

## Middle East Institute @ New Delhi

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# PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 23 October 2012

## **POLITICAL ISSUES**

#### **ISRAEL**

#### 1. Bhatti condemns Israeli film

## Islamabad, Thursday, 13 September 2012

Minister in Charge for the Ministry of National Harmony and Adviser to Prime Minister Dr Paul Bhatti strongly condemned the making of a film by an Israeli filmmaker, containing blasphemous remarks against Islam that hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims worldwide.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208083

## **LIBYA**

#### 2. Pakistan condemns killing of US Ambassador in Libya

## Islamabad, Wednesday, 12 September 2012

The Government of Pakistan strongly condemned the killing of US Ambassador Christopher Stephen and several other staff members in an attack on the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=207985

## 3. PM greets Libyan counterpart on his appointment

## Islamabad, Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has greeted Dr. Mustafa Abushagur, on his appointment as Prime Minister of Libya.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208701

## PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

## 4. Pakistan calls for steps to establish Palestinian state, with Quds as capital

United Nations, Thursday, 27 September 2012

Pakistan has called for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, paving the way for a sovereign state of Palestine, with Al-Quds al Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209711

## SAUDI ARABIA

## 5. Ambassador Naeem Khan, Saudi official discuss Pak community issues

## Riyadh, Tuesday, 4 September 2012

Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Muhammad Naeem Khan held a meeting with Undersecretary, Governorate of Riyadh, Dr. Nasir bin Abdulaziz Al-Dawood and discussed various issues relating to the Pakistani community in Saudi Arabia.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=206909

## 6. Ninth Session of Pak-Saudi joint ministerial commission meeting to be held tomorrow

## Islamabad, Tuesday, 25 September 2012

The 9th session of Pak-Saudi Joint Ministerial Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on 26 September which would discuss various avenues of cooperation in the fields including trade, agriculture, investment, power and energy and bilateral cooperation

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209459

#### 7. Pak-Saudi JMC concludes

#### Islamabad, Wednesday 26 September 2012

The 9th Session of Pak-Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) concluded reiterating to further boost bilateral trade and investment relation between the two countries.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209693

## **TUNISIA**

## 8.Pak, Tunisia Joint Commission begins to explore ways for boosting cooperation Islamabad, Wednesday, 19 September 2012

The two-day session of Pakistan-Tunisia Joint Commission with special focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation in various sectors of economy including trade, investment, energy, finance and agriculture began in Islamabad.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208649

#### 9. Pakistan wants to further cement relations with Tunisia: Faisal Kundi

Islamabad, Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Tunisia and wanted to further cement these relations through enhanced parliamentary, economic and people to people contacts.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208671

#### TURKEY

#### 10. Turkish Premier reiterates support for Pakistan

## Ankara, Friday, 28 September 2012

Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Pakistan needs political stability and consistency in policies to confront the challenges it was facing presently.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209933

#### 11. Turkish President meets Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani

## Ankara, Friday 29 September 2012

Turkish President Abdullah Gul warmly received Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, former Prime Minister and Senior Vice President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Gilani conveyed the greetings of President Asif Ali Zardari to Abdullah Gul.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=210039

## 12. Gilani meets Turkish Parliament Speaker, Deputy PM

#### Ankara, Friday 29 September 2012

Former Prime Minister and Senior Vice President of Pakistan People Party (PPP) Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani met Speaker of Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) Cemil Cicek. Gilani said that parliaments, as true representatives of the popular will, had a central role to play in nation building.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209999

## **ECONOMIC ISSUES**

#### **IRAN**

## 13. Iranian gas to start flowing from Dec 2014, NA told

#### Islamabad, Monday, 3 September 2012

The construction work on 750 (MMCFD) million cubic feet per day, Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project, would start in December 2012, and Iranian gas would be available by December 2014, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain said.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=206801

## **KUWAIT**

## 14. Asim to visit Kuwait to discuss investment opportunities

Islamabad, Monday, 10 September 2012

Advisor to Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources, Dr. Asim Hussain would visit Kuwait to discuss opportunities about investment in oil and gas sector in Pakistan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=207619

#### SAUDI ARABIA

## 15. Bukhari stresses need to enhance people to people contacts with Saudi

#### Islamabad, Wednesday, 26 September 2012

Acting President of Pakistan Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari stressed the need for more people-to-people contacts with Saudi Arabia and further increase in bilateral trade relations.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209639

#### **TUNISIA**

## 16. Pak-Tunisia PTA likely to be finalized by December

## Islamabad, Thursday, 20 September

Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Tunisia is expected to be finalized by the end of this year which would further enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208905

## **TURKEY**

## 17. Currency swap with Turkey in place: SBP

#### Karachi, Tuesday, 4 September 2012

The three-year bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement (CSA) between the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Central Bank of Republic of Turkey (CBRT) amounting to \$ 1 billion in equivalent local currencies is being implemented.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=206891

## **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES**

#### **IRAN**

#### 18. Iranian President calls President Zardari

## Islamabad, Saturday, 15 September 2012

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called President Asif Ali Zardari and expressed his condolences over the loss of lives due to fire incidents in Lahore and Karachi.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208317

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

## 19. First batch of 133 "Hajj Moavineen" leaves for Saudi Arabia

Rawalpindi, Thursday, 13 September 2012

The first batch of 133 "Hajj Moavineen" left for Saudi Arabia with the mandate to provide complete guidance and maximum facilities to Pakistani pilgrims during the Hajj-2012.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208053

## 20. Pakistani art exhibition attracts large number of people in Jeddah

#### Jeddah, Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Saudi Princess Jawahar bint Majid bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Minister for Religious Affairs Syed Khursheed Shah inaugurated a four-day Islamic Art exhibition, attracting a large number of people from all walks of life.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208661

## 21. PM greets King Abdullah on National Day of Saudi Arabia

#### Islamabad, Sunday, 23 September 2012

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has extended his greetings and best wishes to King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud on the occasion of Saudi national day which falls on September 23.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209235

## 22. Saudi Embassy marks 82nd National Day as PM Ashraf cuts cake

#### Islamabad, Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf cut a cake along with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Abdul Aziz Ibrahim Saleh Al-Ghadeer to celebrate the 82<sup>nd</sup> National Day of the Kingdom.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=209541

## 23. Hajj operation going smooth; 29 Hajj flights reach Saudi without any delay: Ministry

#### Islamabad, Wednesday, 26 September 2012

The Hajj flight operation has been going smoothly and so far 29 hajj flights carrying over 10,595 pilgrims have reached Saudi Arabia from various Pakistani cities without any delay.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com content&task=view&id=209649

#### **TUNISIA**

#### 24. IIUI signs MOU with Ezzitouna University, Tunisia

#### Islamabad, Thursday, 20 September 2012

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) and Ezzitouna University, Tunisia was held.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=208899

#### UAE

## 25. Pakistani business delegation from UAE calls on PM

## Islamabad, Thursday, 6 September 2012

A Pakistani business delegation from UAE led by Mian Munir Hans, President PPP (UAE) called on Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and apprised him about the problems faced by Pakistani expatriates.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

http://app.com.pk/en\_/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=207183

## **Compiled by PAULAMI SANYAL**

Paulami Sanyal is pursuing research at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Email: paula\_kolkata@yahoo.co.in

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