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Thursday, March 11, 2010

Asif for enhanced Pak-UK relations

THE POST REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday stressed the need for Pakistan and Britain to work closely to further enhance their partnership in diverse areas mainly trade, investment and educational development.

Talking to Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, British Foreign Secretary's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan who called on him Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President said the partnership should be in view to eliminate militancy and terrorism from Pakistan and promote peace in the region and the world.

The matters relating to bilateral relations between the two countries, access to Pakistani products in European Union markets, regional issues, Pakistan's fight against militancy and the forthcoming Pak-EU Summit were discussed in the meeting.

Those who attended the meeting included Salman Faruqi, Secretary General to

FM briefs President

THE POST REPORT

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi met President Asif Ali Zardari here at the President House and briefed him on important affairs of Pakistan's foreign policy.

The foreign minister apprised the president about the outcome of Pak-India Foreign Secretaries Level talks. The meeting also discussed Pak-Afghan relations.

According to sources, President Asif Ali Zardari during the meeting emphasized that Pakistan wanted result oriented and productive talks with India.

The President said that Pakistan does not want talks for the sake of talks and interested in restoration of process of talks under the framework of the composite dialogue for the solution of all outstanding disputes with India including the core issue of Kashmir.

He expressed his disappointment over linking talks with terrorism by the Indian Government.

He said that Pakistan would continue to play its effective role for sustainable peace and stability in Afghanistan as it is also in its (Pakistan) interest.

The President, Senator Sughra Imam, federal secretaries foreign affairs, defence, and interior and senior government officials. British Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan Peter Tibber was also present.

The President said Pakistan look forward for the continued support of the British government in the EU for access to Pakistani products into the EU markets and initiation of the process towards Free Trade Agreement.

670 Pakistanis languishing in Afghan jails

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Six hundred and seventy Pakistanis went missing after 9/11 and were languishing in various jails of Afghanistan, sources disclosed on Wednesday.

However, Pakistanis officials have prepared report of 153 Pakistanis, which according to them, are languishing in Afghan jails under which the Pak-Afghan prisoners would be exchanged.

Sources in the NWFP government said that the Afghan

government had so far not informed about 670 Pakistanis.

These prisoners include youths from Malakand, Swat and other tribal areas had gone to Afghanistan on the invitation of Sufi Mohammad, said the sources, adding that 670 Pakistanis out of those went with Sufi Mohammad are still missing and have been included in the list of missing persons, while Afghan government have officially confirmed 153 Pakistanis in their jails.

Govt to retake control of Malakand

ONLINE

PESHAWAR: The NWFP government has decided to take back control of Pak Army after successful operation Rah-e-Rast in Malakand. On great demand of local residents of Swat, the federal government has announced setting up two cantonments in Malakand division, one cantonment would be established in Swat and other would be set up in Dir while both the cantonments posts would be included in jurisdiction of Mangla Corp. The cantonments would be established after taken back control from Army.

Sources told that it has been said in the briefing given by Defense leadership to Defense Committee of Senate at GHQ that civilian government was offered to control the area while, Pak Army would support them. Sources told that restoration of writ established by Pak Force is responsibility of Government. The members of ANP are being recommended to finalize date when government would take back the control of the area.



KARACHI: CJP Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry talks to a delegation of Karachi Bar Association. - APP PHOTO

Surreal arrests disrupt family

THE POST MONITORING

WASHINGTON: Talha Chaudhry says his brother gave little hint of his intentions the weekend he disappeared. The two had gone to lunch that Friday at a fried chicken restaurant in Springfield to celebrate the Muslim holiday Eid, the end of Ramadan. Umar, 24, a George Mason University student, told his younger brother he was going to spend the weekend in Baltimore with a friend. Great! Talha thought.

Their parents were away, so Talha had his Fairfax home all to himself -- a rare occurrence, says a Washington Post report.

It wasn't until that Monday, when Umar failed to show up for work at the family business, that Talha began to worry. Texts and calls went unanswered. That evening, he dialed the friend's cellphone number. The sound he heard floored him. It was an international dial tone. Then, no answer. He hung up and paced in circles.

CJCSC visits Italy

AGENCIES

ROME: General Tariq Majid, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) who is on an official visit to Italy for Bilateral Defence Talks on the invitation of his counterpart, spent a busy day at Rome and held extensive talks with top brass of Italian Armed Forces to include Chief of the Italian Defence General Staff, General Vincenzo Camporini.

According to ISPR, the CJCSC was received by General Camporini and presented guard of honour by a smartly turned out Italian Armed Forces contingent. The talks deliberating on bilateral cooperation were held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere between the high level defence officials from both sides.

Later during the meeting both sides also shared each others' security perspectives to develop a common insight into the strategic environment and the evolving scenarios.

Lauding the contribution and efforts of Italian troops in striving to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan and the region, General Tariq thanked the people and government of Italy for their forthright and proactive support to Pakistan in diverse fields especially for development assistance, cancelling and swapping the official debt of US\$185 Million, soft loan of 7.75 Million for SME promotion in Pakistan, provision of relief goods worth 3.6 Million Euros and announcement.

Inexpensive, expeditious justice a crucial duty: CJP

ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry Wednesday said that ensuring inexpensive and expeditious justice is a crucial duty and efforts of lawyers' community for implementation of national judicial policy is laudable.

Talking to delegations of Karachi Bar Association, Sindh High Court Bar Association, Malir District Bar Association, Larkana District Bar Association, Thatta District Bar Association and District Bar Association in Supreme Court Building, Branch Registry, Karachi, he said bench and bar must have cordial relations with each other to solve the problems of litigants.

He appreciated efforts of lawyers in the implementation of National Judicial Policy and expressed hope that lawyers will continue to come up to the

expectations of whole nation in terms of delay reduction and clearing backlog of cases.

According to a press release received here, the Chief Justice accepted invitation of various High Court and District Bar Associations to attend their annual dinner to be held in the coming months and informed the delegation of High Court Bar that he will try to visit Karachi every month to preside a Bench for one week.

The issue of corruption and incompetence among the staff and the judicial officers particularly at the district level was discussed and Chief Justice of Pakistan reiterated the need to have transparent and corruption-free judicial setup in the country.

He asked the delegation to provide concrete evidence in case any corruption is noticed amongst judges or court staff, assuring them that strict and immediate disciplinary action

will be taken against the culprits.

Karachi Bar Association President Mehmoodul Hassan requested the CJP to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of District Courts in Karachi that was agreed by the Chief Justice.

However, he suggested that all the stakeholders including the Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh and members of the Bar should develop consensus on this issue and also discuss it in some seminars. Once agreed proposals are firmed up only then the government could be approached to legislate upon this issue. The members discussed with the Chief Justice, issues and matters of interest of the legal/judicial fraternity and assured the Chief Justice of their full support and cooperation.

Monitoring cells established for NRO, NAB cases: In pursuance to the judgment of Supreme Court of Pakistan on

NRO, CJP Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry has established monitoring cells to monitor the progress and proceedings in the above noted and other cases under NAB Ordinance.

The CJP has nominated the Justice Ghulam Rabbani, the SC judge, as head of the monitoring cell in the Supreme Court.

Similarly, the concerned high courts have also established the monitoring cells to monitor the progress of the cases regarding NRO.

In the High Court of Sindh, Chief Justice Sarmad Jalal Osmani has nominated himself as head of the monitoring cell. In Lahore High Court, Chief Justice Kh Muhammad Sharif has nominated himself as the head of the monitoring cell. In Peshawar High Court, Chief Justice Ijaz Afzal Khan has nominated himself as the head of the monitoring cell and in Balochistan High Court.

Pakistani tops accountancy examination

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani student Hassan Siddiq, who is management accountant trainee, stood first in the world in one of the prestigious Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) November 2009 accountancy examination.

Hassan Siddiq is a resident of Karachi. Over 31,000 students from 87 countries sat the latest round of CIMA examination and the prize winners were awarded for their top scores and outstanding student performances spread throughout the world. CIMA is the only professional accountancy body that qualifies accountants solely for business and is the voice.

Hearing put off in Sharifs' references

THE POST REPORT

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court adjourned on Wednesday the hearing of application filed by the National Accountability Bureau seeking reopening of three corruption references against Sharif brothers.

Judge Tariq Abbasi heard the graft references about Hudabia Paper Mill, Iffefaq Foundries and Raiwand Assets against Sharif brothers, reported a private TV channel.

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Kidnapped boy's father returns to UK

THE POST REPORT

LAHORE: The father of a five-year-old British boy held captive in Pakistan has returned to the UK, according to sources. Sahil Saeed is being held for a £100,000 ransom after he was grabbed by gun and grenade-wielding raiders from his grandmother's house last Thursday. His father, Raja Naqash Saeed, was with him on the trip and had remained in the country amid efforts to rescue Sahil.

Missing: Sahil Saeed (left) was kidnapped from his grandmother's house in Pakistan last week. His father Raja (right) has returned to the UK, sources said. Police in Pakistan had wanted Mr Saeed to stay in the country as a witness, the BBC reported. Meanwhile, detectives appeared to be no closer to finding Sahil. The raiders struck at Sahil and his father were preparing to fly home, apparently subjecting the family to a six-hour ordeal after breaking.

Seedhi Baat

● Lion of Punjab or abductee.....
● Loyal to Ghulami or enemy of Ghulami family
● Why do you ask about my transgressions? Do you intend to arrange another marriage of mine?
● Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi managed my meeting with ZA Ghulami
● No misbehaviour was meted out to Mian Juttal; he was just tricked.
● The charge of assassinating Dr Nazki and Khawaja Nafis is baseless and false

Guest: **Malik Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi**

Watch first part tonight at **7:10 pm**

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Second part tomorrow night

Govt employees continue strike in IHK

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In occupied Kashmir, work in all the government offices including hospitals and schools remained paralysed in response to the five-day strike call given by Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) and Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) against the anti-people policies of the puppet administration.

According to KMS, over four 0.4 million government employees went on a five-day strike, which began Tuesday morning, completely paralysing work in all government offices across the occupied territory. Educational institutions that opened here

Monday after the three-month winter break also remained closed on the first day of the employees' strike.

Talking to media men, the Chairman of Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC), Khursheed Alam said that the authorities were in a position to fulfil their long pending demands. "We were forced to call the strike, which evoked total response in Jammu and Kashmir. Some bureaucrats are trying to sabotage our struggle, but we won't allow them to succeed," he said.

The EJAC leader said that protests would be held in Srinagar, Jammu and Ladakh regions on March 13, adding, "After that, we will sit and chalk out future strategy."

In Jammu, employees observed complete strike in Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Batote, Ramban, Doda, Bhaderwah and Billawar areas.

Kashmiri team meets HR bodies in Geneva: A Kashmiri delegation headed by Altaf Hussain Wani, leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter, met representatives of different human rights organization, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, United Nations Watch and Special Assistant to Special Reporter on Torture, here at Geneva at the side lines of 13th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

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