



# PAKISTAN WATCH

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No. 07

June 2011

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## POLITICAL ISSUES

### Bahrain

#### 1. Machine readable passport for Pakistanis in Bahrain soon

Islamabad, Saturday, 7 May 2011

On the demand of the Pakistani ambassador and community in Bahrain to issue machine readable passport there, Federal Minister for Interior Rehman Malik asked Director General, Passport to immediately deploy staff in Bahrain to do the needful.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138618](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138618)

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### Iran

#### 2. 66 illegal Pak immigrants deported from Iran

Dalbandin, Tuesday, 3 May 2011

Iranian authorities arrested 66 illegal Pakistani immigrants and handed them over to Pakistani officials at the Taftan border on Monday

**Source:** *The International News, Karachi.*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=44782&Cat=2&dt=5/3/2011>

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#### 3. Iranian Ambassador calls on State minister for Foreign Affairs

Islamabad, Tuesday, 10 May 2011

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar received Ambassador Mashallah Shakeri of Iran at her Chamber in the Parliament House on Tuesday. The Minister of State stressed that Pakistan-Iran relations were based on common history, religion, culture and traditions. The entire range of bilateral relations was reviewed.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138848](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138848)

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#### **4. President phones Ahmadinejad, discusses bilateral ties**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 21 May 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari telephoned Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday evening and discussed bilateral relations, economic cooperation and situation in the region.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=139880](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139880)

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#### **5. Iranian Advisor for better bilateral relations between Pak-Iran**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 28 May 2011**

Advisor to the President of Iran on Women and Family Affairs, Dr. Masooma Muhammadi said to journalists on Saturday that people to people contact and exchange of delegations between Iran and Pakistan will increase relations and help further cement ties.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140531](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140531)

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### **Jordan**

#### **6. PM greets Jordanian counterpart on Independence Day**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 25 May 2011**

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has sent a message of greetings to Prime Minister of Jordan Marouf Al Bakhit on their independence day falling on May 25.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140211](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140211)

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### **Kuwait**

#### **7. Zardari arrives in Kuwait**

**Kuwait, Saturday, 7 May 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari was accorded a red-carpet welcome as he arrived on Saturday evening for a two-day official visit to hold talks with the Kuwaiti leadership for further bolstering the multi-faceted ties between the two brotherly countries.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138647](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138647)

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## **8. Speaker Kuwait National Assembly calls on Zardari**

**Kuwait, Sunday, 8 May 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari met the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait Jassem Mohammad Al-Khorafi at Bayan Palace. He discussed matters of mutual interest, with particular reference to parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138676](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138676)

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## **9. Zardari, Sabah agree to set up special body for joint ventures in Pakistan**

**Kuwait, Sunday, 8 May 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari and Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah agreed on Sunday to set up a high-powered committee, which will meet immediately to identify areas of investment in Pakistan by Kuwaiti entrepreneurs.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138684](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138684)

**See also:** *The Dawn*, Lahore, <http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/09/joint-ventures-to-be-pursued-with-kuwait-2.html>

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## **Lebanon**

## **10. PM greets caretaker PM of Republic of Lebanon on Independence Day**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 25 May 2011**

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has greeted the Caretaker Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon Saad Hariri on their Independence Day falling on Wednesday (May 25).

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140210](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140210)

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## **Saudi Arabia**

## **11. Saudi King, Rehman Malik discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties**

**Riyadh, Saturday, 7 May 2011**

Federal Minister for Interior Rehman Malik called on Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz here on Saturday and discussed ways to strengthen the existing fraternal relations between the two countries.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138652](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138652)

**See also,** *The Dawn*, Lahore:

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/08/malik-gives-zardaris-message-to-saudi-king.html>

*The International News, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=45768&Cat=2&dt=5/8/2011>

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## **12. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia have similar stance against Terrorism: Malik**

**Islamabad, Sunday, 8 May 2011**

Federal Minister for Interior, Rehman Malik said on Sunday that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had similar stance on war against terrorists as both wanted to get rid of the menace at all costs.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138680](http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138680)

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## **13. Attack on the Saudi Consulate, Karachi**

**Karachi, Thursday, 12 May 2011**

Two men on a motorcycle hurled two hand-grenades on the Saudi Consulate in Karachi on Wednesday, causing low-intensity explosions.

**Source:** *The Dawn, Lahore*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/12/grenades-hurled-at-saudi-consulate-in-karachi.html>

**See also:** *The International News, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=5936&Cat=13&dt=5/12/2011>

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## **14. Saudi Diplomat gunned down in Karachi**

**Karachi, Tuesday, 17 May 2011**

A Saudi diplomat was gunned down in the DHA area of the Karachi city on Monday morning, days after two grenades were lobbed at the Saudi Consulate building. Taliban claimed responsibility. Saudi Arabia asked for more security for their diplomatic missions in Pakistan.

**Source:** *The Dawn, Lahore,*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/17/taliban-claim-responsibility-saudi-consulate-official-shot-dead-in-karachi.html>

**See also:** *The International News, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=6038&Cat=13&dt=5/17/2011>

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### **15. Saudi Arabia a times tested friend of Pakistan: Dr. Firdous**

**Islamabad, Sunday, 22 May 2011**

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan has said that Saudi Arabia is a time tested friend of Pakistan. She said that the purpose of her visit to Saudi Arabia is to express solidarity of the people and the Government of Pakistan with King Abdullah and his government.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=139974](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139974)

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### **16. Persons involved in assassination of Saudi diplomat to be brought to justice: Dr. Firdous**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 31 May 2011**

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan said on Tuesday that persons found guilty of assassinating Saudi diplomat Hassan Al Qahtani will be brought to justice soon.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140741](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140741)

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### **17. Saudi Arabia will stand by Pakistan: Saudi envoy**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 31 May 2011**

Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim Al-Ghadeer on Tuesday said that the assassination of Saudi diplomat Hassan Al Qahtani would not affect relations between the two countries. He added that he had complete trust in the justice system of Pakistan to catch the culprit.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140737](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140737)

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### **Syria**

### **18. Syrian president condoles with President Zardari over father's death**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 31 May 2011**

Syrian president Bashar al Assad on Tuesday expressed condolence to President Asif Ali Zardari on the death of his father.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140687](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140687)

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## Turkey

### **19. Turkey always supported Pakistan in difficult time: Governor**

**Lahore, Sunday, 1 May 2011**

Governor of Punjab province Sardar Latif Khosa, talking to a Turkish political party delegation headed by BB Party's Chairman Yalcin Topgu said that the brotherly Islamic country Turkey has always stood with Pakistan in times of difficulty.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138159](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138159)

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### **20. Pakistan's Judicial delegation visits Turkey**

**Ankara, Tuesday, 24 May 2011**

A 13-member group of senior judicial officers from Pakistan paid a five-day visit to Turkey as part of in-service training programme through the International Islamic University. The visiting delegation held meetings with under-secretary of Turkish Ministry of Justice where they were briefed about the data processing of legal cases that has facilitated speedy justice in Turkey.

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140101](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140101)

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### **21. Ahmed Mukhtar reaches Istanbul to attend International Defence Industry Fair**

**Rawalpindi, Tuesday, 10 May 2011**

Federal Minister for Defence Ch. Ahmad Mukhtar has reached Istanbul to lead the Pakistani delegation in the 10th International Defence Industry Fair, starting from Tuesday, at the TAYAP Fair Center.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138843](http://app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138843)

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## Yemen

### **22. PM greets Yemeni counterpart on National Day**

**Islamabad, Sunday, 22 May 2011**

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has greeted his Yemeni counterpart on their national day falling on Sunday (May 22).

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

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=139920](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139920)

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## ECONOMIC ISSUES

### Kuwait

#### 23. President Zardari Invites Kuwaiti Entrepreneurs to invest in Pakistan

**Kuwait, Sunday, 8 May 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari while assuring full protection to foreign investments, on Sunday invited the Kuwaiti businessmen and entrepreneurs to take advantage of the investment-friendly policies.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138675](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138675)

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#### 24. Kuwaiti Fund to participate in financing of Bhasha Dam

**Kuwait, Sunday, 8 May 2011**

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) on Sunday announced to participate in the financing of Bhasha Dam and desilting of Tarbela Dam projects in Pakistan.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138708](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138708)

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### Turkey

#### 25. Turkish firms keen to invest in Pakistan

**Lahore, Saturday, 7 May 2011**

Turkish-Pakistan Business Council (TPBC) Chairman Huseyin Akin has said in Lahore that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) would get a considerable boost soon as a number of Turkish companies are working out sector-specific investment through joint ventures with their Pakistani counterparts.

**Source:** *The Dawn, Lahore,*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/07/turkish-firms-keen-to-invest-in-pakistan.html>

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#### 26. Pakistan, Turkey to take bilateral trade to \$2 billion by 2012

**Ankara, Wednesday, 18 May 2011**

Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey Tariq Azizuddin in a meeting with a visiting delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) said efforts are underway to further boost existing annual bilateral trade between Turkey and Pakistan from the present US\$ 997 million to US\$ 2 billion by 2012.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=139605](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139605)

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## **UAE**

### **27. UAE earmarks \$100 million to help Pakistan rebuild infrastructure**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 11 May 2011**

United Arab Emirates has earmarked US\$ 100 million to help Pakistan reconstruct its infrastructure for providing educational and clean drinking water facilities to the areas affected by flash floods last year.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138921](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138921)

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### **28. Dubai Businessmen looking for investment in marble and granite sector**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 18 May 2011**

A delegation of businessman from Dubai visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday and held meetings with entrepreneurs having common interest in various fields.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=139581](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139581)

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## **ENERGY**

### **Kuwait**

### **29. President Zardari seeks Kuwaiti Support to overcome energy shortage**

**Kuwait, Sunday, 8 May 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday urged the Kuwaiti financial and investment giants to help Pakistan overcome its energy shortages through financing and investments in major energy and infrastructure projects.

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

[http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=138687](http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=138687)

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### **Iran**

### **30. Iran ready to export electricity to Pakistan: envoy**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 19 May 2011**

The Iranian Ambassador Masha`Allah Shakeri while speaking on `Pak-Iran relations in the context of emerging regional and global scenario` at the Institute of Policy Studies in Islamabad on Wednesday said that Iran is willing to export electricity to Pakistan to help it come out of its energy crisis.

**Source:** *The Dawn, Lahore,*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/19/iran-ready-to-export-electricity-to-pakistan-envoy.html>

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### 31. Yemeni caught in "mid-level Al-Qaeda operative"

**Karachi, Wednesday, 18 May 2011**

A Yemeni al Qaeda militant arrested in the Pakistani city of Karachi was a "mid-level" operative and explosives expert involved in plotting attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, security officials alleged on Wednesday.

**Source** – Reuters,

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/18/us-pakistan-alqaida-idUSTRE74H3VI20110518>

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### 32. Arab uprising: West's selective response surprises experts

**Islamabad, Friday, 20 May 2011**

Speakers at a conference in Islamabad on Thursday traced the social and economic causes behind the Arab unrest and expressed surprise over the selective response of the West that was trying to channelize the direction of the change. The conference, 'Middle East developments: trends and future prospects' was organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) of Iran at a local hotel.

**Source:** The Dawn, Lahore,

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/20/arab-uprising-wests-selective-response-surprises-experts.html>

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### 33. Saudi Arabia, UAE financing extremism in south Punjab

**Lahore, Sunday, 22 May 2011**

A US official in a cable sent to the State Department stated that "financial support estimated at nearly 100 million USD annually was making its way to Deobandi and Ahl-i-Hadith clerics in south Punjab from organizations in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates ostensibly with the direct support of those governments." This information was revealed by WikiLeaks.

**Source:** The Dawn, Lahore

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/22/saudi-arabia-uae-financing-extremism-in-south-punjab.html>

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### 34. Don't provide Iran with a foothold, US told Pak

**Lahore, Tuesday, 24 May 2011**

A US State Department official in a meeting urged President Asif Ali Zardari against accepting Iran's offer of concessional oil for Pakistan and providing Iran with a foothold

in Pakistan, a 'Secret' American diplomatic cable made available to Dawn reveals. The meeting between Richard Boucher, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia during the Bush administration, and President Zardari took place on October 18, 2008 at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, during which Mr Zardari apprised the visiting official of the Iranian offer that the President "did not believe he could refuse."

**Source:** *The Dawn*, Lahore

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/24/dont-provide-iran-with-a-foothold-us-told-pak.html>

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### **35. Reduction of Hajj stay to 30 days proposed**

**Lahore, Friday, 27 May 2011**

The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs proposed to the religious affairs ministry in Islamabad on Thursday to consider reducing the obligatory stay in Saudi Arabia for Hajj pilgrims to 30 days from 40 in order to decrease the expenses.

**Source:** *The Dawn*, Lahore

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/05/27/reduction-of-haj-stay-to-30-days-proposed.html>

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**Compiled by Dipanwita Chakravortty**

Dipanwita Chakravortty is a Graduate student at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Email: [dipa.chaks@gmail.com](mailto:dipa.chaks@gmail.com)

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