

Chapter 1 : National Command Authority calls for strategic restraint pact in S. Asia - Pakistan - calendrierd

Pakistan and the birth of the regional pacts in Asia, Bajwa, Farooq Naseem () Pakistan and the birth of the regional pacts in Asia, PhD thesis, London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom).

The rare deal comes amid deteriorating relations between Islamabad and the United States, which has resulted in the halt of all military exchange programs with Pakistan and left a void that Moscow has stepped in to fill. Alexander Fomin led their respective delegations at the talks in Rawalpindi, where the army is headquartered. The Islamabad-Moscow security partnership has strengthened and expanded since late , when the two former rivals signed their defense cooperation agreement. Russia has sold the combat helicopters to Pakistan. Navies of the two countries also recently participated in joint antidrug exercises in the Arabian Sea. The latest naval collaboration took place last week in St. Petersburg, where a Pakistani warship participated in the major Russian Navy Day parade. Actually, illustration of this importance is that this parade was taken by the commander-in-chief of Russian armed forces, President Mr. Putin," Russian ambassador to Pakistan, Alexey Dedov, said last week. So, there is quite a wide spectrum. And, of course, this is a reflection of our approach to the relations with Pakistan, which to our country has their own independent value for us. Trump suspended all military assistance to Pakistan in January until it takes decisive action against militants on its soil. Pakistani leaders have rejected terrorism and other charges, saying they stem from U. They also say that halting decades-old military diplomacy will fuel misunderstandings between the two countries. An official statement issued after the meeting said the prime minister-in-waiting said his government will engage with the U. Khan called on the U. He also emphasized the "revitalization of diplomatic ties between the two countries and stressed the need to transform it for the benefit of both Pakistan and the United States. Our countries face similar challenges and threats to national security," said Russian ambassador Dedov, while speaking at a seminar in Islamabad. Former Pakistani army general Yasin Malik said Afghanistan remains at the center of growing cooperation with Russia. Very serious efforts are there to jointly meet the challenge of IS in Afghanistan. I think that will be the hallmark of cooperation in security and military between Russia and Pakistan," Malik noted. There are also growing allegations that Moscow and Islamabad "under the pretext of fighting IS" are providing covert military support to the Taliban. Photo courtesy of IPRI Russia and Pakistan insist their ties with the Taliban are meant solely to encourage the insurgents to engage in peace talks with the Afghan government to help end the conflict and deter terrorists from using the country for international terrorism. The rare meeting, officials said, focused on the buildup of IS in turmoil-hit Afghanistan. The Russian ambassador credited improved relations with Pakistan to regular exchanges of high-level civilian and military delegations between Pakistani and Russia. Moscow also is working to help Pakistan build an 1,1kilometer gas pipeline linking Karachi to Lahore.

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Not that there is much morality among nations that ensures that they honour the written word. However, the Sikhs of Afghanistan have refused to run away, mainly because few Afghans ever actually see them as outsiders. Where every religion thrives, and no one is a stranger. The Taliban or Islamic State ideology which divides on the basis of sects and beliefs is entirely foreign to Afghanistan. It is this Afghanistan which welcomed an unprecedented ceasefire by the Taliban " for just three days during Eid " and an day ceasefire by the Afghan government. Media coverage showed Taliban and security forces hugging each other and even taking selfies, even as hundreds of Taliban fighters streamed into towns and villages to meet and greet. This is the reality of a nation that refuses to be divided despite the efforts of Pakistan and major powers. The Taliban leadership, however, called a halt to this bonhomie, fearing that once the dam opened, fighters may just return to their families and villages and never come back. This war is fought under pressure not only from Pakistan, but also from greedy insurgent leaders living comfortably in Quetta, Karachi and elsewhere. Afghans celebrating the ceasefire during Eid in June. Not surprisingly therefore, the ISK continued with its attacks, including the attacks on the Sikhs and Hindus. ISK claimed 19 attacks in , mostly in Kabul and its environs, and its attacks have increased since Ramzan began. In fact, the Islamic State banner is probably the most active in Afghanistan at this time than anywhere else in the world. The ISK, which functions in isolated pockets and is made up of ex-Taliban leaders, is an extremely amorphous group with unclear objectives. As of this period, it has essentially kept up the fight, while the Taliban observed the ceasefire. The Taliban turned up as the good guys read negotiable , while their ISK cousins remained the outlaws. Towards the end of February, president Ghani offered peace to the Taliban in a series of measures that started with an offer of ceasefire, recognition of the Taliban as a political entity, and safe passage to those who would reconcile. If you want peaceful dialogue with the Afghans specifically and with the world generally, then make your president and the war-mongering Congressmen and Pentagon officials understand this reality and compel them to adopt a rational policy towards Afghanistan! This was clearly a grassroots effort, even if it was not quite large enough to be a movement. US statistics also seem to indicate that there is some interest from within the Taliban. Though violence has again climbed with the announcement of the new offensive, it is still below expected levels. Besides, he wants to flaunt a beautiful peace-signing ceremony before the next elections, now set for October. Politics and war weariness together may do the trick, as it has done in other places. But the end " will come only when the hardliners are killed and the remaining negotiate. Among these are those who directly profit from the war like the drug mafia and Taliban leaders whose interests overlap , and those countries who are easing the pressure on Pakistan. There are those who say that there are limits to US pressure: Which is only partly true. Beijing has not yet shown the slightest indication that it is willing to use its financial clout to end the carnage in Afghanistan. That beats high strategy anytime. Jul 02,

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For more information, please see the full notice. The India-Pakistan War of The war between India and Pakistan was the second conflict between the two countries over the status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The clash did not resolve this dispute, but it did engage the United States and the Soviet Union in ways that would have important implications for subsequent superpower involvement in the region. A patrol walks in the Haji Pir pass sector of Kashmir region. When the British colony of India gained its independence in , it was partitioned into two separate entities: Pakistan was composed of two noncontiguous regions, East Pakistan and West Pakistan, separated by Indian territory. The state of Jammu and Kashmir, which had a predominantly Muslim population but a Hindu leader, shared borders with both India and West Pakistan. The argument over which nation would incorporate the state led to the first India-Pakistan War in 1947 and ended with UN mediation. Conflict resumed again in early 1948, when Pakistani and Indian forces clashed over disputed territory along the border between the two nations. Hostilities intensified that August when the Pakistani Army attempted to take Kashmir by force. The attempt to seize the state was unsuccessful, and the second India-Pakistan War reached a stalemate. This time, the international politics of the Cold War affected the nature of the conflict. The United States had a history of ambivalent relations with India. During the s, U. The United States hoped to maintain a regional balance of power, which meant not allowing India to influence the political development of other states. However, a border conflict between India and China ended with a decisive Chinese victory, which motivated the United States and the United Kingdom to provide military supplies to the Indian Army. After the clash with China, India also turned to the Soviet Union for assistance, which placed some strains on U. However, the United States also provided India with considerable development assistance throughout the s and s. After Pakistani troops invaded Kashmir, India moved quickly to internationalize the regional dispute. The Security Council passed Resolution on September 20 calling for an end to the fighting and negotiations on the settlement of the Kashmir problem, and the United States and the United Kingdom supported the UN decision by cutting off arms supplies to both belligerents. This ban affected both belligerents, but Pakistan felt the effects more keenly since it had a much weaker military in comparison to India. The UN resolution and the halting of arms sales had an immediate impact. India accepted the ceasefire on September 21 and Pakistan on September 24. The ceasefire alone did not resolve the status of Kashmir, and both sides accepted the Soviet Union as a third-party mediator. Negotiations in Tashkent concluded in January 1949, with both sides giving up territorial claims, withdrawing their armies from the disputed territory. Nevertheless, although the Tashkent agreement achieved its short-term aims, conflict in South Asia would reignite a few years later.

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Executive branch[edit] The president of Pakistan, in keeping with the constitutional provision that the state religion is Islam, must be a Muslim. Elected for a five-year term by an Electoral College consisting of members of the Senate and National Assembly and members of the provincial assemblies, the president is eligible for re-election. But no individual may hold the office for more than two consecutive terms. The president may resign or be impeached and may be removed from office due to incapacity or gross misconduct by a two-thirds vote of the members of the parliament. The president generally acts on the advice of the prime minister but has important residual powers. Despite this most recent power-stripping, the President remains the ex officio chair of the National Security Council , as per the National Security Act The prime minister is appointed by the members of the National Assembly through a vote. The prime minister is assisted by the Federal Cabinet, a council of ministers whose members are appointed by the president on the advice of the prime minister. The Federal Cabinet comprises the ministers, ministers of state, and advisers. As of early , there were thirty-three ministerial portfolios: Legislative branch[edit] The bicameral federal legislature consists of the Senate upper house and National Assembly lower house. Senate[edit] The Senate is a permanent legislative body with equal representation from each of the four provinces, elected by the members of their respective provincial assemblies. The chairman of the Senate, under the constitution, is next in line to act as president should the office become vacant and until such time as a new president can be formally elected. Both the Senate and the National Assembly can initiate and pass legislation except for finance bills. Only the National Assembly can approve the federal budget and all finance bills. In the case of other bills, the president may prevent passage unless the legislature in joint sitting overrules the president by a majority of members of both houses present and voting. Unlike the National Assembly, the Senate cannot be dissolved by the President. National Assembly[edit] National Assembly of Pakistan Members of the National Assembly are elected by universal adult suffrage formerly twenty-one years of age and older but the seventeenth amendment changed it to eighteen years of age. Seats are allocated to each of the four provinces, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and Islamabad Capital Territory on the basis of population. National Assembly members serve for the parliamentary term, which is five years, unless they die or resign sooner, or unless the National Assembly is dissolved. Although the vast majority of the members are Muslim, about 5 percent of the seats are reserved for minorities, including Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs. Elections for minority seats are held on the basis of separate electorates at the same time as the polls for Muslim seats during the general elections. Member 3 Now withstanding anything contained in clause 1 or clause 2 , the President shall appoint the most senior Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of Pakistan. The chief justice and judges of the Supreme Court may remain in office until age sixty-five: It consists of 8 Muslim judges appointed by the President of Pakistan after consulting the Chief Justice of this Court, from amongst the serving or retired judges of the Supreme Court or a High Court or from amongst persons possessing the qualifications of judges of a High Court. Of the 8 judges, 3 are required to be Ulema who are well versed in Islamic law. The judges hold office for a period of 3 years, which may eventually be extended by the President. If any part of the law is declared to be against Islamic law, the government is required to take necessary steps to amend such law appropriately. The court also exercises revisional jurisdiction over the criminal courts, deciding Hudood cases. The decisions of the court are binding on the High Courts as well as subordinate judiciary. The court appoints its own staff and frames its own rules of procedure. Ever since its establishment in , the Federal Shariat Court of Pakistan has been the subject of criticism and controversy in the society. Created as an islamisation measure by the military regime and subsequently protected under the controversial 8th Amendment, its opponents question the very rationale and utility of this institution. It is stated that this court merely duplicates the functions of the existing superior courts and also operates as a check on the sovereignty of Parliament. The composition of the court, particularly the mode of appointment of its judges and the insecurity of their tenure, is taken exception to, and it is alleged, that this court does not fully meet the criterion prescribed for the

independence of the judiciary. That is to say, it is not immune to pressures and influences from the Executive. In the past, this court was used as a refuge for the recalcitrant judges. In 18th Amendment, judges appointments are proposed by a Parliamentary Commission. Judges of the provincial high courts were, previously appointed The seventeenth amendment give these powers to the president, previously Prime minister exercised them by the president after consultation with the chief justice of the Supreme Court, as well as the governor of the province and the chief justice of the high court to which the appointment is being made. High courts have original and appellate jurisdiction. In addition, there are special courts and tribunals to deal with specific kinds of cases, such as drug courts, commercial courts, labour courts, traffic courts, an insurance appellate tribunal, an income tax appellate tribunal, and special courts for bank offences. There are also special courts to try terrorists. Appeals from special courts go to high courts except for labour and traffic courts, which have their own forums for appeal. Appeals from the tribunals go to the Supreme Court. The office of Mohtasib was established in many early Muslim states to ensure that no wrongs were done to citizens. Appointed by the president, the Mohtasib holds office for four years; the term cannot be extended or renewed. The Mohtasib is empowered to award compensation to those who have suffered loss or damage as a result of maladministration. Excluded from jurisdiction, however, are personal grievances or service matters of a public servant as well as matters relating to foreign affairs, national defence, and the armed services. This institution is designed to bridge the gap between administrator and citizen, to improve administrative processes and procedures, and to help curb misuse of discretionary powers. Civilian, yet socialist-oriented autocratic, rule continued from to under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, but he was deposed by General Zia-Ul-Haq. She was the youngest woman ever to be elected the Head of Government and the first woman to be elected as the Head of Government of a Muslim country. Her government was followed by that of Nawaz Sharif, and the two leaders alternated until the military coup by General Pervez Musharraf in . From the resignation of President Rafiq Tarar in , to his own resignation in , Musharraf was the President of Pakistan. In , Asif Ali Zardari was elected president. Form of Government[edit] Officially a federal republic , Pakistan has had a long history of alternating periods of electoral democracy and authoritarian military government. General elections were held in October . After monitoring the elections, the Commonwealth Observer Group stated in conclusion: We believe that on election day this was a credible election: However, in the context of various measures taken by the government we are not persuaded of the overall fairness of the process as a whole. Kashmir in Pakistani politics[edit] Azad Kashmir has its own constitution, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act of , and a locally chosen parliamentary form of government, as described above. The constitution allows for many of the structures that comprise a self-governing state, including a legislative assembly elected through periodic elections, a prime minister who commands the majority in the assembly, an indirectly elected president, an independent judiciary, and local government institutions. But these provisions are hollow. The latter body, presided over by the Prime Minister of Pakistan , exercises paramount authority over the AJK Legislative Assembly , which cannot challenge decisions of the council. The council is under the numerical control of the federal government in Islamabad, as in addition to the Pakistani prime minister it comprises six other federal ministers, the minister of Kashmir affairs as the ex-officio member, the prime minister of Azad Kashmir, and six Azad Kashmir members elected by the Legislative Assembly. Its decisions are final and not subject to judicial review. Provincial Governments[edit] The subdivisions of Pakistan Pakistan is subdivided into 4 provinces, 2 territories, and 1 capital territory. Each province has a Provincial Assembly, a directly elected legislature. Members are elected for five-year terms. Each Assembly elects a Chief Minister, who then selects the ministers of his or her cabinet.

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