

PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 16

March 2012

POLITICAL ISSUES

IRAN

1. Pak-Iran ties need to be further strengthened: Naek

Islamabad, Tuesday, 7 February 2012

Chairman of Senate Farooq H. Naek has stressed the need for building people-to-people contact between Pakistan and Iran. The two countries also agreed to join hands for regional peace and prosperity.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178609&Itemid=1

2. Pakistan to support Iran if Israel attacks, says Wajid

London, Thursday, 9 February 2012

Pakistan's High Commissioner to Britain Wajid Shamsul Hasan said that Pakistan would be forced to support Iran if Israel attacks it. He also stated that Pakistan's relations with America were at their worst.

Source: *The Nation, Lahore*

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/international/09-Feb-2012/pakistan-to-support-iran-if-israel-attacks-says-wajid>

3. Iranian President accorded warm welcome at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Islamabad, Thursday, 16 February 2012

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was received by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on his arrival in Islamabad to participate in the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran trilateral summit.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=179977&Itemid=1

4. Zardari, Ahmadinejad discuss bilateral ties

Islamabad, Thursday, 16 February 2012

Formal talks between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and President Asif Ali Zardari focused on ways to strengthen bilateral ties in political and economic areas.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=179979&Itemid=1

5. Pakistan, Iran should explore opportunities to expand ties: Firdous

Islamabad, Saturday, 18 February 2012

Federal Minister for Information Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan has stressed that Iran and Pakistan should explore new opportunities to enhance bilateral ties.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=180361&Itemid=1

6. Malik sees Iran-Pakistan relationship bright

Islamabad, Saturday, 18 February 2012

Interior Minister Rehman Malik has said that Pakistan's relations with Iran would be further strengthened as both share same history, religion and culture.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=180375&Itemid=1

KUWAIT

7. PM greets Kuwaiti counterpart on National Day

Islamabad, Saturday, 25 February 2012

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has sent a message of greetings to Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on their National Day falling on 25 February.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=181225&Itemid=1

QATAR

8. Qatar's PM terms Gilani's visit as heartening moment for Arab world

Doha, Monday, 6 February 2012

Prime minister of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al Thani expressed hope that bilateral ties between Pakistan and Qatar would be strengthened with the visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178441&Itemid=1

9. Pakistan, Qatar to further foster ties in multiple fields: Gilani

Doha, Wednesday, 8 February 2012

Pakistan and Qatar have signed several accords to strengthen bilateral ties in areas of defence, defence production, energy and construction.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178807&Itemid=1

SYRIA

10. Pakistan backs Arab plan for peace in Syria

United Nations, Saturday, 18 February 2012

Pakistan voted for the Arab League-sponsored resolution, calling on Syrian President Bashar al Assad to step down resolution, at the United Nations. Pakistan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Abdullah Hussain Haroon also urged the warring sides in Syria to shun violence and resolve the crisis through negotiation.

Source: *News Pakistan*

<http://www.newspakistan.pk/2012/02/18/Pakistan-backs-Arab-plan-for-peace-in-Syria/>

UAE

11. Pakistan-UAE prisoner swap deal inked

Abu Dhabi, Sunday, 26 February 2012

Pakistani Interior Minister A Rehman Malik and Interior Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan signed agreement on transfer of sentenced prisoners between the two countries. The agreement will come into force within two weeks and both the Interior Ministers will work out the transfer plan.

Source: *The News, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-37191-Pakistan-UAE-prisoner-swap-deal-inked>

12. Pak, UAE FMs co-chair 10th session of JMC in Abu Dhabi; hold bilateral talks

Islamabad, Monday, 27 February 2012

Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and Foreign Minister of UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nayhan, as co-chairs of Pak-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission, signed the Minutes of the 10th Session of Pak-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) including transfer of Sentenced persons.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=181661&Itemid=1

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

13. Pakistan committed to gas pipeline project with Iran: Zardari

Islamabad, Tuesday, 7 February 2012

President Asif Ali Zardari has assured Iran that Pakistan is committed to early implementation of Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project to meet the growing demand for energy and power.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178589&Itemid=1

IRAQ

14. Iraq offers Pakistan Oil on long term payment facility

Islamabad, Thursday, 16 February 2012

Iraq has put forth a proposal for lending oil with the facility of long term payment to Pakistan.

Source: *News Pakistan*

<http://www.newspakistan.pk/2012/02/16/Iraq-offers-Pakistan-Oil-on-long-term-payment-facility/>

OMAN

15. Jamali for enhancing economic cooperation between Pakistan and Oman

Islamabad, Tuesday, 28 February 2012

Acting Chairman Senate, Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali stressed the need for enhancing the existing cultural and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Oman.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=181717&Itemid=1

QATAR

16. Pakistan, Qatar sign accords on LNG import, security cooperation

Doha, Monday, 6 February 2012

Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to collaborate in multiple areas mainly import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from the Gulf state.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178437&Itemid=1

17. Pakistan, Qatar agree on cooperation in energy, trade, infrastructure

Doha, Monday, 6 February 2012

Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to promote trade and investment between the two countries and collaborate in diverse areas like energy, trade, agriculture and infrastructure development.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178431&Itemid=1

18. Gilani invites Qatar's businessmen to invest in energy, hydrocarbon sectors

Doha, Tuesday, 7 February 2012

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani invited businessmen from Qatar to invest in Pakistan in various sectors.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178595&Itemid=1

19. Qatar Emir terms Gilani visit a 'new chapter in strategic relations'

Doha, Tuesday, 7 February 2012

Qatar and Pakistan have signed several agreements and Memoranda of Understanding between the two countries including import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), security cooperation, customs and hydroelectric power development.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178605&Itemid=1

20. Pakistan, Qatar clinch deal to import 500mcf feet LPG daily

Karachi, Sunday, 19 February 2012

Pakistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Qatar for import of 500 million cubic feet of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) per day.

Source: *Pakistan Today, Lahore*

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2012/02/pakistan-qatar-clinch-deal-to-import-500mcf-feet-lpg-daily/>

21. PM directs TDAP to hold exhibition of Pakistani products in Qatar

Islamabad, Thursday, 23 February 2012

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has asked the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to organise an exhibition of the country's products in Doha.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=180983&Itemid=1

UAE

22. UAE assures of support for Pakistan-GCC FTA

Abu Dhabi, Monday, 27 February 2012

United Arab Emirates (UAE) has assured support for Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=181621&Itemid=1

MULTILATERAL

23. Ministry of Commerce finds new trade avenues with Tunisia, Algeria

Islamabad, Tuesday, 7 February 2012

Pakistan and Tunisia have agreed to expedite the completion of Preferential Trade Agreement to boost trade partnership between the two countries. Similarly Algeria and Pakistan, have also agreed to promote trade between the two countries by reducing tariff and non tariff barriers.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178579&Itemid=1

24. Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan vow to jointly counter terrorism

Islamabad, Friday, 17 February 2012

President Asif Ali Zardari has said Pakistan along with Afghanistan and Iran was committed to rid the region of the "menace" of terrorism while addressing a joint press conference with the Presidents of Afghanistan and Iran here at the end of the third trilateral summit.

Source: *Associated Press of Pakistan*

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=180175&Itemid=1

MISCELLANEOUS

QATAR

25. Gilani relishes rare artifacts at Sheikh Thani museum

Doha, Tuesday, 7 February 2012

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani visited Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani museum which houses a private collection of over 3,000 pieces of ceramics, weapons, jewels and currency, dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178529&Itemid=1

26. Gilani visits Doha's Islamic art museum

Doha, Wednesday, 8 February 2012

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani visited the Museum of Islamic Art. The museum is one of the world's most complete collections of Islamic artifacts including historic manuscripts of Quranic verses, textiles and ceramics.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=178749&Itemid=1

SAUDI ARABIA

27. Pakistan seeks hike in pilgrimage quota

Jeddah, Sunday, 19 February 2012

Pakistan Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah put forth his country's request for an additional quota of 10,000 pilgrims to Saudi Minister for Hajj Bandar Al-Hajjar. Numerous other issues relating to better services for Hajjis also were discussed.

Source: Arab News, Jeddah

<http://arabnews.com/saudiarabia/article577405.ece>

28. Pakistan, S. Arabia sign Hajj agreement

Jeddah, Wednesday, 22 February 2012

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah and Saudi Minister for Hajj Dr Bandar bin Mohammad Al Hajjar signed the Hajj agreement, according to which Pakistan's quota is likely to be increased by 10,000 pilgrims.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Dawn

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/02/23/pakistan-s-arabia-sign-haj-agreement.html>

29. Pak Navy ship on goodwill visit to Jubail

Jeddah, Monday, 27 February 2012

Pakistan Navy Ship PNS Babur will call at Jubail port for a goodwill-cum-training cruise from March 3 to 7. Members of the Pakistani community in Jubail and surrounding areas can avail of this opportunity to visit the ship.

Source: Arab News, Jeddah

<http://arabnews.com/saudiarabia/article580187.ece>

SYRIA

30. Pakistan issues travel advisory for Syria

Islamabad, Tuesday, 21 February 2012

The Pakistani mission in Syria has issued a travel advisory for Syria citing security reasons.

Source: *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/Pakistan/Pakistan-issues-travel-advisory-for-Syria/Article1-814549.aspx>

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