

# **Chronology of Pakistan**

**1<sup>st</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

## ***January 2011***

- 1** In a major step towards electoral reforms in Pakistan, the Government will move a draft law in Parliament to make Nadra's Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) mandatory for voting in elections.
- 2** President Asif Ali Zardari, while signing the 19th Amendment Bill, said it is a Constitutional milestone that envisages a new system aimed at settling a potential source of discord between the judiciary and Parliament.
- 3** Rescue 1122 has rescued 822,688 emergency victims in 738,007 rescue operations by the end of 2010 while maintaining its average response time of less than 7 minutes in all districts.
- 4** The Punjab Government has inked a deal to export 400,000 metric tons of wheat with private parties at the rate of Rs 1000 per 40 kilograms for last year produce.
- 7** The Implementation Commission on 18th Amendment has decided to devolve four Ministries namely Social Welfare and special Education, Health, Education, Culture and Tourism to the Provinces by February 28 while keeping the Ministry of Health out of the transfer process for the time being.
- 8** Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to establish a high powered Joint Consultative Commission to pursue the peace process in Afghanistan.
- 11** President Asif Ali Zardari while speaking to a Chinese Youth Delegation renewed the Government's commitment to take Sino-Pak friendship to new heights this year which marks the 60th anniversary of their bilateral ties.
- 12** Acknowledging that Pakistan has been the biggest victim of terrorism, the Philip J Crowley, Assistant Secretary of State said that extremism is, first and foremost, a threat to Pakistan itself and there's no country that has suffered more significantly from terrorism than Pakistan itself.
- 13** A comprehensive action plan to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pakistan-China Friendship Year 2011 has been chalked out comprising the rich array of 69 events in diplomatic, cultural and educational areas for the entire year with an average of five events a month.
- 16** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said the Government's policy of reconciliation had helped to repeal the authoritarian 17th Amendment while the 18th Amendment made Parliament sovereign and restored the powers of the Prime Minister.
- 17** Home Secretary Gopal K Pillai said New Delhi understands the concerns of Islamabad, as several Pakistani citizens were killed in the Samjhauta blast and

would share information with Pakistan on the investigation, once the probe is completed.

- 18** At the World Future Energy Summit President Asif Ali Zardari called for a global partnership on renewable energy particularly solar and wind resources involving both public and private sectors to ensure availability of affordable energy to the common man.
- 19** The Government of Japan has provided US dollar 50 million to support the integrated early recovery programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in flood-affected areas to benefit 13 million flood affectees including more than six million women and children as well as Afghan refugees.
- 20** Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani directed the Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to keep relief goods ready for dealing with any emergency in the aftermath of an earthquake in Balochistan.
- 21** Chief of the Air Staff Royal Air Force Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton along with delegation visited the Air Headquarters. This was a high level visit intending to increase cooperation between the two air forces.
- 22** Experts in a Round Table Conference on Inter-provincial water issues, organized by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT), were of the view that not only on Indus River but off channel dams should also be constructed to fulfill the future needs of water.
- 23** Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the new draft bill on Freedom of Information, to be renamed as the Right to Information Bill, would be tabled in the National Assembly by mid-February.
- 24** The first-ever Pakistan-US-Afghanistan trilateral dialogue will take place in Washington next month. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will host the dialogue while Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Afghan counterpart Zalmi Rassoul will represent their respective countries.
- 25** The sixth meeting of the Pakistan, Russia Consultative Group on Strategic Stability reviewed developments relating to international and regional security, including arms control, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- 28** Pakistan and Afghanistan celebrated their improved relationship by setting up a two-tier Joint Commission at the Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Minister/Foreign Secretary level.
- 29** President Asif Ali Zardari advised the Ministry of Water & Power and the Provincial Governments to speed up work on construction of new dams in order to meet the growing requirements of irrigation and drinking water. The President reviewed progress on Darawat and Nai Gaj dam projects in Sindh and Naulong, Winder and Hingol dam projects in Balochistan.

- 30** The United States called for the immediate release of an American man Raymond Davis who shot dead two men in Lahore, claiming that he was protected by diplomatic immunity. The Government of Pakistan has reiterated that the normal processes of law will be followed and Raymond Davis will be dealt in accordance with the law of the land.

### ***February 2011***

- 2** The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) with Finance Minister Dr Hafeez A. Sheikh in the chair approved one-time exemption of taxes on renewable energy technologies as desired by the Ministry of Environment.
- 3** Leading South Asian experts in Washington DC have acknowledged during a marathon discussion at the United States Institute of Peace on “The future of Pakistan” that most of the US policies towards Pakistan are flawed, discriminatory and unrealistic and these experts suggested US to offer talks to Pakistan on a US-India style nuclear deal.
- 4** The upper house of Parliament has completed its new term of 110 days set after the passage of 18th Constitutional Amendment. The 18th Amendment had left three effects on the upper house, adding 20 working days, addition of four minority members in the house after next elections and discussion on the budget for 15 days.
- 6** Kashmir Solidarity Day was observed across the country with the pledge to continue moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiris in their struggle for their right to self-determination.
- 7** Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir and Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen and deepen bilateral relations through closer interaction at the government and people to people levels.
- 9** President Asif Ali Zardari decided to summon a Roundtable Conference (RTC) of political parties for evolving a broad-based consensus on critical economic and political issues faced by the country.
- 10** The Federal Cabinet resigned by submitting their resignations to the Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani allowing him to form a new, smaller Cabinet to reduce the expenditure.
- 11** Pakistan successfully test fired indigenously developed Hatf-VII (Babur) cruise missile having a range of 600 kilometres. It is a low flying, terrain hugging missile with high manoeuvrability, pinpoint accuracy and radar avoidance features.

- 12** After taking over the affairs of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan has made it clear that freedom of the media and strengthening of institutions remain at the core of policies of the Government.
- 13** The Pakistan Government has released Rs53 million against the waived-off debts of earthquake-hit business community of the AJK.
- 14** The Pak-US energy sector working group has discussed a five-year Public Sector Power Generation Enhancement Plan (PSPGEP) 2010-15 whereby 10,000MW new capacity would be added to the national grid.
- 15** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani called on Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and discussed bilateral ties and exchanged views on the matters of regional and international importance, particularly the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah..
- 19** The All Pakistan Paramedical Staff Federation has expressed gratitude to President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani for approving new service structure of paramedics working in Federal Government hospitals and other health institutions.
- 20** The President while talking to the British Cabinet Minister Baroness Sayeeda Warsi urged Ms. Warsi to use her influence for setting up opportunity zones in the conflict-ridden areas and plead Pakistan's case for enhanced and preferential trade access to the markets of European Union.
- 22** President Asif Ali Zardari has said that since Japan is negotiating a deal with India to cooperate on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the similar cooperation should be extended to his country.
- 23** President Asif Ali Zardari and Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan signed a joint statement that promises to take the bilateral ties to new heights by deciding upon "a comprehensive partnership for peace and development through multifaceted economic cooperation" on the one hand and "strengthening cooperation in the field of defence" on the other hand.
- 25** The Government of Denmark has signed a \$1.7 million agreement with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through which they will be supporting the effectiveness of judicial systems in Pakistan with the aim to improve border control and the criminal justice system in Pakistan.
- 26** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has allocated an amount of \$176 million for the infrastructural development in South Waziristan Agency, FATA. The USAID programme also included construction of Gomal Zam multipurpose dam and irrigation system.

- 27 President Asif Ali Zardari and Turkish President Abdullah Gul have agreed to increase bilateral trade to \$2 billion and beyond by the year 2012 by encouraging both public as well as private sectors.
- 28 President Zardari visited the Gulf state on the special invitation of Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to attend the celebrations marking his country's 50th Independence Day, 20th Liberation Day and fifth anniversary of his accession.

### ***March 2011***

- 1 The Punjab Government has approved Rs 05 billion for the construction of Chirah Dam with a storage capacity of 1,500 million gallons of water for the residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.
- 2 Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani announced rupees one billion in the current budget and Rs700 million in the next year's budget for the rehabilitation of approx. 32,000 affected people of the Kurram Agency who left their homes due to sectarian riots and militancy.
- 3 In the backdrop of the assassination of Minister for Minority Affairs Shahbaz Bhatti, the Cabinet has decided to reshape the Government's counter-terrorism strategy by removing all the security loopholes.
- 4 The Government announced that the recent increase in the POL prices was being slashed by half. This effectively means that instead of 9.9 percent increase in the prices, there would now be a 4.95 percent increase only.
- 5 India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is approaching new peace talks with Pakistan with an "open mind", saying all disputes including a long-running feud over Kashmir must be discussed.
- 7 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has said no institution but Parliament can change or amend the Constitution. He further added that all institutions were passing through the process of evolution and they would identify their role with the passage of time.
- 8 Pakistan and Tajikistan, at a joint press conference held by the two Presidents, President Asif Ali Zardari and President Emomali Rahmon, agreed to diversify their cooperation in different fields, including efforts to stamp out terrorism and drug trafficking.
- 10 Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani directed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources to establish hot lines and help lines for facilitating domestic gas consumers by registering and redressing their complaints at the earliest.

- 11** Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Babar Awan has said the present Government is not only determined to resolve issues confronted by business community but also to raise the living standard of common man.
- 12** Pakistan successfully test fired its short range surface to surface (STS) ballistic missile Hataf-2 (Abdali). The Hataf-2 (Abdali), with a range of 180 km, can carry nuclear as well as conventional warheads with high accuracy.
- 15** The Pak Army in Swat district has planned to launch a project 'Swat to School' for five to 16-year-old under-privileged children as part of the mega educational initiative.
- 16** Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan agreed on reviving the four-country transit trade pact signed between Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in 2004 for smooth and effective functioning of 'Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement' (QTTA).
- 17** An additional district and sessions judge (ASJ) acquitted CIA contractor Raymond Davis in a double murder case and ordered his immediate release after the legal heirs of the two victims accepted blood money of Rs 200 million under the Qisas and Diyat law and pardoned the killer. Both the families stated before the court they had no objection to the release of Raymond Davis.
- 18** General David Petraeus, the Commander of American and NATO forces in Afghanistan, sounded confident at a Congressional hearing that the United States and Pakistan can take forward their bilateral cooperative relationship.
- 19** President Asif Ali Zardari, in exercise of powers under Article 45 of the Constitution, granted special remission in sentences of convicted prisoners on the occasion of Pakistan Day (March 23, 2011).
- 20** During bilateral talks between Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and his Bhutanese counterpart Lyonchhen Jigmi Yoezer Thinley, Pakistan and Bhutan agreed to further boost their bilateral ties in trade and tourism and to continue to support each other at international forums.
- 23** President Asif Ali Zardari delivered his fourth speech in the joint sitting of both the houses of the Parliament in which he invited political parties for a national dialogue to build consensus on a five-point agenda on energy shortage, circular debt, taxation reforms, restructuring of public sector entities and documenting the economy.
- 24** President Asif Ali Zardari conferred civil and military Awards on 217 outstanding individuals at a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on the occasion of Pakistan Day. President gave away 120 Civil and 10 Military Awards in different categories.

- 25 Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani offered to buy surplus electricity from Central Asian states to meet the energy requirements of the country.
- 26 A week long trilateral joint military exercise among forces of Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan commenced at Tuzla, Turkey. The joint exercise involves military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) against terrorists.
- 27 ISAF Commander in Afghanistan Gen David Petraeus while apprising the US Government of severe protest by the Pakistani Army leadership over the Dattakhel drone attack, has demanded that in future such attacks that target tribesmen should be avoided otherwise the cooperation of the Pakistan Army with respect to the war on terror would be in jeopardy.
- 30 A joint statement released simultaneously from Islamabad and New Delhi saw the setting up of a hotline between Shri Gopal K Pillai, Home Secretary of India, and Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, Interior Secretary of Pakistan, to facilitate real time information sharing with respect to terrorist threats.
- 31 Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that “permanent reconciliation” was required with Pakistan, after he met his counterpart at the ‘cricket World Cup semi-final held in India.

### ***April 2011***

- 1 Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the cricket diplomacy that paved the way for the resumption of dialogue between Pakistan and India, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani resolved that dialogue was the only way forward to address all outstanding issues between the two countries.
- 2 The Pakistan High Commission said UK official report launched by Foreign Secretary William Hague acknowledged that Pakistan successfully tackled many challenges despite a resource crunch and shortage of expertise.
- 3 The Government filed a reference in the Supreme Court for revisiting the case of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The President sent the reference to Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry under Article 186 of the Constitution, seeking review on the case of the former Prime Minister.
- 4 The United States will provide Rs12 million to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for de-silting of tertiary water courses in flood affected areas of Rahimyar Khan District.
- 7 The British Prime Minister David Cameron and Baroness Syeda Warsi visited Pakistan to mark a new chapter in the relationship between governments and the

people. Prime Minister Cameron said, this was a “Naya Aghaz”, forming an unbreakable bond of friendship between the two countries.

- 9** Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said that the next budget would be growth oriented and new areas would be included in the tax net, including the agriculture income.
- 10** President Asif Ali Zardari during his meeting with the SAARC Secretary General Ms Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed said that regional cooperation and establishment of transnational linkages are essential for fighting terrorism effectively.
- 11** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani announced the formation of a Government-Industry Energy Council for addressing the energy issues of the country and for making far-reaching recommendations to the Government.
- 12** Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani announced in the National Assembly an improved career structure for doctors and health professionals by forming a Committee at the Federal level, headed by the Health Secretary to work out further details.
- 13** The Federal Board of Revenue’s Chief Commissioner Conference finalized targets for broadening the tax base for Large Taxpayers and Regional Taxpayers Units to generate billions of rupees revenues before June 30, 2011.
- 14** While Speaking at a banquet hosted in the honour of Turkish President Abdullah Gul, President Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan and Turkey enjoy special relations and a unique friendship, which has no parallels and is unmatched.
- 15** President Asif Ali Zardari and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan made a renewed pledge to build a strategic partnership by focusing on achieving economic prosperity and strengthening political ties.
- 16** Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig inaugurated the 8th Textile Asia 2011, the largest annual textile and garment machinery show at the Karachi Expo Centre, organised by Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan. More than 122 renowned textile machine suppliers exhibited their machines representing 357 international brands from 39 countries.
- 17** Pakistan and Afghanistan for improving strategic ties, announced to set up a two-tier high-powered Joint Commission to carry forward the reconciliation process after the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

- 20 Pakistan successfully test-fired a newly-developed short-range surface-to-surface nuclear-capable missile Hatf-IX (Nasr). It is a 60-km range missile that has been developed with shoot-and-scoot capability.
- 21 China signed an agreement with the Punjab Government to provide Rs 26 billion for generation of 120 megawatt of power from the Taunsa Barrage to be completed within the period of three years.
- 22 The US will provide Pakistan with 85 small "Raven" drone aircraft, a key step in meeting Islamabad's calls for access to US drone technology.
- 23 The World Bank (WB) has approved \$41 million as additional financing for the Third Partnership for Polio Eradication Project (TPPEP) to support Pakistan's efforts for immunizing 32 million children.
- 24 In collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), organized a three-day International Seminar on Nuclear Safety and Security Challenges of the 21st century.
- 27 President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the business community and entrepreneurs to prepare a Charter of Economy in consultation with all political parties to address the economic challenges facing the country.
- 30 Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously-developed Air Launched Cruise Missile, Hatf-VIII (Ra'ad). The Ra'ad Missile, with a range of over 350 km, has been developed exclusively to launch from aerial platforms.

### ***May 2011***

- 1 The Government intends to set up a separate directorate for electronic media, placing the print media exclusively under the control of PID, said Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan.
- 2 Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan offered to fulfill Pakistan's electricity needs as the AJK has the potential to generate 20,000 megawatt of power.
- 3 The world's most wanted man and al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed by the US Special Forces in a midnight operation, Pakistani officials have confirmed. He carried \$50 million head money placed on him by the US State Department. The Pakistan government was on board regarding the operation for nabbing the high-value target and cooperated with the US.
- 4 President Zardari with reference to Osama bin Laden said that a decade of cooperation and partnership between the United States and Pakistan led to the elimination of Osama bin Laden who was a threat to the civilized world.

- 6** The United States said it would stand by its ally Pakistan despite the discovery and killing of Osama bin Laden by US troops in Pakistan, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on a visit to Rome.

While concluding his three-day official visit to France, Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani signed a declaration on security cooperation with his French counterpart Francois Fillon.