

PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 09

August 2011

POLITICAL ISSUES

Algeria

1. PM greets Algerian counterpart on Independence Day

Islamabad, Tuesday, 5 July 2011

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani sent a message of greetings to Prime Minister Ahmed Quayahia of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on their Independence Day.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144056

Iran

2. President to visit Iran today

Islamabad, Saturday, 16 July 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari went on a day long visit to Tehran on the invitation of the Iranian leadership.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144056

3. Zardari proposes Pak-Iran currency swap

Tehran, Saturday, 16 July 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari proposed a currency swap agreement between Pakistan and Iran to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties between the two brotherly countries. The President made this proposal during his meeting with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145115

4. Pakistan, Iran resolve to strengthen ties in all spheres

Tehran, Saturday, 16 July 2011

Pakistan and Iran expressed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties in diverse fields, with particular focus on enhanced cooperation in energy, trade and economic spheres.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145130

5. Zardari arrives in Mashed, to visit shrine of Hazrat Imam Raza (RA)

Mashed, Saturday, 16 July 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari and his delegation arrived from Tehran and were received at the airport by Governor of Mashed.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145157

6. President returns home from Iran

Karachi, Sunday, 17 July 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari returned home in the early hours of Sunday morning after a brief visit to Iran. He held wide ranging talks with President Ahmedinejad and Ayatollah Khamenei.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145159

7. President Zardari's visit to Iran to promote bilateral relations

Islamabad, Friday, 22 July 2011

The recent visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to Tehran will further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in different fields including trade and energy.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145643

Qatar

8. Qatari delegation calls on President Zardari

Islamabad, Friday, 29 July 2011

A delegation from Qatar, headed by Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Thani, member of Royal family of Qatar, called on President Asif Ali Zardari. Issues relating to Qatar International Islamic Bank and the projects being undertaken in Layyah and Dadu district by Qatari charity organization RAF were discussed.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=146285

Saudi Arabia

9. Rehman reaches Jeddah holds bilateral meetings with Saudi leadership

Islamabad, Friday, 1 July 2011

Minister for Interior Rehman Malik reached Jeddah on Friday to hold bilateral meetings with his Saudi counterpart Prince Muhammad bin Nayef bin Abdul Aziz and other leaders.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan,

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143744

10. Rehman Malik meets Prince Saud Al-Faisal

Islamabad, Saturday, 2 July 2011

Minister for Interior Rehman Malik, who is in Jeddah on a two-day official visit, met Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs and discussed bilateral relations.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143844

11. 'Code of Conduct' with Saudi Arabia to facilitate Hujjaj

Islamabad, Saturday, 2 July 2011

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Khursheed expressed firm resolve to ensure transparent arrangements for the Hajj- 2011, by providing maximum facilities to pilgrims through a 'code of conduct,' accorded with Saudi Arabian Government.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143861

12. Gilani appreciates Saudi Arabia for standing by Pakistan

Islamabad, Monday, 4 July 2011

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that Pakistan enjoyed cordial brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia as it had always stood with Pakistan through thick and thin.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143973

13. PM for making elaborate arrangements for Hajj pilgrims

Islamabad, Friday, 15 July 2011

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Friday urged Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Khursheed to make elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims during the upcoming Hajj.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145000

14. Ambassador-designate to Saudi Arabia calls on Interior Minister

Islamabad, Friday, 15 July 2011

Pakistan ambassador-designate to Saudi Arabia Muhammad Naeem Khan called on Minister for Interior Rehman Malik. During the meeting they discussed problems of Pakistani diaspora in Saudi Arabia with particular reference to issuing machine-readable passport and immigration facilities at airports to returning Pakistani expatriates.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145054

15. Saudi Ambassador calls on President

Islamabad, Friday, 15 July 2011

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Abdul Aziz Ibrahim Al-Ghadeer called on President Asif Ali Zardari. Minister for Interior Rehman Malik was also present during the meeting. Matters relating to Pak-Saudi bilateral relations and regional situation were discussed during the meeting.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145057

16. 900 Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj living in Saudi Arabia to be hired

Islamabad, Tuesday, 19 July 2011

Services of around 900 Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj living in Saudi Arabia will be hired to provide better services to intending pilgrims.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145291

17. President Zardari arrives in Saudi Arabia

Jeddah, Wednesday, 20 July 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari arrived from Karachi on a two-day important visit to Saudi Arabia during which he will hold talks with King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan,

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145434

18. Zardari, Abdullah vow to further deepen Pak-Saudi ties

Islamabad, Wednesday, 20 July 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari and King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday reiterated their resolve to further deepen the bilateral relations and lay greater stress on economic cooperation.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145457

19. President's visit to Saudi Arabia to further strengthen bilateral ties

Islamabad, Thursday, 21 July 2011

Minister for Interior Rehman Malik said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial ties and President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to Jeddah will further bring the two great nations closer to each other.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145549

20. Over 150 doctors selected for Saudi Arabia: Saeed Shaikh

Islamabad, Wednesday, 27 July 2011

The 15-member delegation of Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia has selected over 150 medical doctors for Saudi Arabia. The delegation has recently visited Pakistan for recruitment of Pakistani doctors from various fields for job opportunities in hospitals controlled by Ministry of Health Saudi Arabia.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=146092

21. Pakistani Consul General, Saudi Governor discuss bilateral

Jeddah, Wednesday, 27 July 2011

The Consul General of Pakistan Abdul Salik Khan called on Governor of Jeezan Region Prince Muhammad Bin Nasir Bin Abdul Aziz and discussed with him matters of mutual interest. The Consul General said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were strategic partners and their fraternal relations have stood the test of time.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=146104

22. PM recommends *Nishan-e-Imtiaz* for Prince Khalid, Prince Muhammad

Islamabad, Wednesday, 27 July 2011

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has recommended the *Nishan-i-Imtiaz* for Deputy Prime Minister Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz and Minister of Interior Prince Muhammad Bin Nayef Bin Abdul-Aziz.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=146109

23. Pakistan envoy calls on Prince Faisal

Islamabad, Wednesday, 27 July 2011

Pakistan's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Muhammad Naeem Khan called on Prince Faisal bin Salman, Chairman of Saudi Research & Marketing Group (SRMG) in Jeddah and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=146113

South Sudan

24. Gilani approves recognition of Republic of South Sudan

Islamabad, Friday, 22 July 2011

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani approved the recognition of Republic of South Sudan by Pakistan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145605

25. Pakistan accords diplomatic recognition to South Sudan

Islamabad, Friday, 22 July 2011

Pakistan has accorded diplomatic recognition to the newly independent State of the Republic of South Sudan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145738

Turkey

26. Turkey to work on economic integration through rail connectivity

Islamabad, Wednesday, 20 July 2011

Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to explore the possibilities of further economic integration through improved railways and road connectivity besides taking concrete measures to expand their bilateral trade and investment. The decisions came during the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries' as part of regular bilateral political consultations in Ankara.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145408

UAE

27. UAE's mega event from Nov. 30

Karachi, Monday, 25 July 2011

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will hold *MAGNIFICENT 7*, a mega event at Karachi Expo Centre from November 30 to December 2, to showcase the exceptional transformation of seven states of the Emirates as the most preferred international destination for business and leisure.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145830

MILITARY ISSUES

Turkey

28. Turkish Naval ships visit Karachi Port

Karachi, Saturday, 2 July 2011

A flotilla of four Turkish Naval Ships arrived for exercises with Pakistan Navy during a three-day visit to Karachi. The ships-TCG Barbaros, TCG Gemlik and TCG Gelibolu, along with a logistic vessel TCG Gungor, are part of the ongoing counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143804

29. Pak-Turkey joint naval exercise

Karachi, Wednesday, 6 July 2011

Pak-Turkish joint naval exercise was conducted in the deep waters of the Arabian Sea.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144200

ENERGY ISSUES

Iran

30. Work on Pak-Iran gas pipeline project underway: Dr Asim

Islamabad, Tuesday, 5 July 2011

Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr. Asim Hussain said on Tuesday that construction work on Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline was underway and task would be completed by the end of 2014.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144157

31. ICCI for early execution of Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline

Islamabad, Wednesday, 6 July 2011

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday urged the government to execute Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline as early as possible in order to run wheel of the industry.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144198

32. Gas pipeline to reach border next year

Tehran, Sunday, 17 July 2011

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Tehran was hopeful of completing its section of the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline by the end of next year.

Source: The Dawn

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/17/gas-pipeline-to-reach-border-next-year-iran.html>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Egypt

33. Exporters urged to get free access to world markets through Egypt

Islamabad, Wednesday, 20 July 2011

Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Magdy Amer on Wednesday said that Pakistani businessmen can enjoy access to American, European Union (EU) and African markets through Egypt.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145402

Iran

34. Gilani: Traders included in delegations for dialogue with Iran, Afghan

Quetta, Tuesday, 12 July 2011

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that representatives of Baluchistan Chamber of Commerce would be included in delegations during bilateral dialogue with Iran and Afghanistan for the purpose of enhancing trade activities.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144750

MISCELLANEOUS

35. Formation of OIC commission on Kashmir, Palestine welcomed

Islamabad, Monday, 4 July 2011

Chairman Parliament's Special Kashmir Committee Maulana Fazalur Rehman on Monday welcomed the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to form a commission on Kashmir and Palestine.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143995

36. 31 deported Pakistanis arrive from Turkey

Rawalpindi, Thursday, 7 July 2011

A batch of 31 illegal Pakistani immigrants deported by Turkish authorities arrived at Benazir Bhutto Airport, the immigration authorities said.

Source: The Dawn

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/07/31-deported-pakistanis-arrive-from-turkey.html>

37. Musharraf govt pushed Iran to abandon N-weapons Programme

Karachi, Saturday, 9 July 2011

Even as revelations about Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear trafficking were raising concerns about possible military involvement in proliferation activities, the Musharraf regime appears to have been actively dissuading Iran, one of Dr Khan's clients, from developing nuclear weapons.

Source: The Dawn

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/09/secret-us-cables-accessed-by-dawn-through-wikileaks-musharraf-govt-pushed-iran-to-abandon-n-weapons-programme.html>

38. Israeli weapons being used to foment unrest in Karachi: Malik

Islamabad, Sunday, 17 July 2011

Minister of Interior, Rehman Malik, hinting at involvement of foreign hands behind unrest in Karachi, said Israeli-made weapons were being used by miscreants in the mega city.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145199

39. Sri Lanka yet to confirm Pakistan series in UAE

Islamabad, Monday, 25 July 2011

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) officials are sending conflicting signals from Colombo even as Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials are in the UAE to finalise arrangements for the forthcoming series between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in October-November, website emirates247.com reported on Monday. Since foreign teams are reluctant to travel to Pakistan, the PCB had requested the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) to 'host' the series against Sri Lanka.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=145834

40. Palestinian Statehood by Sept. 'well within reach': Pakistan

Islamabad, Wednesday, 27 July 2011

Stating that Palestinian statehood by September was within reach, Pakistan called for realizing the objective of an independent State of Palestine with Al-Qudus Al-Sharif as its capital, living side-by-side and in peace with all its neighbours

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=146073

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