

Pakistan

March 11, 2008

Arab News (Saudi Arabia)

- In an editorial on the continuing rise of the global oil price, the paper says oil at this price is not good for producers. It makes investment into less accessible [oil deposits](#) more viable, thus increasing global supply, while at the same time it encourages consumers to cut consumption.

Daily Star (Lebanon)

- Karim Sadjadpour of the Carnegie Endowment asks if Iran's upcoming parliamentary election on March 14 deserves to be taken seriously, or if it is simply a sham vote for an [emasculated institution](#).

Dawn (Pakistan)

- In an editorial on the [coalition agreement](#) reached between the two biggest parties in Pakistan, the paper writes that it has not been made clear how the two plan to govern the country together meaningfully when their stand on so many issues is poles apart.

Financial Times

- Columnist Gideon Rachman, says that the resignation of Samantha Power from Barack Obama's campaign team after an indiscretion says something dispiriting about [modern politics](#). All presidential candidates routinely say that they want politics to be honest and open, he writes; but they all know that too much honesty is fatal.

- In an editorial on current squeeze on credit markets, the *FT* says it is the links and [feedback loops](#) with the real economy that will decide whether this is financial hell or just a financial hiccup.
- In a further editorial, the *FT* says that there is much to celebrate in the humbling of a corrupt, old-fashioned and [racially based political system](#) in the weekend elections in Malaysia.
- On the re-election of Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero in Spain, the paper says the prime minister now faces the [daunting task](#) of rescuing an economy heading for the rocks.

Guardian

- Oliver Kamm, a writer, defends “extraordinary rendition”, saying that rendition is justifiable because it interdicts terrorists, and terrorism is not merely a problem of [law enforcement](#).

Hindu

- In an editorial the paper says the decision by the two major political parties in Pakistan to form coalition governments at the federal level and in Punjab province is a [historic breakthrough](#).

Independent (London)

- In an editorial, the *Independent* welcomes the re-election of Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, but warns that fulfilling his promise of inaugurating a [new era](#) in Spanish politics may not prove such a straightforward task.

Jerusalem Post

- In an editorial that compares an Israeli intelligence estimate of Iran with the NIE produced last year in the United States, the paper says that at least the Israeli version does not attempt to obscure the obvious: that Iran is desperately seeking [nuclear weapons](#).

New York Times

- In an editorial the Times is sharply critical of President Bush's veto of the 2008 intelligence budget. This is not the first time that Mr. Bush has misled Americans on [intelligence-gathering](#) and antiterrorism operations, and it may not be the last, the paper says. It will be up to the next president to restore the rule of law, it concludes.
- Glenn Zorpette of I.E.E.E. Spectrum, writes on the [lack of electricity](#) in Iraq, and says one important factor in this is that Iraq's Ministries of Oil and Electricity are at loggerheads.

Times of India

- Strategic affairs analyst Brahma Chellaney writes that India's priority today should be its security, given that it still does not have a minimal, let alone credible, [nuclear deterrent](#) against China, which is rapidly modernising its arsenal.

Times of London

- Bronwen Maddox, the paper's chief foreign commentator, says that for all the pessimism that Pakistan has generated, its politicians are doing a [reasonable job](#), in the three weeks since the elections, of trying to edge towards a democracy with a stronger Parliament.

- In an editorial on the Spanish election, the *Times* says Jose Luis Rodrigo Zapatero has clearly established a [political authority](#) that lays to rest the lingering controversy over the upset Socialist victory in 2004, days after the Madrid train bombings.

Wall Street Journal

- David Malpass, chief economist at Bear Stearns, says that when President Bush addresses the Economic Club of New York on Friday, the best thing he could do would be to state clearly that he wants a [stronger dollar](#).
- Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, in an op-ed on Pakistan says that the United States has a better chance of finding a strong ally in the war on terror in Pakistan if a [legitimate democratic government](#) takes root.
- Holger Schmieding, head of European economics at Bank of America, writes in defence of a [strong Euro](#).
- In an editorial the Journal sets out the challenges facing the Spanish prime minister over the next four years, saying that a once booming economy is cooling, and that Mr. Zapatero's [social and regional policies](#) have polarized the country..
- In an op-ed, the prime minister of Malaysia, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, re-elected with a [reduced majority](#) at the weekend, promises to dedicate himself to healing the divisions which became evident during the campaign.

Washington Post

- Columnist Eugene Robinson, in an op-ed, writes that the presidential campaign in the United States has distracted attention from the situation in Iraq, which he says in the past few weeks has seen a recrudescence of [horrifying, spectacular](#) violence.

- In an editorial, the paper is critical of Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, for waiving human rights restrictions on [military aid](#) to Egypt.

Washington Times

- Freelance writer Tulin Daloglu accuses the government of Turkey of failing to brief the media, the public and the political opposition properly about its [military operation](#) in northern Iraq.