**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 3 February 2011**

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs informed the National Assembly that the ambassador to Iraq had been appointed and the embassy there would start functioning soon.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=129705&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129705&Itemid=2)

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## Kuwait

### **5. Gilani, Amir of Kuwait discuss bilateral ties, regional situation**

**Kuwait, Monday, 14 February 2011**

Prime Minister Gilani and the Emir of the State of Kuwait met at the Bayan Palace to discuss matter of mutual interest between the countries and bilateral ties.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=130903&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=130903&Itemid=2)

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### **6. Kuwait hints at reviewing visa restrictions on Pakistanis**

**Kuwait, Tuesday, 15 February 2011**

The Kuwaiti Minister for Social Welfare and Labour informed Prime Minister Gilani that the Kuwaiti government would review visa restrictions imposed on Pakistanis in order to improve trade and economic relations between the two countries.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131070&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131070&Itemid=2)

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### **7. President Zardari to pay two-day visit to Kuwait**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 24 February 2011**

President Zardari was to pay a two-day visit to Kuwait due to Kuwait's 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations. The visit would also be to promote bilateral ties.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131880&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131880&Itemid=2)

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### **8. Zardari joins world leaders on Kuwait's golden jubilee celebrations**

**Kuwait City, Saturday, 26 February 2011**

President Zardari was one of the 40 heads of state and government present in Kuwait to witness Kuwait's 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=132040&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=132040&Itemid=2)

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### **9. National Day of Kuwait observed**

**Islamabad, Monday, 28 February 2011**

The Ambassador of Kuwait hosted a grand reception in Islamabad to celebrate Kuwait's golden jubilee and the Federal Minister for Railways was the chief guest for the occasion.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=132259](http://app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=132259)

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## **Libya**

### **10. Pakistanis living in Libya are safe: Envoy**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 23 February 2011**

Ali Javed, Pakistan's acting Ambassador to Libya claimed that the embassy was in touch with Pakistani nationals and had been assured that they were safe.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131746](http://app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131746)

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### **11. Pak military not involved in Libya's turmoil, says FO**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 26 February 2011**

Pakistan strongly denied the presence of any Pakistani military personnel in Libya, an accusation made by the Arab media.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/26/pak-military-not-involved-in-libya%E2%80%99s-turmoil-says-fo.html>

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### **12. Progress made to repatriate Pakistanis stranded by Libya crisis: FO**

**Islamabad, Monday, 28 February 2011**

The Foreign Office asserted that progress had been made in the effort to evacuate Pakistanis from Libya. The Interior Minister, Rehman Malik, issued an order to provide travel documents for Pakistanis stranded in Libya free of charge. Embassy officials were negotiating with local authorities in Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Turkey to help facilitate the evacuation.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/28/progress-made-to-repatriate-pakistanis-stranded-by-libya-crisis-fo.html>

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## Oman

### **13. Pak-Oman agree for cooperation in S & T sector**

**Islamabad, Monday, 21 February 2011**

The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman called on Pakistan's Federal Minister for Science and Technology and they agreed to cooperate in the fields of Science and Technology, Oceanography and the enhancement of human resource development.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131490](http://app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131490)

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## Saudi Arabia

### **14. Saudi envoy calls on CM**

**Islamabad, Sunday, 27 February 2011**

The Saudi Arabian ambassador called on the Chief Minister of Punjab to discuss mutual interests and the latter thanked Saudi Arabia for its aid to flood affected regions of the country.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/27/saudi-envoy-calls-on-cm.html>

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## Turkey

### **15. CAA resolves issue of Turkish flights on directive of PM**

**Islamabad, Sunday, 6 February 2011**

On the instruction of Prime Minister Gilani, the Civil Aviation Authority resolved the issue of the frequency of Turkish Airlines flights to Karachi since it had been brought up during his visit to Turkey.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=130039&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=130039&Itemid=2)

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### **16. Unwavering Turkish support for the oppressed people of Kashmir**

**Ankara, Tuesday, 8 February 2011**

The Pakistani Ambassador to Turkey organized a seminar to commemorate Kashmir Solidarity Day and the participants expressed their support for the people of Kashmir and their right to self-determination.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=130204&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=130204&Itemid=2)

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**17. Turkish nation always join hands with Pakistani brothers: Mustafa Babur**  
**Islamabad, Thursday, 10 February 2011**

The Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan asserted the brotherly relations between the countries and said that the relief goods were a gift to the people affected by the floods.

**Source:** Associated Press of Pakistan

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=130566&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=130566&Itemid=2)

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**18. Turkey gives US\$ 2 mln medical equipment for seven hospitals**  
**Islamabad, Tuesday, 15 February 2011**

The Turkish Health Ministry provided medical equipment and material worth US\$ 2 million to seven hospitals in Pakistan. Turkey is also donating two field hospitals.

**Source:** Associated Press of Pakistan

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131018&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131018&Itemid=2)

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**19. Pak-Turkey enjoy exemplary bilateral relations**  
**Islamabad, Thursday, 17 February 2011**

The Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan met in Ankara and agreed to strengthen cooperation in their fight against terrorism.

**Source:** Associated Press of Pakistan

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131242&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131242&Itemid=2)

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**20. Zardari, Turkish President agree on bolstering ties in diverse fields**  
**Kuwait, Saturday, 26 February 2011**

The President of Turkey and the President of Pakistan agreed to increase joint ventures in the private sector for trade and communication when they met during the golden jubilee celebrations of Kuwait's 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. President Zardari asserted that bilateral trade should be US\$ 2 billion or more by 2012.

**Source:** Associated Press of Pakistan

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=132064&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=132064&Itemid=2)

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**UAE**

## **21. Pakistan developing capability in defence production: Ambassador**

**Abu Dhabi, Thursday, 24 February 2011**

After visiting the Pakistani pavilion at the International Defence Exhibition 2011, the Pakistani ambassador made a statement affirming the improved indigenous capabilities in Pakistan to produce sophisticated weapons systems and equipment. He highlighted the advantages of their cost-effectiveness and easy accessibility due to the proximity of Pakistan to the Gulf region.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131895&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131895&Itemid=2)

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## **Multilateral**

## **22. OIC calls on Libyan govt to cease violence against people**

**Geneva, Friday, 25 February 2011**

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN said that the members of OIC had called on the Libyan authorities to end the violence against innocent civilians immediately. At the 15<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Human Rights Council he asserted that the demands of the Libyan people had to be met peacefully and the international community should provide aid and relief.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131983](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131983)

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## **ECONOMIC ISSUES**

## **UAE**

## **23. UAE group keen in rice, building material**

**Karachi, Friday, 25 February 2011**

The Chairman of FAM holding, a UAE conglomerate, stated that they were interested in buying rice, building material and sanitary-ware in large quantities from Pakistan.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131967&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131967&Itemid=2)

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## **24. 22 Pakistani Companies to participate in Gulf Food Exhibition**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 26 February 2011**

The Gulf Food Exhibition in Dubai from 27 February to 2 March included 22 Pakistani companies under the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. Since the Gulf region is a net importer of food, the exhibition serves as a platform to establish the companies' presence.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=132036](http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=132036)

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## Turkey

### **25. Turkish textile importers support Pakistan's point**

**Karachi, Tuesday, 1 February 2011**

In a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Tariq Puri, Turkish businessmen affirmed their support for the Pakistani position that Turkish anti-dumping duties on fabric and denim were unjust. Tariq Puri will meet with the Minister of Commerce and the Minister for Finance to convey Pakistan's position.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/01/turkish-textile-importers-support-pakistans-point.html>

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## ENERGY

## Iran

### **26. Pak-Iran project Survey to lay gas pipeline under way**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 3 February 2011**

The physical survey to lay the gas pipeline from Iran's border to areas in Pakistan under the Pak-Iran was underway according to the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/03/pak-iran-project-survey-to-lay-gas-pipeline-under-way.html>

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### **27. 50 MW wind power farm to be set up in Thatta**

**Karachi, Tuesday, 8 February 2011**

The Chief Minister of Sindh handed over the land allotment documents to the representative of the Iran-Pakistan Wind Power Limited in order to set up a 50 MW wind power project in Thatta.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/08/50mw-wind-power-farm-to-be-set-up-in-thatta.html>

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## Kuwait

### **28. Pakistan to get US\$ 2 bn worth of oil from Kuwait**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 26 February 2011**

An agreement by Kuwait to give US\$ 2 billion worth of oil on deferred payment to Pakistan was anticipated to be signed in the next 10 days.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/26/kuwait-to-provide-2bn-worth-oil-on-deferred-payment-sources.html>

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **29. Iran, UoP ink MoU to promote culture**

**Peshawar, Tuesday, 1 February 2011**

The University of Peshawar and the Cultural Centre of the Iranian Consulate signed a Memorandum of Understanding to begin a partnership in joint information service delivery in order to further cultural relations between the two countries.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/02/iran-uop-ink-mou-to-promote-culture.html>

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### **30. Iranian delegates visit universities**

**Lahore, Sunday, 6 February 2011**

A delegation from the Fahim Research Institute in Iran visited universities in Lahore to explore opportunities for academic and technological partnerships, amongst other things.

**Source:** *Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/02/06/iranian-delegates-visit-universities.html>

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### **31. Hajj expenses to be reduced to Rs 1,90,000: Khursheed Shah**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 23 February 2011**

The Minister for Religious Affairs claimed that efforts were being made to reduce the cost of Hajj expenses from Rs. 2,36,000 to Rs. 1,90,000 per pilgrim for 2011 and made assurances to provide maximum facilities for pilgrims.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131731](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131731)

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### **32. UAE provides \$ 1.35 mn grant for children used as camel jockeys**

**Islamabad, Monday, 28 February 2011**

The UAE government gave US\$ 1,352,500 for children that had been smuggled from Pakistan to UAE in the past to be used as camel jockeys.

**Source:** *Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=132214](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=132214)

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