

Chronology of Pakistan

(1st January to 29th December 2010)

January 2010

- 1** The United States will make an investment of \$2 billion in the agriculture sector of Pakistan over a period of five years (2010-2014) to help the country improve profitability of agricultural markets

- 3** Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture Nazar Mohammad Gondal has said the Government is taking steps for bringing about a “Green Revolution” in Baluchistan by utilizing thousands of acres of barren land.

- 4** The Planning Commission has launched an Inland Water Transport project aimed at giving a boost to the national economy by supplementing the growth in cargo and transport sectors.

- 5** Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider called for a joint session of Pakistan Parliament to “revisit the national Kashmir policy” which he said, had seen deviation.

- 7** President Asif Ali Zardari underlined the need for strategic long-term partnership between Pakistan and the United States based on mutual interest, respect and trust and reiterated the demand for transfer of drone technology to Pakistan so that Pakistan could itself hit high-value targets in the Tribal Areas.

- 9** The Government has expressed reservations over the inclusion of India in a regional council on Afghanistan proposed by the United Kingdom, saying that such a move might compromise Pakistan’s interests.

The Federal Government has released Rs 984.9 million for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) schemes being undertaken in Block V of Thar, supervised by famous nuclear scientist Dr Samar Mubarakmand to produce coal gas for power generation.

- 12** New York Federal Court Judge Richard Berman decided that the jury selection for the trial of Aafia Siddiqui, the Pakistani neuroscientist, will begin on Jan 13, and the trial will

begin on Jan 19. Dr Siddiqui is charged with attempted murder of American troops while in custody in Kabul in the July of 2008.

- 13** The United States will provide \$16 million for improving the operational capacity of the Tarbela dam hydroelectric plant and will help generate additional electricity of 375MW. Sindh Minister for Wildlife Dr. Daya Ram Essrani has said that the Sindh Government has launched a Rs300 million wildlife national protection project for the Kirthar National Park in district Jamshoro.
- 15** The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has so far issued 29,598 debit cards to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) of South Waziristan and Tank.
- 17** Baluchistan Chief Secretary Nasir Mehmood Khosa said a total of 38,000 youths had submitted applications for jobs under the Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan package.
- 18** The National Vocational and Technical Education Commission (NAVTEC) and Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) of Baluchistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish technical institutes in 13 uncovered tehsils of Baluchistan at a cost of Rs156.23 million.
- 21** The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved 28 development projects for different sectors of the economy.

The National Assembly unanimously passed a landmark bill to punish harassment of women at workplaces.

The European Commission in collaboration with Oxfam has allocated 2.29 million Euros for Sanghar, Dadu and Musakhel which are considered to be food-insecure districts of Sindh and Baluchistan.

- 24** The World Bank (WB) Mission has agreed to continue providing assistance to the Punjab Government in health, education and agriculture sectors and Barrages Rehabilitation Project's Phase-II, covering Jinnah and Taunsa barrages.

- 26 About 40 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) of gas has started flowing into the national transmission system from a new well in the NWFP.
- 27 The National Assembly approved the Competition Bill, Anti-Money Laundering Bill and Pakistan Engineering Council Bill of 2010.

February 2010

- 1 Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Raja Farooq Haider and Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister, Syed Mehdi Shah resolved to move forward by setting aside the mistakes of the past and increasing mutual cooperation between the two regions.
- 2 National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting decided in principle to do away with all amendments that were made in the Pakistan Electronic Media Authority Act by Gen Pervez Musharraf on Nov 3, 2007, and to send a draft bill to the Prime Minister.
- 3 Amid indications that India is ready to take some steps to normalize ties, Pakistan has expressed reluctance to accept anything short of full resumption of 'Composite Dialogue'.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani asked the Baluchistan Government to speed up implementation of the Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan package and complete development projects launched under the PM's special initiative so that their benefits could start reaching the common man.

Aafia Siddiqui, the Pakistani neuroscientist, was found guilty of attempted murder charges on all seven counts listed in the complaint against her. She was tried on charges of trying to kill American soldiers in Afghanistan on July 28, 2008.

- 4 The Punjab Assembly passed the Local Government (Amendment) Bill, empowering the Government to immediately end the term of existing bodies, create an election authority to conduct polls and appoint administrators in place of nazims.

- 5** The World Bank will provide \$100 million loan to NWFP to enable the Provincial Government increase investment in human development.
- 6** The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) would provide \$160 million for the construction of the Khanewal-Multan motorway project (M4).
- 7** The Government has formulated the national forest policy aimed to increase productivity of forests in order to meet requirements of timber, firewood, fodder and non-wood products besides promoting sustainable natural resources-based livelihoods.
- 8** The National Assembly adopted a bill which drastically amends the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962, and empowers the State Bank to change management of banks, impose losses on shareholders by writing down their capital, intervene and take control of banks and appoint administrators to manage banks or restructure banks when symptoms of crisis are determined.
- 9** The Ministry of Health launched the much-awaited rules for the protection of breastfeeding and child nutrition. These rules were prepared for effective implementation of the “Protection of Breastfeeding and Child Nutrition Ordinance 2002.”
- 10** India and Pakistan agreed on a “roadmap for resolving water disputes” and decided to hold two additional meetings, besides a routine meeting due in May, over the next six months.
- 12** The Global Fund has decided to provide \$43 million grant to support the National Aids Control Programme (NACP) in Pakistan.
- 17** President Asif Ali Zardari signed a new summary regarding appointment of three judges of the Supreme Court and 22 additional judges of Lahore High Court (LHC) and nine of Sindh High Court (SHC).

The Federal Government has released Rs10 billion for the construction of delayed action dams in different areas of Baluchistan, Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani announced.

- 18** The first squadron of JF-17 Thunder aircraft formally joined the fighter fleet of Pakistan Air Force.
- 19** Enhancement in productive capacities and promotion of sustainable agricultural practices among 8,000 small-scale farmers in eight food-deficient districts of the country would be carried out under a project being financed by the European Economic Commission (EEC).
- 22** The Chinese will invest \$50 billion in Punjab during the next 10 years. The objective of the investment is to build a state-of-the-art industrial city, along with an industrial estate on 100,000 acres.
- 23** General Electric signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of Pakistan to help modernize and develop Pakistan's energy resources.
- 24** The Federal Cabinet approved a National Population Policy, envisaging population stabilization by 2020 through expeditious completion of programmes aimed at bringing down fertility and mortality rates to 2.1 and 1.3 per cent, respectively.

The Senate Committee on Finance approved the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terror Financing Bill of 2009.

March 2010

- 1** A key Taliban 'commander' carrying a Rs10 million reward on his head was among five militants who were killed in separate incidents in Swat.
- 2** Over \$400 million in reimbursement claims by Pakistan under Coalition Support Fund (CSF) for 2008 have been rejected by the United States because of new guidelines requiring 'enhanced oversight and accountability'.

The US Embassy distanced itself from a Washington plan to use the intended special protection squad for 'security and rescue missions' outside its diplomatic compounds in Karachi and Islamabad.

- 4** President Asif Ali Zardari reconstituted the Council of Common Interests (CCI) on the advice of Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani to resolve issues between the Provinces in a better way.
- 6** The Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) and the Pakistan Electric Power Company (Pepco) signed a memorandum of understanding for generation of electricity through coal reserves in Thar.
- 7** Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit said that the Obama administration had assured Pakistan that they would review the practice of screening Pakistani travellers at airports.
- 8** A suicide bomber blew up an explosive-laden vehicle outside the interrogation centre of the Special Investigation Agency (SIA) of the Punjab Government in Model Town, Lahore, killing at least 12 people, among them eight security personnel and a woman, and injuring 89 others.
- 11** Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to revive the Joint Grand Jirga process for evolving a common strategy on furthering Kabul's 'reintegration and reconciliation' plan.

With Pakistan reaching the threshold of water-scarce countries, the Government has finalized a Rs40 billion out-of-court agreement with 30,000 families to be affected by the proposed Bhasha-Diamer dam.

Rana Dasgupta of Britain and Daniyal Mueenuddin of Pakistan have been adjudged the writers of best book and first best book, respectively, from the South Asia and Europe region by the jury of the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

- 12** A record-breaking run of shares at the Karachi Stock Exchange propelled the KSE-100 index safely over the resistance level of 10,000 points.

Lahore was rocked by a twin-suicide attack that killed at least 50 people, followed by a series of low-intensity explosions.

- 14** At least 13 militants were killed and a number of their hideouts and camps destroyed in air and artillery attacks in Orakzai Agency.
 - 15** With energy shortfall rising in Pakistan and India, efforts have been stepped up to revive the \$4 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project.
 - 18** The partnership between the United States and Pakistan “goes far beyond security”, said the US State Department while announcing the first ministerial level strategic dialogue between the two countries.
 - 20** Balochistan will be getting an outstanding amount of Rs 10 billion in five years from the Federal Government as surcharge on natural gas. The decision will have retrospective effect from July 1, 2002.
 - 21** Pakistan has urged the United States to help finance major dams like Bhasha or Dasu in response to Washington’s desire to assist major energy projects in the country.
 - 22** The United States and Pakistan engaged in preparatory talks ahead of a strategic dialogue, the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that it will forge even closer ties between the two allies.
 - 23** Pakistan Fisher-folk Forum Chairman Mohammad Ali Shah said that 176 fishermen and their 30 boats have been missing since an attack on them by Indian security forces near Haramidoro (creek).
- Dr Shama Khalid swore in as Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan at a ceremony at Aiwan-i-Sadr.
- 24** For the first time in the country’s Parliamentary history, the Constitution will undergo a major overhauling as one-fourth of its articles are being amended with a ‘consensus’.

The United States agreed to provide \$125 million for energy development in Pakistan and will also assist in thermal power projects.

- 25** Election Commission has sent a summary to the Parliamentary Committee on constitutional reforms recommending that the tenure of Chief Election Commissioner be increased from three to five years.

The United States and Pakistan issued a joint statement that they have established a policy steering group for further talks on strategic stability and non-proliferation.

- 27** Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman said that a contingency plan was ready to counter any threat to the country's security and made it clear that any misadventure by the adversary would invite a 'massive reaction'.

- 29** Pakistan and India failed to end differences over the design criteria of the Nimoo Bazgo power project on the second day of their talks.

- 30** The Japanese Government has announced that it will provide \$9 million to enable the World Food Program to continue extending assistance to the people of NWFP displaced by conflict.

- 31** Pakistan and Turkey vowed to strengthen their strategic partnership and intensify political and economic cooperation.

April 2010

- 2** The Parliament received proposals for landmark Constitutional Amendments that will restore its lost power and a genuine Parliamentary system after its repeated mutilation by military dictators.

- 3** President Asif Ali Zardari summoned both the National Assembly and Senate for what are billed to be their historic sessions to adopt landmark Constitutional reforms aimed to restore a genuine Parliamentary system in the country.

- 4** Citing the proposed 18th amendment as an achievement, President Asif Ali Zardari said that the PPP-led Government spent the first two years of its tenure strengthening “democracy and the institutions” and would now dedicate the next three to addressing the problems confronting the people.
- 5** President Barack Obama is seeking to “intensify American diplomacy aimed at easing tensions between India and Pakistan, asserting that without détente between the two rivals, his administration’s efforts to win Pakistani cooperation in Afghanistan would suffer”, the Wall Street Journal said.
- 6** The Government introduced the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Bill in the National Assembly, amid hopes that the landmark reforms seeking to restore a genuine Parliamentary system would be approved without delay.
- 9** As part of a major overhaul of the Government machinery, a 50 per cent across-the-board raise in the pay and pension of civil and military personnel from July 1 this year has been proposed. The proposal will have an impact of about Rs507 billion on the national exchequer over three years.

The National Assembly sent to the Senate the newly approved Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Bill, which it celebrated with accolades as well as some warnings before being prorogued.

- 11** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani launched Pakistan’s campaign for international acceptance as a responsible nuclear state soon after his arrival in US.
- 12** US President Barack Obama has assured Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani that his country has ‘no sinister designs’ on Pakistan’s nuclear programme during his one on one meeting with the Prime Minister Gilani.
- 13** The landmark Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Bill received wide support in the Senate.

14 A Standing Committee of the National Assembly approved the draft of a bill to replace the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) with a powerful National Accountability Commission (NAC) to hold accountable public office-holders without exceptions.

15 The Government has assured the International Monetary Fund that it will introduce a number of administrative measures to improve tax collection and control expenditure.

It was finally all ayes for the 18th Amendment after some divisive sound and fury as the Senate completed the legislative approval of landmark constitutional reforms. 18th Amendment aimed mainly to empower Parliament and Provinces.

16 Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry said that the legislature had to make laws within the parameters set by the Constitution.

18 Eight militants and a soldier were killed in sporadic clashes in central Orakzai tribal region.

The concluding ceremony for the first phase of Azm-i-Nau III exercises was held at the Khairpur Tamiwali Range near by, demonstrating, among other capabilities, the coordination between the Army and the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

19 The diversity of politicians who gathered at the Presidency to watch President Asif Ali Zardari sign it into law appeared truly unprecedented.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has presented a nine-point formula for minimizing the impact of energy crisis in the country.

20 The Government has decided in principle to constitute a high-powered parliamentary oversight commission comprising legislators from all political parties to ensure implementation of the 18th Constitutional Amendment Act on schedule.

The Federal and Provincial Governments agreed on two weekly off days for six months, advancing clocks by an hour, staggered industrial closure for one day a week, shutting

of businesses at sunset, partial diversion of gas from industry to power generation and payment of Rs116 billion to power companies to minimize energy crisis.

21 The Obama administration of the United States has refused to mark out India and Pakistan as countries that needed to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, saying instead that since they are “very special friends,” Washington holds daily conversations with them on such issues.

22 Reports of fierce clashes were received from the Orakzai tribal region and security forces claimed killing 20 militants and injuring 23 others. One soldier also lost his life. The Government announced measures ranging from a five-day week in Government organizations (for at least three months) to closure of shops by 8pm as part of an initiative to conserve electricity and reduce scheduled outages by 33 per cent.

23 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani is learnt to have approved the setting up of a Parliamentary Commission for implementation of the 18th Constitution Amendment.

The Government has started implementing the short-term power conservation measures worked out by a three-day national energy conference, including a five-day working week, with immediate effect.

28 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh met in Bhutan informally after a lunch hosted by Prime Minister of Bhutan Jigme Y. Thinley for all heads of SAARC delegations.

29 China has agreed to build two new civilian nuclear reactors in Pakistan, a report said. Chinese companies will build at least two 650-megawatt reactors at Chashma in Punjab.

30 Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi insisted that the spirit behind ‘composite dialogue’ lived on even though Pakistan did not insist on using the expression in exchange for India agreeing to resume talks.

May 2010

- 1** The United States appears to have realized the importance of strengthening Pakistan's conventional defense while also enhancing its capability to fight extremists.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani announced a new labor policy which raised the minimum wage to Rs7,000 per month from Rs6,000. The Prime Minister said the new policy was pro-worker and aimed at improving their lot.

- 2** Pakistan has decided to approach the International Court of Arbitration against construction of the controversial Kishanganga Hydropower Project by India in alleged violation of 1960 Indus Waters Treaty and has formed a team of legal experts to fight the case.

- 3** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said that Benazir Bhutto's killers would not be allowed to escape justice, after an opposition walkout soured the opening of the newly empowered National Assembly's pre-budget session.

With the Federal Board of Revenue sitting on Rs 50 billion in refunds to meet net revenue targets, the Government is formalizing contracts with a number of experts' teams from lending agencies for smooth enforcement of value-added tax (VAT) from July 1.

- 4** The Government got a bill approved by the Senate to give legal cover to the high-powered Alternate Energy Board functioning since 2003.

- 7** The Karachi Stock Exchange Index of 100 shares came crashing down by 282 points to settle at 10,271. The heaviest one-day fall this year wiped off Rs72 billion from the market capitalization.

- 8** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani visited the residence of Baloch leader Sardar Ataullah Mengal in an attempt to find a way out of the Balochistan tangle.

- 9** Security forces took control of the Taliban headquarters of Dabori.

- 12** Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry constituted a full court comprising all 17 judges to define and determine the exact contours of Supreme Court's authority for reviewing the mechanism of appointing superior court judges introduced through the 18th Constitutional Amendment.
- 13** The Government has finalized the 10th Five-Year Plan (2010-15) which envisages an economic growth rate of seven per cent, wheat output of 30 million tons, increase in literacy to 65 per cent and a reduction in poverty from 30 to 13 per cent by 2015. The National Accountability Bureau took into custody from the US authorities Hamesh Khan, former chief executive officer of the Bank of Punjab and a principal accused in a Rs 09 billion loan scam.
- 15** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has rejected some important proposals of the Pay and Pension Commission on the grounds that conversion of all perks and privileges into money and merger of pay scales are impractical and will be of no help in reducing the size and expenses of the vast Government machinery.
- The surging waters of the lake that has formed on the Hunza river submerged more areas in Gojal tehsil, forcing people to flee to safe places.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released \$1.13 billion of loan to Pakistan to help overcome its economic vulnerabilities and create room for urgent security outlays.
- 17** President Asif Ali Zardari has said the PPP Government adopted a policy of reconciliation for the sake of harmony and stability. Thanks to this initiative, the constitutional reforms, NFC award, reconstitution of the Council of Common Interests, a package for Balochistan and political reforms in Gilgit-Baltistan were possible, he said.
- 18** The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) decided to reduce prescribed prices of natural gas by an average 2.55 per cent or Rs4.53 per unit for all categories of consumers in the country with effect from July 01.

- 19** The Government told the Senate at the end of a debate that the PPP-led coalition and President Asif Ali Zardari had done well in the face of “the most difficult situation” in the country’s history, and vowed to defend itself against onslaughts of non-electoral foes.

The Government blocked access to Facebook after the Lahore High Court ordered closure of the social networking website until May 31 for holding a competition of blasphemous drawings.

- 20** The Foreign Office said that the armed forces would launch an operation in North Waziristan in keeping with the country’s plans and priorities, and not at the behest of Washington.

- 21** In a significant softening of a posture that had stymied resumption of peace talks with Pakistan, Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna was quoted as saying that New Delhi was now ready to trust Islamabad in the battle against terrorism.

- 22** Fiscal deficit for the next financial year has been estimated at Rs 868 billion (5.1 per cent of GDP) — about Rs105 billion more than the current year’s deficit of Rs763 billion. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi called on President Hosni Mubarak and said Pakistan planned to boost trade with Egypt.

US President Barack Obama, while offering glimpses of a new national security doctrine, seeks greater emphasis on defeating those who plan attacks on American cities from their hideouts in Pakistan.

- 24** Pakistan and China signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing Pakistan’s capabilities to fight terror. Under the accord, the three services of the two countries would hold joint military exercises and China would provide four trainer aircraft for PAF and 60 million yuans for training of armed forces.

Pakistan has urged the United States to nudge India to address contentious issues for bridging the trust deficit instead of looking at the distrust solely from the prism of terrorism.

26 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani announced a compensation package for people affected by a landslide which blocked the Hunza River and damaged the Karakoram Highway.

27 The Government has finalized proposals for collecting Rs1,650 billion in taxes during 2010-11, envisaging additional taxes of Rs138 billion, including levy on 20 new services. The proposals also include relief to the tune of Rs5 billion on salaries and electricity consumption.

28 Militants attacked two places of worship packed with hundreds of worshippers from a religious minority in Lahore, holding hostages and battling police, officials and witnesses said. Some 80 people died, and dozens were wounded in the worst attack ever against the Ahmadis.

Pakistan and Iran signed an agreement for supply of gas from Iran through the \$7.5 billion pipeline project to be completed by the end of 2014. The cost for the Pakistan section of the project is estimated at \$1.65 billion.

29 An 11-member Pakistani delegation, led by Indus Water Commissioner Syed Jamaat Ali Shah, left for New Delhi to hold talks on a range of water-related issues between the two countries.

30 The US military chief said that he could not discuss his plans for combating Fata-based militants with the media but would like to do so with Pakistan's cooperation.

- 31** The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority reduced the prices of petroleum products by up to eight per cent for the month of June, following a decline in crude rates in Gulf markets.

June 2010

- 1** In a major development, the Federal and Sindh governments have reached a broad agreement on value added tax (VAT) under which the province will get the power to impose tax on all services but will delegate its authority to the federation to make collection on eight categories.

The Government has made a commitment to the International Monetary Fund that power tariff, whenever increased, would be applicable with retrospective effect from April 1, 2010.

- 2** Pakistan and Spain expressed their joint commitment to fight terrorism and signed a broad agreement for enhancing cooperation in security, trade and other fields.

- 3** A total of 159,647 Pakistanis will perform Haj this year — half of them under the regular scheme and the remaining through private group operators, said the Religious Affairs Minister.

- 4** The Government will present in the National Assembly the Federal Budget 2010-11, with additional taxation measures of Rs 132 billion, reduction of over Rs 90 billion in subsidies and up to 35 per cent increase in salary and pensions of Government employees.

India has assured the United States that it has consistently believed in the need for dialogue to seek a future of peace and cooperation with Pakistan.

- 5** The budget had good news for federal government employees who received a raise of 50 per cent in their basic salary on ad hoc basis.

Federal transfers to the provinces will jump by 57.7 per cent to Rs1.033 trillion in the next financial year from the current Rs 655 billion as a result of the increase in provinces' share in the tax divisible pool under the new National Finance Commission award, resolution of long-running disputes between federating units and Islamabad on net hydel profits and gas development surcharge, and a higher tax revenue the Government hopes to collect.

6 Not only did the defense budget witness a surge during 2009-10, but the development expenditures of the ministry of defense were also jacked up by 49 per cent to Rs11.08 billion from the original allocation of Rs7.44 billion in the outgoing fiscal year.

7 Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that all issues with India, including Kashmir, terrorism and water, can be resolved through 'Composite Dialogue'.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani assured the people of Balochistan that the Government would take concrete steps to close for good the 'chapter of atrocities' committed in the province over the past 63 years.

8 Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry praised the Parliament for undoing a wrong done by the legislature in 1985 (through a constitutional amendment) when it removed the word 'freely' from a clause of the Objectives Resolution that upheld the minorities' right to practice their religion.

9 Amnesty International urged the United States to undertake proper monitoring of the impact of drone attacks on the civilian population, and to clarify the chain of command and rules of engagement governing the use of drones in Pakistan.

10 Pakistan and China have decided to work together to secure common strategic interests and review the situation developing in the region.

Pakistan said it favored a negotiated settlement of the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme, but avoided denouncing the fourth round of UN sanctions against Tehran.

- 11** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani approved a Rs12 billion bailout package for Pakistan Steel Mills, including bank guarantees.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah announced a Rs442 billion budget for 2010-11 that carries an operational revenue deficit of Rs25 billion, but promises record development in the Province and some relief to the salaried people.

President Asif Ali Zardari has called for regional cooperation against extremism and terrorism and said Pakistan would continue to play its key role for greater peace and stability.

Addressing the 10th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, President Asif Ali Zardari said countries in the region must also jointly address the root causes that led to acts of violence and terrorism.

- 12** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani ruled out the possibility of an immediate military operation in Southern Punjab.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government unveiled a balanced budget of Rs. 294.246 billion for 2010-11, with the highest-ever Rs 69.3 billion Annual Development Programme.

- 13** In a major development, the Federal Government has notified amendments to the 'Explanatory Memorandum on Federal Receipts 2010-11', making the Presidential order on the seventh National Finance Commission award an integral part of the federal budget and adding sales tax on services (central excise mode) to the list of federal divisible pool.

Iran and Pakistan formally signed a \$7.5 billion gas deal, dubbed as a peace pipeline, for supply of natural gas to Pakistan from 2014.

- 14** The Centre and Sindh have agreed to change the federal legislation for a new value added tax into a reformed general sales tax on services under which the Provincial

Government will authorize the Federal Board of Revenue to collect GST on five major services, including telecommunications and terminal services.

- 15** Pakistan has dived headlong into the Afghanistan reconciliation process by taking on the task of acting as a bridge between the Haqqani network and the government in Kabul.
- 17** All Chief Ministers informed the Prime Minister that special cells had been set up and necessary homework done for the implementation of the 18th Amendment and assured him of their cooperation for timely completion of the process.

China said its civilian nuclear cooperation with Pakistan was for peaceful purposes, after the United States said it was seeking clarification from China on a deal to build two new reactors.

- 19** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani warned that public support for war on terror could wane if the international community failed to honor aid pledges and bail out Pakistan's troubled economy.
- 21** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani announced names of the recipients of the first "Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Award" in fields of democracy, human rights, women empowerment and social causes.
- 24** Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to enhance their cooperation in combating terrorism and extremism for the sake of regional security and development.
- 25** President Barack Obama has said that the United States wants stable and strong Governments in Pakistan and Afghanistan that could defeat terrorists.

The Government is estimated to have earned about Rs315 billion in taxes on oil business during the current fiscal year, making it the single largest revenue-contributing sector.

26 The United States has said that increased contacts between India and Pakistan not only serve their own interests but also suite the larger US interests in the region. At a briefing in Washington, State Department spokesman Phillip J. Crowley noted that the latest round of India-Pakistan talks in Islamabad represented a step in the right direction.

The first batch of the latest version of F-16 fighters arrived at PAF's Shahbaz air base in Jacobabad as part of the delivery of 18 high-tech aircraft from the United States.

27 The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman, has said there is no restriction on the use of newly-acquired F-16 combat aircraft against any adversary.

28 In a historic move, the National Assembly inscribed Benazir Bhutto's name into law by its vote, unanimously passing a pro-poor bill.

29 Gen.David Petraeus said that Pakistan's involvement in a reconciliation agreement in Afghanistan is essential and the United States needs to further this developing partnership between the two neighboring countries.

The Angolan capital Luanda is the most expensive city for corporate expatriates, according to a study which includes three African cities in the top 10 for the first time. Tokyo is second and Moscow and Geneva are among the most costly cities in the world. At the other end of the scale, Karachi is the cheapest, according to consultants Mercer.

July 2010

1 The death toll of Data Darbar incident rose to 45 while Chief Justice Lahore High Court has taken a suo motu notice of the incident.

In a significant policy shift, Afghan President Hamid Karzai has agreed to send a group of military officers to Pakistan for training, a decision which could raise eyebrows in India.

2 Federal Minister for Interior A. Rehman Malik said that banned organizations Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan and Al Qaeda were carrying out terrorist attacks to destabilize the country.

3 The Pakistan-China joint military training exercise titled Youyi (Friendship) commenced at Qixtonxia, Yeuhuan.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has accepted a suggestion by PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif to convene a 'national conference' in order to hammer out a strategy against terrorism.

4 The Balochistan Government issued appointment letters to 3,974 people, 1,362 women among them, who had cleared tests and interviews for jobs announced under the Aghaz-i-Huqooq Balochistan package.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has convened a meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss the law and order situation in the aftermath of terrorist attacks on Data Darbar.

5 The Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) approved the issuance of Letter of Intent (LOI) for the 1,000MW coal-based power project in Thar.

The Punjab Government has banned 23 militant organizations operating under new names after having been outlawed and directed police to keep a strict vigil on 1,690 office-bearers and workers of the outfits.

6 Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry put the Government at ease by assuring it that while deciding petitions challenging the 18th Amendment the court intends to resolve practical difficulties and not to destroy everything.

7 Pakistan and China pledged to step up efforts against terrorism, separatism and religious extremism, terming the scourge a threat to both nations.

8 The Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said that his Government attaches great importance to its trade ties with Pakistan, which not only benefited people of the two countries but also have a strategic significance.

- 9** China will build two highways in Gilgit-Baltistan at an estimated cost of Rs 45 billion-85 per cent of the amount will be borne by China and the rest by Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi gave a guarded assessment of the process of resumption of dialogue with India and said “the optimistic side of these talks is that India has realized that engagement in dialogue is in its own interest of peaceful co-existence between the two countries”.

- 10** Salma Ataullahjan became the first Canadian woman of Pakistani origin to get into the Senate when Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed her to fill a vacancy from the Province of Ontario.

- 13** The Government has decided to provide a comprehensive security cover to the largest petroleum producer — OGDCL — to start drilling in one of the country’s most prospective but untapped oil and gas Zin block in Balochistan’s Marri-Bugti area.

- 14** The Federal Cabinet approved a relief package of Rs 2.27 billion to reduce prices of essential commodities during Ramazan and decided to slash air fares for Haj by Rs 6, 000.

- 15** Installation of 14 compressors at the Qadirpur gas field in Balochistan, the country’s third largest, has been completed.

The Government abolished the National Reconstruction Bureau as its basic responsibility of implementing the Local Government system has been handed over to the Provinces.

- 16** Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has discovered significant natural gas reserves in the heart of Kohat city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- 17** The Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP) accepted most of the proposals made by Islamabad for augmenting its energy resources. The proposals featured in a report estimated that the country would need at least 22 billion dollars for meeting its energy needs.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani called for more talks with India, a day after Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi accused New Delhi of limiting the dialogue process by refusing to discuss key issues confronting the two countries.

- 18** Coinciding with the presence of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Pakistan and Afghanistan finalized the new Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA), allowing Afghan trucks to carry export goods to Wagah border for onward destination to India.

The Council of Common Interests (CCI) approved the Diamer-Bhasha dam project and set up a committee to review the role and functions of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra).

- 19** On the longstanding Kashmir dispute, US Secretary of State indicated that Washington would continue with its hands-off policy.

- 21** Pakistan and India have rejected each other's proposed nominees for the Court of Arbitration which will adjudicate on a dispute over the Kishanganga hydropower project.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani called for fast-tracking Pakistan-Iran cooperation in oil and gas sectors and import of electricity from Iran.

- 22** President Asif Ali Zardari announced that the Government would nominate prominent surgeon Dr. Adibul Hassan Rizvi for Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his services in the field of organ transplant.

At least 30 people were killed when torrential rains unleashed flash floods in different parts of eastern Baluchistan.

Pakistan and India agreed in principle to put in place a telemetry system on the Indus river to record and transfer real-time data for the benefit of both the countries.

- 23** The US military chief has told Indian leaders that the United States will continue to sell weapons to Pakistan, and that the sales do not pose a threat to India.

- 25** The Pakistan's Military and Government don't get enough credit for the sacrifices they are making in the fight against terror, says a Pentagon report released a day after the US Military Chief urged Islamabad to be sensitive to American interests.

The death toll in five districts of Balochistan hit by torrential rains rose to 70.

- 26** The Oil and Gas Development Company has found new oil and gas deposits at Rajian oilfield — about 50 kilometers south of federal capital, indicating that the area had much more recoverable reserves than earlier estimated.

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency lashed out against a trove of leaked US intelligence reports that alleged close connections between it and Taliban militants fighting NATO troops in Afghanistan, calling the accusations malicious and unsubstantiated.

- 27** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said that 1,708 megawatts of electricity had been added to the national grid and another 2,000MW would be added by the end of the current year.

The Government brought a tougher anti-terror law to parliament in an urgent response to a new wave of violence in the country, with Interior Minister Rehman Malik showing both an iron fist and an olive branch to Baloch insurgents.

- 28** Air blue Flight 202, crashed into the Margalla hills, killing all 152 people on board, including passengers and crew. The Federal Cabinet postponed discussion on its agenda and declared a day of mourning for the loss of lives in the Islamabad plane crash.

The US Congress has overwhelmingly rejected a resolution demanding the withdrawal of US troops from Pakistan.

- 29** Heavy downpour across the country caused 'high' to 'exceptionally high floods' in almost all rivers, causing loss to life and property and a widespread population displacement.

The US State Department has said that Pakistan has been 'candid, direct and respectful' while discussing the issue of terrorism with the United States.

- 30 The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System, a joint initiative of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and European Commission, has placed Pakistan on 'Orange Flood Alert' after flash floods triggered by torrential rains hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir.
- 31 The European Commission said that it had given 30 million Euros in humanitarian aid to help the needy in Pakistan, including those hit by the floods.

Members of a joint investigation team of police and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), assisted by French experts recovered the black box of the plane crashed in the Margalla tragedy.

August 2010

- 1 Two senior US officials the Secretary of Defense and the Military Chief assured Pakistan and Afghanistan that the US would stay in the region for as long as it takes to defeat the Taliban and Al Qaeda.
- 2 The swollen Indus devastated hundreds of villages, washed away standing crops and displaced hundreds of thousands of people in 184km-long riverine belt in Dera Ghazi Khan District.

President Barack Obama said that the US had a 'fairly modest goal' in the Pak-Afghan region and hoped to achieve this objective with 'enough cooperation' from Pakistan.

- 3 Pakistan and France agreed to set up an economic commission for closer cooperation in different sectors.

Pakistan called on India to "exercise restraint" in Indian-held Kashmir, where at least 42 people have died in weeks of unrest.

- 4** US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton assured Pakistan that Washington's immediate response to the historic floods in the country was just the start of a more sustained relief effort.
- 5** According to United Nations Humanitarian Spokesperson, over 4.5 million people have been uprooted by the worst floods in Pakistan and the number is rising as the scale of the disaster becomes better understood.
- 6** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani accepted a proposal to set up a Commission to investigate the recent target killings in Karachi and bring the culprits to justice.
- 7** A top UN official warned that the devastation wrought by flash floods in Pakistan was as serious as that caused by the earthquake that struck the country in 2005.
- 8** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has ordered the law ministry to appoint four members of the commission in view of an alleged violation of the 18th Amendment by the Chief Election Commissioner when he held by-elections for vacant seats of Senate, National Assembly and provincial assemblies although the commission was incomplete.
- 9** The United States said that the world's response to the worst ever flood in Pakistan was not adequate and urged the international community to do more. US special representative Richard Holbrooke told a briefing in Washington.

The United States, which raised its contributions to \$72 million, plans to convert an international conference in Brussels into a meeting devoted to post-flood rehabilitation in Pakistan.

- 12** President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani met and decided to convene an urgent meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to review the issues thrown up by unprecedented floods in the country with all provinces and political parties.
- 13** The floods now turn their fury to Sindh, forcing the administration to order evacuation of Jacobabad, Thal and a number of other towns along the Indus.

The nation will observe the Independence Day (Aug 14) with simplicity in view of the death and destruction wrought by the worst floods in the country's history.

- 14** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani and PML-N Chief Mian Nawaz Sharif agreed to set up a 'credible national body comprising men of integrity' to ensure transparency in the collection, management and distribution of relief funds among the flood-affected.

President Asif Ali Zardari visited flood-hit people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, assuring them that the Government would provide full compensation for the property that they had lost in the flooding.

- 17** The aid pledged by the international community for flood-affected people has crept up to \$352.5 million, with the US, Saudi Arabia and UK together contributing the lion's share of \$152 million.

- 20** China said that it would send 1,000 tents and other emergency equipment to Pakistan to help the victims of the country's devastating floods.

Pakistan is to ask the International Monetary Fund to ease the terms of a \$10 billion loan after enduring the worst floods in its history.

- 22** As a macroeconomic review began in Washington, Pakistan has sought three waivers from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for missing three performance criteria with a clear decision that it would not seek more loans for flood-related rehabilitation and reconstruction needs.

- 23** The Government has decided to hold a Donors' Conference to seek more help from the international community to mitigate the sufferings of flood-hit people and stabilize the economy crippled by the floods.

At least 12 people, four women among them, were killed and 15 others injured in two drone strikes in parts of the North Waziristan tribal region.

- 24** The World Bank has informed the government that instead of providing an additional financing of \$1 billion it would divert funds for rehabilitation and recovery work in flood-hit areas from its ongoing projects affected by the calamity.
- 29** “The world isn’t keeping up with the challenge” posed by the floods in Pakistan, warns Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee John Kerry. “Much more needs to be done by foreign Governments and private citizens alike.”
- 31** India offered another \$20 million in flood aid to Pakistan, the country’s foreign minister said, boosting efforts to build goodwill between the estranged neighbors.

September 2010

- 1** The death toll from three suicide bombings in Lahore rose to 31 as six people succumbed to their injuries, a rescue official said.
- 2** The Government is stepping up its ‘economic diplomacy’ to seek special trade concessions from major partners, particularly the European Union and the United States, to cope with threats of rising poverty and economic instability as the country confronts grave challenges because of the devastating floods.

Michele Flournoy, US Undersecretary of State for Defense, called Lt-Gen (retd) Syed Athar Ali, Secretary of Defense, and apologized for the mistreatment meted out to Pakistan’s military delegation at the Dulles airport in Washington early this week.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have agreed to jointly provide more aid to flood-hit Pakistan during the current fiscal year.

- 4** Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, has appealed for world solidarity in response to the floods that have devastated millions of Pakistani lives.
- 6** President Asif Ali Zardari called upon investment finance companies and development finance institutions (DFIs) to devise a plan for raising money through stock exchanges

for building infrastructure projects in the country on build, operate, own and transfer (BOOT) basis or on the basis of build, operate and own (BOO).

- 7** The International Monetary Fund has set four pre-conditions for continuing with Pakistan's \$11.3 billion standby arrangement (SBA) and withheld the release of two remaining tranches of \$2.6 billion till the government meets the criteria.
- 8** The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and four other Baloch militant organizations have been banned and their accounts and other assets have been frozen.

Pakistan's Tennis player Aisam-ul-Haq created history for his country when he notched up two back-to-back victories in the US Open to move into mixed doubles final and men's doubles semi-finals.

Pakistan urged Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to back up his call for re-engagement with concrete measures to address issues of concern.

- 9** A board headed by Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani promoted 39 Federal Secretaries to grade 22.
- 10** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has ruled out the launching of an army operation in Balochistan on the lines of Swat and Malakand and said the Government is seriously implementing the Aghaz-i-Huqooq package in the Province.
- 13** Water overflowing from the Manchhar lake inundated two towns and 70 villages in Sehwan and Johi talukas.
- 14** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has urged India to hold talks with the Kashmiris, instead of using force against them.
- 15** The IMF board approved a \$450 million emergency assistance for flood recovery efforts in Pakistan.

- US Special Envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke categorically stated that his country supported a civilian and democratically-elected Government in Pakistan.
- 16** The Government has set up a 15-member National Oversight Disaster Management Council (NODMC) to monitor distribution of funds for reconstruction in flood-affected areas.
 - 17** A high-level meeting jointly chaired by President Asif Ai Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani vowed to foil any move to derail the democratic set-up.
 - 18** A major power crisis was averted after the Federal Government released Rs12 billion to Pakistan State Oil (PSO), which, in turn, restored oil supplies to the power sector, especially the Hub Power Company (Hubco) and Kot Addu Power Company (Kapco).
 - 20** In pursuance of a reforms agenda pushed by international lenders, the Government has decided to sell 5-10 per cent shares of power distribution companies to the general public, change their management, fire meter readers and replace the Pakistan Electric Power Company with a new cell within the Federal Government.
 - 21** Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told the world community that despite adverse effects on Pakistan's economy stemming from twin challenges of the war on terror and the devastating floods, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remained the centerpiece of the Government's development efforts.
 - 22** Pakistan has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it needs to build more nuclear power plants to overcome a severe energy shortfall and support its socio-economic development.
 - 23** Pakistani neuroscientist Aafia Siddiqui was sentenced to 86 years of imprisonment by a US federal court in Manhattan, after she was convicted of firing at US troops in Afghanistan while in their custody and other six charges brought against her.

- 24** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said in the Senate that Parliament had given powers to institutions, including immunity to the President, through the Constitution and only it can withdraw it.
- 27** Pakistan is appointed Head of the UN nuclear watchdog's governing board.
- 28** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said his Government would take a public stand on the Supreme Court demand to reopen the Swiss cases involving President Asif Ali Zardari after the judges decide a review petition on the NRO.
- 29** President Asif Ali Zardari asked the Government to levy a one-time flood tax on wealthy people.

October 2010

- 1** The World Bank has approved a \$300 million loan to help Pakistan deal with the aftermath of the devastating floods. The bank also gave an additional loan of \$130 million to help finance cost overrun for revitalizing and modernizing the highway system. Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani told the National Assembly that his Government would consider unspecified "other options" to protect Pakistan's sovereignty if NATO strikes into its Tribal Area from Afghanistan did not halt.
- 5** Pakistan Customs has detained 152 trailers and oil tankers at Chaman border carrying fuel and other supplies for NATO forces in Afghanistan after detecting some tampering with documents.
- 6** Aleem Dar of Pakistan won the David Shepherd Trophy for the second time in a row after being named ICC Umpire of the Year at the ICC Awards.

The Federal Cabinet approved a 'reformed' Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement to allow Afghan trucks to carry export goods to the Wagha border for onward dispatch to India.

- 7** The European Union's Executive Commission proposed to liberalize 75 tariff lines on imports, mainly of textiles, from Pakistan as part of its contribution to the country's economic recovery following unprecedented devastation caused by floods.
- 9** The Government announced reopening of the Torkham supply route for NATO, 10 days after it was blocked following an incursion by ISAF helicopters into Pakistan's Tribal area, which left two border guards dead.
- 10** The Government has decided to import about two million tons of petroleum products in about 45 days and has asked private marketing companies to maintain at least 20 days of oil inventory to ward off another fuel crisis ahead of winter and Haj.
- 11** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani promoted a batch of 29 civil servants to the BPS-22, taking the tally of Federal Secretaries.
- 12** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said that renewed Afghan efforts to make peace with the Taliban and end the nine-year war would fail without Pakistan's help.
- 13** Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that his country was prepared to go to any length in negotiations on defense cooperation with Pakistan.
- 16** The Economic Coordination Committee of the Federal Cabinet approved a time-bound package of Rs14 billion for flood-affected farmers.
- 17** Giving voice to his Government's stand on the Supreme Court directive for a written assurance that the Government will not withdraw the executive order restoring the judiciary, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in his televised address to the nation said: "When the prime minister says something, whether it is verbally or in writing, it ought to be respected by everyone."
- 18** Three tankers carrying fuel for NATO forces in Afghanistan were torched in separate incidents in Balochistan.

19 The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC), re-designated as the Central Power Purchase Authority (CPPA) in place of Pepco, has sought a 7.3 per cent increase in average base tariff of nine distribution companies of Wapda.

20 The Government has decided against deploying the army in Karachi and, instead, resolved to utilize the civil administration for restoring normalcy in the metropolis.

21 The first unit of Chashma nuclear power plant completed a decade of good performance, enabling the Government to approve new projects in the nuclear power sector to achieve the 8800MW target set by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

US envoy Richard Holbrooke said that the United States had asked Pakistan to provide more information about a civilian nuclear arrangement it had concluded with China.

22 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said that former President Pervez Musharraf had allowed the United States to carry out drone flights in Tribal areas for reconnaissance.

The Government has concurred with the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FODP) to merge the ministries of power and petroleum and their sectoral regulators for an integrated solution to the energy crisis.

24 Pakistan and Iran have decided to take steps to stop illegal border crossings and drug smuggling and agreed to consider the reopening of the 'Zero Point'.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that the recent round of strategic dialogue had been productive and the United States had accepted Pakistan's point of view on various issues which was a major development.

25 The security authorities in Kurram have sealed all points along the Agency's border with Afghanistan to stop free movement of people.

26 Days before a historic visit to India, US President Barack Obama telephoned President Asif Ali Zardari to reassure him that America's relations with New Delhi did not affect its partnership with Pakistan.

- 28** The United States has assured Pakistan that its desire to develop a closer relationship with India does not mean it's moving away from Islamabad, which continues to be a key partner in the South Asian region.

The Pakistan-Afghan Transit Trade Agreement was signed in Kabul by Commerce Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim and his counterpart Anwarul Haq Ahadi.

- 29** Pakistan and China signed a loan agreement for setting up the Paksat-1R satellite ground control segment project.

November 2010

- 2** The Upper House passed a resolution unanimously where in the international community was urged to write-off Pakistan's foreign debts or reschedule its loans in the wake of devastating floods that severely harmed the country.
- 4** Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved Rs.75 million per day subsidy for the Karachi electric supply company (KSEC) besides an injection of Rs.3 billion into the financially crumbling Bank of Khyber.
- 5** At least 76 people including children were martyred and around 132 others got injured in two different attacks on mosques at Akhurwal village of Darra Adam Khel and Badhaber area of Peshawar.
- 7** Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has called the meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to finalize the agenda for the upcoming meeting of Pakistan Development Forum due on Nov 14. In this meeting the world community would be asked to assist and provide financial support to Pakistan.
- 8** The Council of Common Interests (CCI) gives approval for holding sixth Population and Housing census next year.
- 10** The Federal Cabinet accorded approval to the flood tax and Reformed General Sales Tax (RGST) Bill to be presented in the National Assembly.

- 11** The legislators passed The Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2010 in the National Assembly.
- 12** The Government presented Reformed General Sales Tax (RGST) Bill, 2010 in the Senate amid protests of the two ruling coalition partners- MQM and JUI-F.
- 13** President Asif Ali Zardari invited Chinese builders and constructors to take advantage of Pakistan's new investment environment. He asked them to build Zulfikarabad city in Sindh and other infrastructure projects in different parts of the country devastated by floods.
- 14** Pakistan and United States signed a wind power generation project, which will be completed in two years at a cost of \$375 million (Rs32 Billion) to produce 150 MW of electricity.
- 15** Federal Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Dr.Babar Awan inaugurated the Islamabad High Court and announced that the first Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC) would be from the Tribal Areas.
- 20** The third batch of six F-16, C/D Block 52 fighter aircraft arrived at PAF Base from the USA. With the arrival of these six jets, the number of F-16 aircraft delivered to Pakistan so far has risen to 12.
- 21** Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said 95 percent calamity -stricken people have received Watan Cards through transport process. He said that provision of free fertilizers and seeds to the farmers of flood-hit areas will also be completed by November 30.
- 23** The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs unanimously passed the drafts of Reformed General Sales Tax (RGST) Bill and Flood Surcharge Bill with all opponents-both in the ruling alliance and the Opposition-except making a few recommendations to be incorporated in the aforementioned drafts.

- 25** The Narcotics Control Ministers of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan have agreed to form Border Liaison in order to grapple with the growing menace of drug trafficking in the region.

Pakistan and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development signed a loan agreement of \$ 40 million for Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project, which has the capacity to generate about 1000 MW electricity and will be completed in 2015.

- 26** A new island has emerged in the coastal area of Balochistan near Hangol in Lasbela district, at a distance of three kilometers from the coast.

December 2010

- 1** The Federal Cabinet approved the devolution plan of five Federal Ministries in the first phase of implementation of the 18th Amendment of the Constitution.
- 5** Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism for peace and stability in the region. They have also agreed to intensify trade and economic cooperation to achieve \$5 billion target of bilateral trade by 2015.
- 9** The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecenc) met under Finance Minister Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh to approve 33 projects costing approximately Rs.600 billion, including the foreign exchange component of Rs.130 billion.
- 11** Pakistan joined Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and India in signing an agreement on the long-awaited, over \$7.6 billion gas pipeline TAPI project to help meet its sharply rising industrial and domestic demands.
- 15** The Cabinet ratified the \$7.6 billion inter-government agreement between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India regarding the gas supply project.
- 18** China and Pakistan concluded nearly \$15 billion worth of deals. Pakistan and China reiterated their resolve to further strengthen their multi-faceted strategic relationship and

vowed to enhance cooperation in space technology, banking, energy and communication sectors.

- 19** The Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms (PCCR) finalized the report on the 19th Amendment of the Constitution, making an important amendment in the Constitution and giving powers to the Parliamentary Committee to discuss the selection of the judges.
- 20** The Implementation Commission on the 18th Amendment of the Constitution started preparation for devolving five more Ministries of Social welfare and Special Education, Education, Health, Culture and Tourism, to the Provinces.
- 21** Pakistan successfully conducted the trial launch of Half-V (Ghauri).
- 22** The National Assembly approved the 19th Amendment of the Constitution with an overwhelming majority. The 19th Amendment relates to the judicial appointments and the amended procedure of the appointment of judges of the superior judiciary.
- 23** The National Assembly passed an amendment to the rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, bringing the rules in conformity with the 18th Amendment of the Constitution.

Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani gave a go-ahead to the Life Insurance Scheme and the Benazir Mobile Banking Service under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).
- 27** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has granted a nine-month extension to Pakistan under the Standby Arrangement (SBA) programme of \$11.3 billion till September 30, 2011.
- 29** The Government in the National Assembly categorically denied any move to amend or repeal the Blasphemy Laws.