

Chronology of Pakistan

2nd January to 30th December 2009

January 2009

- 2** Pakistan and India exchanged lists of their respective nuclear installations and facilities in accordance with the Article-II of the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities signed between Pakistan and India on 31st Dec, 1988.
- 6** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said that Pakistan stood for tension-free relations with all the countries, including India and urged the international community to help resolve the core issue of Kashmir between Pakistan and India.
- 7** President Asif Ali Zardari called for foreign allies to provide more support - not more troops - to help win the battle against terrorists along with the volatile Pak-Afghan border.
- 8** President Asif Ali Zardari and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai discussed matters of mutual interest and pledged to work together to fight terrorism and extremism along with their common border. Both leaders reiterated their resolve to improve relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan for the betterment of their people.
- 10** US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher praised Pakistan for its crackdown on militants blamed for the Mumbai attacks, but called for its Government to go further to rid the region of the scourge of extremism.
- 11** The Federal Government notified the Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration Ordinance 2002, (XCVIII of 2002).
- 12** During a meeting with Pakistani leadership, Joe Biden, US Vice President said that the new US administration would extend full cooperation to Pakistan to ensure long-term democratic development in Pakistan.
- 14** US Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton lauded Pakistan's efforts against terrorism and pledged that the incoming Obama Administration would work closely with Pakistan and Afghanistan to root out terrorism.

- 17** Eight Karakoram-8P basic/advanced jet trainers were inducted into the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The aircrafts were handed over to the PAF by the People's Republic of China.
- 18** Prime Minister Gilani called on President Asif Ali Zardari at the Presidency where both the leaders reviewed different bills submitted by some political parties and said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would consider and support any consensus bill on the constitutional amendments that may be brought before the Parliament to repeal the controversial 17th Amendment from the Constitution.
- 20** Pakistan and Britain agreed that there is an urgent need for long-term strategy on Afghanistan with close cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbours and friends.
- 22** The Federal Cabinet approved the modalities for the reinstatement of over 7,700 public sector employees, sacked during 1996-98, within two to three months. These employees will be given three-year arrears along with promotion to higher scale.
- 23** US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shared with President Asif Ali Zardari the vision of the new Obama Administration and its policies towards the region and Pakistan.
- 24** Senator John Kerry, Head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee urged bolstering US economic and security assistance for Pakistan towards defeating extremism along the Afghan border.
- 26** The appointment of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke by the Obama Administration as the US Special Envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan signals that diplomacy will be given a greater chance by Washington.
- 29** Advocating the need for recasting Pakistan-US relationship into a long-term partnership for peace, stability and development, President Asif Ali Zardari asked President Barack Obama to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute that remains at the heart of South Asian unrest and challenges.

31 In a meeting with President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, Prime Minister Gilani said the EU and its member states need to provide market access to the Pakistani products under the generalized system of preferences and the Free Trade Agreement.

February 2009

1 While meeting President ICRC Jakob Kellinberger, President Red Cross on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani appreciated operations of the Red Cross in Pakistan in the wake of natural disasters and proposed enhanced cooperation with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

2 A new system of SIM activation after verification of consumers' particulars from NADRA has been made functional.

5 The Cabinet approved two draft bills, namely the "Protection Against Harassment at the Workplace Bill 2008" and the "Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2008".

6 Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani reiterated Islamabad's offer to New Delhi to resume the peace process for engagement and resumption of the composite dialogue in order to resolve the longstanding disputes, including Kashmir.

8 Vice President Joe Biden believes that, "no strategy for Afghanistan can succeed without Pakistan." "We must all strengthen our cooperation with the people and the Government of Pakistan, help them stabilise the Tribal areas and promote economic development and opportunity throughout the country."

9 Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said while speaking at the 45th Security Conference in Munich, Germany that after Afghanistan, perhaps no country had suffered more in human and material terms than Pakistan.

11 Pakistan and the United States agreed to jointly review the policy to counter extremism and terrorism to ensure peace in the region. It was the crux of meetings of

the visiting US Special Representative Richard Holbrooke with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani.

- 12** President Zardari congratulated President Obama on assuming the office of the US President and expressed the hope that there would be a beneficial change for the world, particularly for this region and Pakistan-US relations whereas US President Barack Hussein Obama agreed to start an active engagement for the resolution of problems facing the region through a holistic strategy.

- 15** President Asif Ali Zardari promulgated the Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Ordinance, 2009 to reinstate those employees who were removed from their services from November 1, 1996 to December 31, 1998.

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani congratulated Ali Moeen Nawazish, the brilliant student of a Rawalpindi school on clinching the historic world record by securing 21 A grades in the A-Level examinations.

- 16** Under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) several camps had been set up to support the victims of FATA and Balochistan.

- 17** The NWFP Government abolished all “un-Islamic” laws in the Malakand division after reaching an understanding about the enforcement of Nizam-e-Adl Regulation in seven districts of the Malakand division and Kohistan district of the Hazara division.

- 18** President Asif Ali Zardari said that the Government is pursuing a three-pronged strategy to counter terrorism and Pakistan is taking political, economic and military measures to find the short and long-term solution to the problem.

- 19** Interpol Chief Khoo Boon Hui praised Pakistan for setting up the National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA), hoping that it would promote greater coordination between intelligence agencies in fighting extremism and terrorism.

- 22** President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his desire to strengthen the already cordial relationship between Pakistan and China and said that China could get access to its

ports for trading with the rest of the world.

- 23** In a bid to promote peace and friendship between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, a 13-member Indian delegation, comprising eminent civil society members, journalists, peace and human rights activists, crossed the Wagha border to reach Pakistan.
- 24** President Asif Ali Zardari, stressing the need for interaction between the financial institutions of Pakistan and China, urged the Chinese investors to benefit from the trade opportunities available in Pakistan.
- 25** Return of peace to Swat Valley received a big boost with the announcement of a permanent ceasefire by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Swat chapter chief Maulana Fazlullah. As a goodwill gesture, the Swat Taliban chief announced to free seven security personnel.

Chinese President Hu Jintao told President Asif Ali Zardari that his visit to the Chinese cities of Wuhan and Shanghai was conducive to promoting pragmatic cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

- 26** US President Barack Obama in his first address to the joint session of both the Chambers of the Congress vowed to forge a new comprehensive policy towards Pakistan and Afghanistan to curb violent extremism in the region, considered vital to the American security interests.

March 2009

- 3** US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has said he is convinced of Pakistan's recognition of the importance to address militancy along with its Afghan border.
- 4** University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) presented 'Brilliance in Pakistan' Awards to over 160 secondary school students from all over Pakistan for

their outstanding results in the Cambridge O Level, Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge AS Level and Cambridge International A Level in the June 2008 examination sessions.

- 8** President Asif Ali Zardari emphasized that the Government is determined to bring back stability, peace and tranquility that was once the characteristics of the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA).
- 9** Under a four-pronged strategy, Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the Government had a definite agenda for women development and empowerment. Efforts are underway to reduce feminized poverty, promote gender equality, end violence against women and frame laws to empower the women.
- 10** The political authorities and elders of grand Jirga of Momand Tribes have signed a 28-point agreement to bring a lasting peace and normalcy in the violence-hit Bajaur Agency. According to the agreement inked between elders of Mamond tribes and high-ups of the political administration, all militant organizations would stand abolished and their members and activists would surrender to Momand Tribes and the Government.
- 12** President Asif Ali Zardari and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad expressed their resolve to upgrade and further intensify their existing bilateral ties, particularly in energy, trade and economic fields, for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.
- 13** During Pakistan-EU Ministerial meeting in Prague, Pakistan and the EU have decided to establish a Joint Commission for promoting economic relations and exchange views on issues such as governance, human rights, migration, development cooperation, science and technology.
- 14** Asia Society will exhibit 50 contemporary visual art works by 15 artists in New York from Sep 10, 2009 to Jan 2010. This is the first time a mainstream museum would be hosting a show of Pakistani visual arts in the United States. The show was aimed at creating connections and building bridges with those in the West.

- 17** A three-day National Polio Eradication campaign started throughout the country to immunize children under age of five years. Under Expanded Programme on Immunization, total 30 million children will be vaccinated in all the districts of the country.
- 20** The Academic Council Committee has been formed to establishment the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU). The Committee has taken several decisions regarding acquisition of 220 acres of land worth Rs 80 million on the Bakrani Airport Road and appointment of staff for the facility so that development can begin soon.
- 23** The Government approved representation of the minorities in the Senate by reserving five percent service quota for them for the first time in the country.
- 26** The top US business lobby urged a cut in US tariffs on Pakistani textiles, saying that trade would be a valuable part of the new US strategy to bring stability to the nuclear-armed nation.
- 27** Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said New Delhi wants to develop cordial relations with Pakistan as an environment of mutual confidence and friendship will be beneficial for occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- 28** A Rs46.6 billion development package for Balochistan was announced by the Government. Out of this sum, four water storage reservoirs would be constructed at a cost of Rs 36 billion, small dams at a cost of Rs 2.5 billion, Rs 03 billion will be spent on projects in Quetta and Rs 05 billion on transmission lines.
- President Asif Ali Zardari welcomed US President Barack Obama's call to US Congress to pass a bill for \$1.5 billion aid to Pakistan every year.
- 30** US special representative for the region Richard Holbrooke and Chief of the Central Command Gen David Petraeus said that the United States vowed to work towards building trust and wide-ranging partnership with Pakistan in order to dismantle the al-Qaeda network on its side of the Afghan border.

- 31** President Asif Ali Zardari said that his Government is pursuing a long-term vision for peace, stability and cooperation in the region while addressing a two-days Pak-Afghan dialogue on building long-term partnership organized by the South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA).

April 2009

- 1** The Higher Education Commission (HEC) organized its first merit scholarship certificate award ceremony under the Project 'Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for the students of Balochistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)' by giving awards to approx. 120 students.
- 2** In a meeting between Presidents of three countries namely Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey at Ankara, Turkey vowed to increase coordination among their political, military and intelligence tiers to jointly fight militancy and terrorism and to achieve greater economic cooperation in the region.
- 4** General David Petraeus, Commander of the US Central Command, sought Congressional support to develop a sustained relationship with Pakistan. The members of the House and Armed Services Committee broadly backed President Barack Obama's new Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy to stabilise the region but stressed the need for effective use of the new aid in the two South Asian countries.
- 5** The Government has signed an agreement with the World Bank amounting to US\$ 0.5 million grant for technical assistance in the National Environment Policy.
- 8** A United Nations (UN) initial investigative team arrived on a two-day visit to probe the murder of Benazir Bhutto. The six-member team, headed by Mark Quarterman, will prepare a Review Report for technical and security assistance of Central Investigative Commission.
- 10** President Asif Zardari called upon Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani to "take appropriate steps to fulfill the promise made in his address to Parliament by urgently

initiating the process for implementing the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and repeal of the 17th Amendment”.

- 11** The National Assembly adopted a unanimous resolution authorizing the Speaker to constitute a Special Committee of the House for introducing legislation to implement the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and to restore the 1973 Constitution in its original shape.
- 16** Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged the Friends of Pakistan (FoP) countries to join hands in making Pakistan, which is participating as a frontline state in the war against terrorism, a role model for the world.
- 17** Pakistan decided to inform India about its intention to move to the International Court of Arbitration and the International Neutral Expert on Water against diversion of Neelum River water to Wullar barrage and faulty design of the Kishanganga hydropower project.
- 18** According to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, International donors have pledged more than five billion dollars to stabilise Pakistan, a frontline State in the battle against terrorism. The United States and Japan promised one billion dollars each, the European Union pledged 640 million dollars, and Saudi Arabia had committed 700 million dollars to the fellow Muslim nation. The total amount pledged is \$5.28 billion.
- 23** About 1,511 villages and 293,956 consumers in FATA have been provided with electricity. Thirty-one development schemes are in progress under Annual Development Programme for which Rs 160.335 million have been allocated.
- 26** General David Petraeus, Chief of the US Central Command, sought Congressional support for a \$3 billion programme to enhance Pakistan’s counter insurgency capability, stressing that the United States must be seen as a reliable ally of the key South Asian country.
- 28** President Asif Ali Zardari ruled out the possibility of his country’s nuclear weapons falling into the hands of the Taliban and said that Pakistan has a strong command-and-control system for its nuclear weapons which is fully in place.

May 2009

- 1** The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved 98 projects worth Rs 146.2 billion, including two important projects of coal gasification at the Thar coal site which will produce 1,000 MW of electricity.
- 3** President Obama's special representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke dispelled the impression that Washington is focusing on Pakistan's military rather than the civilian leadership by saying that Pakistan's Civilian Government is fully capable of governing and resolving the issues being confronted by the country.
- 4** The World Press Freedom Day was observed across Pakistan with the aim to encourage and develop press freedom initiatives. Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said the Government is committed to the freedom of media and protection of journalists to ensure independent media environment.
- 8** Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani ordered the armed forces to launch an operation against militants and terrorists to flush them out completely from Swat and Malakand in order to ensure security, restore honour and dignity of the homeland and for the protection of the people.
- 11** The Netherlands, under a bilateral programme, has made available more than Euro 550 million as grant in aid to Pakistan. The bilateral programme is part of a multi-annual strategic plan covering the period from 2008-2011.
- 13** Acting President Dr. Fahmida Mirza said that the Parliamentarians are committed to resolve the problems confronted by Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) and have generously donated money to the 'Speaker's Relief Fund' constituted for the displaced persons of the Tribal Areas, Swat and Malakand.
- 14** Pakistan and the UK agreed to further broaden their cooperation and partnership by establishing a strategic dialogue on four points to promote mutual prosperity and stability. This was decided during a meeting between the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and President Asif Ali Zardari.

- 15** Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to improve the border control system, import 1000MW of electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan with an estimated cost of \$750 million and establish rail links to boost regional trade.
- 16** French President Nicolas Sarkozy told President Asif Ali Zardari that he wanted Pakistan to have a wide-ranging deal to buy nuclear equipment like the one obtained by its rival India.
- 19** The All Parties Conference (APC) unanimously backed the Government's counter-insurgency operation 'Rah-e-Rast' by adopting a 16-point resolution with the resolve to make efforts to unite the nation in the face of insurgency in Swat and the Malakand Division.
- 20** In the wake of ongoing load management in different parts of the country, two power plants having a total generation capacity of 300 MW are being added to the national power grid.
- 21** The Government announced Rs. 08 billion relief and rehabilitation package for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) of the Malakand Division, including Swat. A one-time grant of Rs 25,000 per household for the displaced families is also announced.
- 22** The US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee has endorsed a bipartisan measure to authorize a combined package of \$7.5 billion economic and more than \$2 billion in security assistance for Pakistan over next five years.
- 24** SM Krishna, the Indian Foreign Affairs Minister said India's new Government is ready to extend "the hand of friendship" to Pakistan as long as Islamabad moves to dismantle Islamic militant groups based on its soil.
- 25** Literary, intellectuals, scholars and distinguished people from different segments of the society from within Pakistan and around the world congratulated Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), and hailed the selection of Benazir Bhutto for 'The Quaid-i-Awam International Award for Democracy' and Swedish poet Peter Curman for 'The Quaid-i-

Azam International Award for Literature.’

- 27** Security forces launched a military operation against Baitullah Mehsud-led militants in the South Waziristan.
- 28** Deputy Chairman Nadra Muhammad Tariq Malik announced that 30 mobile vans and 73 offices of the organization are providing Computerized National Identity Cards (NICs) free of cost to the IDPs of the Malakand Division on war footings.
- 29** While reviewing progress of the military operation in Swat and Malakand, Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani expressed satisfaction and said the operation would continue till its logical conclusion and the writ of the Government would be restored at all costs.
- 30** Acknowledging widespread public support behind the Pakistani government’s ongoing anti-Taliban campaign in Malakand, the White House National Security Adviser described Pakistan’s effort as “impressively successful”. He also applauded the way Islamabad is trying to live up to the enormous task of looking after more than two million displaced people from the north-western Swat and adjoining valleys.
- 31** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani announced Rs 80 billion development outlay for Balochistan in the coming budget and said the Government is fully committed to addressing the sense of deprivation in the people of the Province.

June 2009

- 4** Special US envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke said the United States Administration is seeking an additional \$200 million in emergency aid from Congress to help the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Swat and Malakand in Pakistan.
- 7** The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, said the new judicial policy will be implemented in letter and spirit to ensure speedy justice to the people at the grass root level.

- 10** US Representative in the region Richard Holbrooke said Pakistani politicians and Armed forces are showing more cohesiveness in the fight against extremists and public opinion is solidifying behind the Government as People are really fed up with what the Taliban and the other extremists have done.
- 13** In his address to the nation, the President Asif Ali Zardari said that the ongoing fight against terrorism and militancy enjoys full support of the Parliament, Political parties as well as the People of Pakistan and it is the “war for the country’s survival” and he ‘vowed to continue it to the last limit.’
- 14** The Government announced its budget for 2009-10, estimating total revenue of Rs 2174.9 billion and budget deficit of 4.9 per cent (Rs 722.5 billion).
- 15** As a step to provide financial relief to the poverty-hit section of the society, the PPP Government announced to raise the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) budget from Rs 22 billion in 2008-09 to Rs 70 billion, giving it a 200 per cent increase in the new budget for 2009-10. The range of this programme is expanded to support the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- 18** Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that his country is ready to resume talks with Pakistan following a six-month freeze between the nuclear-armed rivals in the wake of last year’s terror attack in Mumbai but Manmohan Singh cautioned that relations between the neighbors would remain “under considerable stress” and progress would be slow.
- 20** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has announced a package of over Rs 24 billion for capacity building and strengthening of police and law-enforcement agencies (LEAs) in the NWFP. He stressed the importance of well-equipped, trained and highly motivated LEAs to ensure durable peace and stability in the Province.

The US Congress approved \$1.4 billion economic and security assistance for Pakistan, as the Senate overwhelmingly passed a \$106 billion War Supplemental bill, giving the Obama Administration the urgently needed \$225 million as relief assistance for

displaced persons of the Tribal Areas.

- 21** US President Barrack Hussain Obama ruled out sending American troops to Pakistan to hunt down top Al-Qaeda leadership and expressed confidence that the Pakistani Government and military would win war against extremists.
Pakistan has won the T-20 Cricket World Cup at Lords, UK bringing joy to the nation.
- 23** The Government has come out with revised budgetary measures, which include increasing the salaries of grade 1 to 16 employees by 20 per cent and similar increase in pension for those who retired 10 years ago.
- 24** The Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, in collaboration with the Fellowship Fund for Pakistan (FFFP), a charitable trust announced the appointment of Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi as a Wilson Centre Public Policy Scholar.
- 25** Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said the historic victory of the Pakistan's cricket team in the ICC Twenty 20 World Cup final revived the much needed spirit of nationhood amongst Pakistanis, who were suffering from depression.
- 26** The Budget for the fiscal year 2009-10 was formally passed by the National Assembly. Rs 2.9 trillion budget was approved by adopting the Finance Bill. All the amendments by the Government in the Finance Bill were also passed.
- 28** G8 Foreign Ministers said in a joint statement that they are "firmly committed" to supporting Afghanistan and Pakistan as "they confront grave security, humanitarian, counter-narcotics, terrorism and economic challenges." The Group of Eight leading powers turned their attention to stabilising Pakistan and Afghanistan for shoring up faltering efforts with some 30 regional players
- 29** Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani ruled out any dialogue with terrorists, saying the war against anti-state elements had entered its final phase and the military operation would be completed soon.
- 30** President Asif Ali Zardari said that a 27-member Parliamentary Committee had been set up comprising representatives of all political parties and federating units to make

recommendations for amendments in the Constitution by removing its anti-democratic clauses.

July 2009

- 2 The Ahmadzai Wazir tribe of South Waziristan announced that it would abide by the peace deal signed with the government in 2007 and would not attack security forces in its area.
- 3 The Rana Bhagwandas Judicial Commission has been set up to look into the oil pricing mechanism and the trend of soaring prices of petroleum products since 2001 and has submitted its report to the Supreme Court.
- 5 Federal Minister for Information and Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira launched a postcard campaign aimed at getting the Child Protection Bill legislated by the Parliament.
- 8 The National Vocational and Technical Education Commission (Navtec) has released Rs 387.45 million for setting up vocational training centers in remote tehsils of Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas under the President's "Funni Maharat Programme".
- 9 G8 leaders have expressed solidarity with Pakistan in its fight against the Taliban and called upon Afghanistan to ensure credible and safe elections reflecting the people's will.
- 11 Employees of Health and Population Welfare Departments brought out rallies and organized walks in different towns of the Province to mark the World Population Day.
- 12 The Forest Act 1927 is being revised since it has become redundant, and is actually helpful in timber theft and deforestation.
- 15 The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has so far distributed about

155,348 cash disbursement cards among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), enabling them to draw about Rs 2.407 billion.

- 19 Week-long ceremonies to mark the 63rd Accession to Pakistan Day concluded on Sunday, Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and in several parts of the world renewed their pledge to continue the struggle for the right of self-determination.
- 25 President Asif Ali Zardari reconstituted the National Finance Commission, bringing the total number of its members back to nine.
- 26 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said during a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif that Provincial Governments are authorized to make changes in the local body system according to their requirements.
- 29 Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani allocated Rs 1.25 billion for Internally Displaced People and asked the agencies concerned to make a comprehensive plan for the next phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- 31 President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani have welcomed the Supreme Court's order declaring the Nov 3, 2007, emergency unconstitutional and termed it a triumph of democratic principles.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has constituted a Committee to work out a plan to promote austerity measures and reduce non-development expenditures.

August 2009

- 1 President Asif Ali Zardari reconstituted the Council of Common Interests (CCI). Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani will head the CCI.
- 4 The Federal Ministry of Culture decided to hand over 126 archaeological sites in Sindh, except Mohenjo-Daro, to the Provincial Government.
- 5 Wapda has finalized the alternative site for the Hingol dam in Balochistan, 16 kilometers

north of the original site.

The Federal Cabinet has decided to do away with the condition of bachelor's degree for the candidates for the Senate and the National and Provincial Assemblies, in line with the Supreme Court judgment of April 21.

- 6 The National Assembly passed the Representation of the People Act (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which seeks to expedite the process of disposal of election petitions by barring tribunals from adjourning election petitions for more than seven days.

The return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their hometowns in Malakand Division entered its final phase when the IDPs living outside the official relief camps started leaving Mardan for their homes.

- 8 The International Monetary Fund has pledged a back-up loan of \$3.2 billion to Pakistan, besides approving a third installment of \$840 million to help the country weather the current economic crisis.

- 10 Pakistan held up the resumption of nuclear arms control negotiations at the UN Conference on Disarmament as it asked to reopen a work plan already agreed on by the main nuclear powers.

The Government has launched a special card scheme for people with disabilities with an idea to provide them jobs, admission to education institutions, concession in fares, insurance cover and bank loans.

- 11 Brazil has announced a contribution of 155 tons of wheat flour for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through World Food Programme (WFP) managed 'Relief Bank'.

- 12 The Government approved a number of amendments to Frontier Crime Regulation (FCR), proposing to abolish controversial powers of the administration in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

A five-year textile policy unveiled that offers about Rs 87 billion cash subsidy to the textile and clothing sector to boost exports. It envisages plans to boost textile exports to \$25 billion from the current \$17.8 billion by 2014.

- 13** President Asif Ali Zardari announced political, judicial and administrative reforms for the Tribal areas, allowing political activities in FATA, setting up an Appellate Tribunal, curtailing arbitrary powers of Political Agents, giving people right to appeal and bail, excluding women and children from the territorial responsibility clause and envisaging audit of accounts by the Auditor General.
- 15** The Government announced that 45,045 acres of agricultural land would be distributed among 4,196 landless farmers in Sindh. Seventy per cent of the recipients will be women. Under the scheme, 25 acres will be given to each family.
- 19** According to the Federal Minister for Petroleum Naveed Qamar, over 10,500 employees of the Oil and Gas Development Company will get 438 million shares worth Rs 36 billion from the Government holding.

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has constituted a 53-members Business Persons Council to develop a strategy for the Commerce and Trade sector.

- 20** The 4,500-megawatt Diamer-Bhasha dam project and about two dozen other infrastructure and social sector schemes worth Rs 977 billion have been approved.

Pakistan and the United States have agreed to revive the Strategic Dialogue and upgrade it to Ministerial level for rejuvenating their strategic partnership.

- 24** The Government has awarded a \$603 million contract to a Chinese firm for upgrading 13 generation units of Guddu power plant.

- 26** The Federal Cabinet approved installation of 14 rental power plants to generate 1,500MW to partially offset the overall deficit of 2,700MW. The remaining 700MW will come from the existing system. A total of 2,250MW of rental projects have been approved.

27 About 1.6 million out of total 2.3 million people, displaced after the Malakand military operation, have returned to their homes.

The National Finance Commission finalized the terms of reference for the second day's crucial meeting after Punjab expressed its willingness to accept distribution of resources on the basis of multiple criteria, instead of only population.

28 Britain has reiterated its pledge to provide £665 million (\$1.08 billion) to help Pakistan stabilize its violent border areas and tackle the underlying causes of extremism.

29 In a landmark decision, the Government approved a self-governance reforms package for the Northern Areas aimed at giving it full internal autonomy, but without the status of a Province, and changed its name to Gilgit-Baltistan.

31 The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) announced the formation of the proposed Inland Revenue Service (IRS) as proposed by the World Bank for functional integration of income tax, sales tax and federal excise duty as part of the reforms of the tax administration.

September 2009

2 The Government has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank for a \$230 million loan to be used for improving national highways.

3 The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (NCC) approved 20 development projects of Rs 259.4 billion with a foreign exchange component of Rs 149 billion.

5 The Federal Government has approved the Annual Development Plan (ADP) for Gilgit-Baltistan. The Government would spend Rs 6.5 billion on the socio-economic uplift of Gilgit-Baltistan during the current year.

8 The Government of Sindh and Engro Power Generation Ltd signed an agreement for generating 600-1000MW of electricity from Thar coal.

President Asif Ali Zardari has stressed the need for a collective Parliamentary decision to address the Balochistan issue, saying a constitutional cure for the Province's problems will be more effective.

9 The Federal Cabinet has approved the National Education Policy which sets ambitious goals of raising the annual budgetary allocations for the sector to seven per cent of the GDP and increasing literacy rate to 85 per cent by 2015.

11 The World Bank has approved a \$300 million concessional loan for Pakistan for promotion of education and poverty reduction.

12 An apex committee for students loan scheme, headed by Mohammad Kamran Shehzad, Deputy Governor, State Bank, has approved a sum of Rs 192.391 million for disbursement as interest-free loans to deserving students for higher studies.

15 The Government launched an income generation programme, 'Waseela-i-Haq' through which interest-free loans of Rs 300,000 will be given to 'needy and deserving' people under a formula prepared by the World Bank.

The Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, Qamar Zaman Kaira, took oath as the first Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan.

17 The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) of the Planning Commission approved 42 projects of Rs 107.2 billion with a foreign aid component of Rs10 billion.

24 The US Senate has approved a compromise legislation to triple non-military aid to Pakistan, President Barack Obama announced in an international summit in New York.

25 Paying glowing tribute to former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's singular contribution to promotion of democracy and women's rights, the prestigious Louise T. Blouin Foundation posthumously conferred its top Award on the acclaimed leader.

- 28 According to the new National Drinking Water Policy, the entire population will have access to safe and sustainable drinking water supply by 2025.
- 29 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani announced a socio-economic package for Gilgit-Baltistan which includes a series of projects in education, health, agriculture and tourism.
- 30 Pakistan has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide transit facilities to India for its trade with Afghanistan.

October 2009

- 4 Federal Minister for Water and Power Raja Pervez Ashraf inaugurated various projects for the supply of gas to a number of villages in Union Council Sahang. The projects will be completed at the cost of Rs 450 million.
- Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has sanctioned Rs 980 million for the first of its kind 50 MW coal-based power plant in Punjab to generate electricity at the rate of Rs3.50 unit.
- 5 The Senate adopted a unanimous resolution calling for establishment of a High Court in Islamabad.
- 6 About 86,000 vulnerable and food insecure households in 17 districts across the country would benefit from the agriculture inputs distribution for Rabi season. The project launched by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has the support of EU Food Facility (EUFF) programme.
- 7 The Balochistan High Court has ordered the SHO of Dera Bugti police station to register an FIR against former President Pervez Musharraf and others in the murder case of Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Bugti.

- 9 The Strategic Policy Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Malakand and Swat approved Rs 86.215 billion for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the affected areas, including FATA.

The National Assembly has unanimously approved the Stock Exchanges Corporatization, Demutualization and Integration Law which will soon be placed for promulgation before the Senate.

- 10 Pakistan has rejected an Indian Government claim that Kashmir is an integral part of India, saying United Nations resolutions have recognized the Himalayan region as a disputed territory.

- 12 The State Bank of Pakistan has revised rules for consumer financing after amending the Rule 13 of the Prudential Regulations for Consumer Financing.

- 13 Members of the National Finance Commission reached a consensus over distribution of gas development surcharge and gas royalty among Provinces.

- 15 US President Barack Obama signed into law a bill that triples non-military aid to Pakistan to the tune of \$7.5 billion over the next five years.

- 16 The 10th Five-year Plan (2010-15) would focus on converting the country from agriculture-based economy to an industrialized nation in medium-and-long term, it was observed in the working group meetings of the five-year plan.

The Export Development Fund (EDF) has approved 10 projects worth Rs 183 million for the promotion of exports in various sectors.

- 20 The Islamabad capital territory administration is launching a number of development projects in the rural areas under the Islamabad Development Package.

- 21 The Federal Cabinet formally accepted the Kerry-Lugar Bill (Enhanced Partnership Act with Pakistan Bill of 2009).

- 25** Pakistan and Turkey decided to upgrade their strategic partnership for combating terrorism and to strengthen political, diplomatic, security and economic cooperation.
- 27** European Union Foreign Ministers vowed full support for Pakistan's counter-terror drive and said the 27-nation bloc was ready to help civilians affected by the military offensive in South Waziristan.

November 2009

- 3** The Anti-Money Laundering Bill 2009 has been approved by the National Assembly's Standing Committee on finance.
- 4** The National Assembly unanimously passed a bill to provide for a higher punishment for sexual harassment, expanding the definition of the crime to facilitate prosecution.
- 6** The Special Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms agreed to abolish the Concurrent List and recommended transfer of all subjects to the Provinces from the Federation which would keep only Foreign Affairs, Finance, Defense, Currency and Communications.
- 9** The European Union, partnering with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme, has provided agricultural inputs, including 1,865 tons of quality seeds of wheat, tomatoes, lentils and peas and 3,420 tons of fertilizer, to about 100,000 small farmers to overcome rising scarcity of food in Pakistan.
- 10** Work on the sixth agriculture census has begun simultaneously across the country, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
- 11** The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance unanimously approved the Competition Bill, 2009, validating all actions and decisions taken by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) since the promulgation of the

Competition Ordinance.

- 12 The National Assembly unanimously passed a landmark bill to regulate transplants of human organs in the country, making their sale and unauthorized transplant punishable with up to 10 years in prison.
- 14 The Divisional Development Working Party (DDWP) Rawalpindi approved 16 development projects worth Rs191 million for Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Chakwal districts.
- 18 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s registration records for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from South Waziristan in Dera Ismail Khan and Tank have now been verified by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) with about 275,000 people (comprising 36,787 families) confirmed as eligible for aid.
- 20 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani urged the United States to share the main features of its future roadmap for Afghanistan and to incorporate Pakistan's viewpoint in it.

President Asif Ali Zardari directed that a provision for satellite imaging of development projects in FATA should be included in PC-1 of schemes in future for effective implementation and monitoring of uplift initiatives in the Tribal Areas.

To replace the security check posts erected after the recent wave of terror attacks, the Central Development Working Party has approved an automated security plan to monitor key spots through a network of online cameras.
- 21 The NWFP Government will extend a recently promulgated anti-terror law to Provincially Administrated Tribal Areas (PATA).
- 23 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the Government was committed to provide maximum resources to achieve self-reliance in defense-related projects and the indigenous manufacture of JF-17 Thunder aircraft manifested this resolve.

- 24 Japan has extended another three billion yen (\$33 million) as non-project grant aid (NGPA) for Pakistan.
- 25 The Finance Ministry has said in a report that about 50 per cent of the Federal development budget will have to be cut due to the financial constraints arising out of the poor law and order situation in the country and cost of the ongoing war against terrorism.
- The Islamabad administration has planned to construct 23 mini-dams, 25 retaining walls, 11 green houses, three veterinary hospitals, 15 fish ponds and 100 water courses during the current fiscal year.
- 27 President Asif Ali Zardari re-promulgated the Competition Ordinance 2009.
- President Asif Ali Zardari re-promulgated 27 ordinances, leaving nine others, including the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), to lapse after expiry of their 120-day term.
- 29 As the military operation in South Waziristan enters the final stage, President Asif Ali Zardari has directed the NWFP Governor Owais Ghani to finalize the rehabilitation and reconstruction plan for the tribal agency.

December 2009

- 4 A Rs. 60 million dairy and livestock project has been commissioned at Qazi Ahmed in Nawabshah district to produce milk and meat for export.
- 6 The Supreme Court reopens the cases which had been filed in October 2007 against the National Reconciliation Ordinance.
- 8 The Balochistan Home Department has issued a list of 992 people of the Province who have been 'missing' for several years.
- A German solar company Azur Solar GmbH has signed a MoU with Raza Impex Pvt

Ltd Pakistan during the visit of Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani to Germany. The two companies have agreed to enter into a joint venture for installation of a 50MW solar power plant in Pakistan.

- 9 The Balochistan Government announced it had withdrawn 89 cases registered against leaders and activists of different political parties in the Province.

Japan has extended a grant of \$4.42 million to help Pakistan procure 25.7 million doses of oral Polio vaccine for children under the age of five years.

- 10 At the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, Pakistan and India, the two delegations hold closely aligned positions and are working together in the G-77 negotiating bloc.

The State Bank has arranged an awareness programme on Islamic banking as a part of its efforts to promote a parallel, competitive and Shariah compliant banking system in the country.

- 15 Pakistan is set to get the fourth disbursement of \$1.2 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the Stand-by Arrangement (SBA).

- 16 The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) slapped Rs 318 million fines on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) giants for acting in a cartel-like manner and maintaining artificially-high prices.

The Federal Cabinet approved a number of austerity measures, including a 40 per cent reduction in foreign visits by the President and the Prime Minister, reducing utilities expenses of the Presidency and the Prime Minister's House by 25 per cent and capping them for three years and curtailment of the number of Ministries and Divisions.

In a letter to Barack Obama, President Asif Ali Zardari has turned down the US request for expanding Pakistani military operations in FATA.

- 17 The Government has decided to provide Rs 6.18 billion for construction of an international airport in Gwadar.
- 21 The Government has decided to withdraw electricity subsidies being given to lifeline consumers and the agriculture sector. The withdrawal of subsidy is part of the second phase of tariff increase under a commitment made to the International Monetary Fund. The tariff will be increased by 13.5 per cent for the January-March period next year.
- 22 The World Bank has refused to accept occupied Kashmir as an integral part of India and has insisted on a disclaimer from the Jammu and Kashmir Government that funding for a project will not be seen as recognition of India's territorial claim on the State.

The Government signed two financing agreements worth grant of Euro 25 million with the 'KfW', a Frankfurt-based German Government-owned development bank.

The process for privatization of 23 state-owned entities has been stepped up, Senator Waqar Ahmed Khan, Federal Minister for Privatization, said. Among the 23 active transactions, the major transactions include Pakistan Post Office Department (PPOD), Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco), Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco), Peshawar Electric supply Company (Pesco), Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco), Utility Stores Corporation, Kot Addu Power Company (Kapco), Jamshoro Power Company Limited (JPCL), National Power Construction Company, SME Bank Limited, Pakistan Machine Tool Factory and Heavy Electrical Complex.

- 24 The Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and the Government of Pakistan signed two oil and gas exploration agreements under the 'Petroleum Policy 2009'.
- 25 Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves are expected to shoot up to \$14.92 billion by the end of December with the disbursement of \$1.2 billion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- 26 The Government is all set to build a Rs. 01 billion monument at the site in Rawalpindi city where former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in a gun-and-suicide bomb attack on December 27, 2007.
- 27 Evacuee Trust Property Board has decided to restore the policy of 30 per cent increase in rent of its urban properties every three years after a lapse of eight years with effect from Jan 1, 2010.
- 30 Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has reiterated his Government's resolve to restore the 1973 Constitution in its original form and vowed to do away with the restriction on a person becoming Prime Minister for the third time.

The Seventh National Finance Commission (NFC) Award was signed by the Finance Ministers of the four Provinces and the Federal Government.

The Federal Cabinet has approved the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) bill and discussed issues concerning Balochistan, particularly the implementation of the Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan package.