

# PAKISTAN WATCH

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No. 08

July 2011

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## Political issues

### Bahrain

#### 1. Pakistan keen to strengthen ties with Bahrain: PM

**Islamabad, Thursday, 16 June 2011**

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said Pakistan values its brotherly relations with Bahrain and desired to further strengthen cooperation in all spheres. He expressed confidence that the fifth meeting of the Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Economic Commission would be held soon to promote the bilateral links.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142387](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142387)

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#### 2. President for stronger trade, defence ties with Bahrain

**Islamabad, Thursday, 16 June 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari said that enhanced trade and defence ties with Bahrain and expanded bilateral cooperation in labour and manpower would further strengthen ties between the two countries.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142415](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142415)

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#### 3. Commander National Guards Bahrain calls on General Khalid Shameem Wynne

**Rawalpindi, Friday, 17 June 2011**

Lieutenant General Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Al-Khalifa, Commander National Guards of Bahrain, called on General Khalid Shameem Wynne, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at Chaklala and discussed matters of mutual interest.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142510](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142510)

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## Kuwait

### 4. PNS 'Alamgir' to hold joint exercises with Kuwait Navy from July 2

Islamabad, Tuesday, 28 June 2011

Pakistani Naval Ship (PNS), Alamgir will hold joint exercises with Kuwait Navy during a good-will visit to Kuwait from July 2 to 6.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143507](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143507)

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## Iran

### 5. Iranian Governor calls on Senate Chairman

Islamabad, Wednesday, 1 June 2011

Dr. Mahmoud Salahi, Governor General of Khorasan Razavi Province of Iran and members of his delegation met with Senate Chairman Farooq H. Naek at the Parliament House. Talking to the members of Iranian delegation, Naek said that the current level of trade between Pakistan and Iran stands around US\$ 1 billion. The two countries have committed to raise it to US\$ 4 billion by 2015.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=140824](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=140824)

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### 6. Joint Commission recommends opening of two more crossing points on Pak, Iran border

Islamabad, Tuesday, 7 June 2011

Pakistan-Iran Joint Commission on Road Transportation recommended that both countries should open two additional international crossing points at Pishin-Mand as well as Gabd-Reemdan for promoting trade and commerce between the two counties.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=141486](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=141486)

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### 7. Pakistan plays down Iranian warning on nuclear assets

Islamabad, Thursday, 9 June 2011

Pakistan sought to play down Iranian warning that the United States was planning to sabotage its nuclear facilities by emphasising that its atomic programme was safe and secure.

Source: *The Dawn, Lahore*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/09/pakistan-plays-down-iranian-warning-on-nuclear-assets.html>

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### 8. Zardari, Ahmadinejad pledge to continue collaboration for regional peace

Astana, Wednesday, 15 June 2011

President Asif Ali Zardari and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad expressed their determination to continue close collaboration to further regional peace and stability. During a meeting on the sidelines of the summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the two leaders held fruitful discussion on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142275](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142275)

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## **9. Senate informed about successful electricity agreements with Iran**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 23 June 2011**

The upper house of the parliament was informed about the successful agreements of importing electricity from Iran on low rates.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143064](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143064)

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## **10. President arrives in Tehran to attend anti-terrorism conference**

**Tehran, Friday, 24 June 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari arrived on a two-day official visit to Tehran to attend an anti-terrorism conference and to meet the Iranian leadership.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143185](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143185)

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## **11. Zardari, Ahmedinejad agree to strengthen bilateral cooperation**

**Tehran, Friday, 24 June 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad agreed to further strengthening bilateral cooperation and mutual engagement in diverse fields for socio-economic development of the people of two countries besides promoting stability, peace, development and shared prosperity of the region. They also expressed the resolve for enhancing mutual coordination for countering terrorism, narcotics control and human trafficking besides sanitizing the borders from the terrorists.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143218](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143218)

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## **12. President Zardari, Iran's supreme leader discuss challenges faced by Muslim Ummah**

**Tehran, Saturday, 25 June 2011**

President Asif Ali Zardari called on the Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei and discussed various challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah and the need to bring unity in their ranks to effectively tackle the problems.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143282](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143282)

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## **13. Tehran anti-terror conference confers award on late Benazir**

**Tehran, Saturday, 25 June 2011**

The International conference on global fight against terrorism posthumously awarded former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for her leading role in fight against militancy.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143317](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143317)

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#### **14. Pak-Iran project's gas not meant for domestic consumers: Secretary**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 30 June 2011**

During a briefing of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources, Secretary Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources Muhammad Ejaz Chaudhry said that domestic consumers would not be able to afford Pak-Iran project's gas.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143654](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143654)

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### **Iraq**

#### **15. Pak-Iraq to have joint ventures in higher education sector**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 22 June 2011**

Iraq and Pakistan will have joint ventures for promoting higher education and research activities to further strengthen the cordial ties between both the countries.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142977](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142977)

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### **Oman**

#### **16. Commander Royal Navy of Oman calls on CJCS**

**Rawalpindi, Tuesday, 21 June 2011**

Rear Admiral Abdullah Bin Khamis Bin Abdullah Al-Raisi, Commander of Royal Navy of Oman, called on General Khalid Shameem Wynne, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at Chaklala and discussed matters of professional interest.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142840](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142840)

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### **Qatar**

#### **17. Envoy presents credentials to Qatar Government**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 14 June 2011**

The newly appointed ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Sarfraz A. Khanzada presented credentials to Qatar's Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142173](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142173)

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### **Saudi Arabia**

#### **18. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia strategic partners, says Salik**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 7 June 2011**

The Consul General of Pakistan Abdul Salik Khan said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were strategic partners and the two countries share common strategic vision.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=141522](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=141522)

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**19. Saudi envoy calls on Malik**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 14 June 2011**

Saudi ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Aziz Bin Ibrahim called on Interior Minister Rehman Malik and discussed issues related to bilateral ties and mutual interest.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142168](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142168)

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**20. Ambassador of Saudi Arabia meets Hina Rabbani Khar**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 21 June 2011**

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and discussed bilateral relations and means to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two brotherly countries in various fields.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142901](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142901)

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**21. PNS Babar on goodwill, training cruise to Jeddah**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 27 June 2011**

A Pakistan Navy Ship Babar was visiting the port of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia from June 25 to 28, on a goodwill-cum-training cruise.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143442](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143442)

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**22. Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Saudi Arabia: Rehman**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 28 June 2011**

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Aziz Bin Ibrahim called on Interior Minister Rehman Malik and discussed with him matters relating to mutual interest.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143516](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143516)

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**23. Malik for resolving passport problems of Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 29 June 2011**

Interior Minister Rehman Malik directed the Director General (DG) Passport to address passport issues of Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia on a priority basis.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143603](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143603)

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## Turkey

**24. Gilani phones Erdogan to greet over electoral victory**

**Middle East Institute @ New Delhi, [www.mei.org.in](http://www.mei.org.in)**

**Islamabad, Monday, 13 June 2011**

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani telephoned his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan to felicitate him over his party's successive victory in the Turkish parliamentary elections.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142121](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142121)

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**25. Ambassador Shaukat presents credentials to Turkish President**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 22 June 2011**

The newly appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Muhammad Haroon Shaukat presented his credentials to President of Turkey Abdullah Gul in a ceremony held at Cankaya Presidential Palace in Ankara.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143010](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143010)

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**26. Turkish anti-piracy ships to visit Karachi from July 1**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 30 June 2011**

Turkish Maritime Task Group (TMTG), that is conducting anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, will visit Karachi from July 1-4.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143659](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143659)

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## **Economic Issues**

### **Saudi Arabia**

**27. Saudi company to hire 20,000 Pakistani workers**

**Islamabad, Monday, 13 June 2011**

A Saudi construction company has communicated to the government of Pakistan its intention of hiring 20,000 skilled workers from Pakistan for one of its projects in Jeddah.

*Source: The Dawn, Lahore*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/13/saudi-company-to-hire-20000-pakistani-workers.html>

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**28. PIFJ delegation visits Pakistan to enhance Pak-Saudi trade ties**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 15 June 2011**

A five-member delegation of Pakistan Investors Forum Jeddah (PIFJ) visited Pakistan from June 9 to 14 to enhance trade ties between both of the countries.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142317](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142317)

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### **UAE**

**29. Workers' remittances from UAE expected to reach \$ 3.8 bln: Envoy**

**Islamabad, Monday, 20 June 2011**

Pakistan's Ambassador in UAE Jamil Ahmad Khan has stated that the remittances from UAE have been increasing and are expected to rise from US\$ 2.2 billion to US\$ 3.8 billion this year, a 50 per cent increase.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142780](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142780)

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## Miscellaneous

### **30. Pakistan desirous of hosting OIC Information Ministers meeting: Dr Firdous**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 14 June 2011**

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said that Pakistan was desirous of hosting next meeting of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Information Ministers in the Federal Capital next year.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=142197](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=142197)

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### **31. Egyptians thank their govt and Pakistan**

**Cairo, Monday, 25 June 2011**

Eleven Egyptians who were part of the crew aboard M.V. Suez and released along with their colleagues thanked Pakistan for its efforts in securing their freedom.

*Source: The Dawn, Lahore*

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/06/25/egyptians-thank-their-govt-and-pakistan.html>

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### **32. Closer cooperation among OIC member states must to tackle challenges: Hina Rabbani Khar**

**Astana, Tuesday, 28 June 2011**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar called for closer cooperation among the OIC member states to tackle various challenges including terrorism and to ensure their sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan*

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=143559](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=143559)

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