

# PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 53

April 2015

## POLITICAL ISSUES

### IRAN

#### 1. Iran condemned terrorist attacks in Lahore

Lahore, Tuesday, 17 March 2015

A spokesperson of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the terrorist attacks in Lahore that took place on 15 March.

*Source:* Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=328223&Itemid=38](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=328223&Itemid=38)

### QATAR

#### 2. Emir of Qatar arrived on two day official visit

Islamabad, Monday, 23 March 2015

Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad arrived on a two-day official visit to Pakistan and this was his first visit to Pakistan since taking over as emir.

*Source:* Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329183&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329183&Itemid=2)

#### 3. Pakistan wants to enhance cooperation with Qatar in all areas: Mamnoon

Islamabad, Monday, 23 March 2015

President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim discussed bilateral cooperation and emphasized on investment by Qatar in its ongoing and new energy and infrastructure projects. He also asked Qatar to co-finance Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project.

*Source:* Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329228&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329228&Itemid=2)

*See also:* Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/234032-pakistan-wants-to-enhance-cooperation-with-qatar-in-all-areas-mamnoon.html>

#### 4. Pakistan and Qatar agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields

Islamabad, Tuesday, 24 March 2015

Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to further promote ties in the fields of energy, trade, economic, investment, manpower and defence to enhance bilateral relations.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329312&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329312&Itemid=2)

*See also: Pakistan State Times, Karachi*

<http://www.pstimes.com/2015/03/25/pakistan-and-qatar-agree-to-enhance-cooperation-in-various-fields/>

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## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **5. Pakistan received Saudi call to extend help in Yemen crisis**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 26 March 2015**

Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Tasnim Aslam stated that Pakistan had been asked by the Saudi government for help to deal with the crisis in Yemen.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329552&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329552&Itemid=2)

*See also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/109-world-top-news/234858-pakistan-receives-saudi-call-to-extend-help-in-yemen-crisis.html>

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### **6. Not participating in Yemen war but will defend Saudi territorial integrity: Asif**

**Islamabad, Friday, 27 March 2015**

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that contrary to the view that five Muslim countries including Egypt and Pakistan were interested to participate in the Gulf-led military coalition against the Houthis in Yemen, Pakistan has made no decision as yet.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329735&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329735&Itemid=2)

*See also: The Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1172229/pakistan-will-not-participate-in-conflict-that-divides-muslim-ummah-khawaja-asif>

*See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi*

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/859814/not-participating-in-yemen-war-but-will-defend-saudi-territorial-integrity-khawaja-asif/>

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### **7. Pakistan firmly committed to supporting sovereignty, territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia**

**Islamabad, Monday, 30 March 2015**

A high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad concluded that Pakistan would be committed to support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=330227&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=330227&Itemid=1)

*See also: The News International, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-179830-PM-Nawaz-vows-to-defend-Saudi-Arabias-territorial-integrity>

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## **TUNISIA**

### **8. Tunisia wants to upgrade strategic partnership with Pakistan: Envoy**

**Middle East Institute @ New Delhi, [www.mei.org.in](http://www.mei.org.in)**

**Islamabad, Saturday 21 march 2015**

Tunisian Ambassador to Pakistan Adel Elarbi addressed a reception on his country's 59th Independence said that Tunisia wanted to enhance its strategic partnership with Pakistan.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=328919&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=328919&Itemid=2)

*See also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Mar-2015/tunisia-wants-to-upgrade-strategic-partnership-with-pakistan-envoy>

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**TURKEY**

**9. Ambassador Sohail for cementing Pak Turkish strategic relations**

**Islamabad, Monday, 23 March 2015**

Pakistan Day was celebrated on 23 March 2015 in Turkey where Ambassador to Ankara Sohail Mahmood discussed bilateral strategic relations.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329222&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329222&Itemid=2)

*See also: Pakistan State Times, Karachi*

<http://www.pstimes.com/2015/03/24/ambassador-sohail-for-cementing-pak-turkish-strategic-relations/>

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**YEMEN**

**10. Asif for taking initiative in country's interest over Yemen issue**

**Lahore, Monday, 30 March 2014**

Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that Pakistan would take initiative on the Yemen issue with its interest in mind.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=330185&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=330185&Itemid=2)

*See also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/30-Mar-2015/asif-for-taking-initiative-in-pakistan-s-interest-over-yemen-issue>

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**11. Pakistan to play role in Yemen conflict to maintain peace: Khaqan**

**Islamabad, Monday, 30 March 2014**

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that Pakistan would play its due role in Yemen conflict to maintain peace.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=330293&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=330293&Itemid=2)

*See also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/108-pakistan-top-news/235671-pakistan-to-play-role-in-yemen-conflict-to-maintain-peace-khaqan.html>

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**ECONOMIC ISSUES**

**QATAR**

**12. Pakistan, Qatar vow to enhance bilateral cooperation**

**Islamabad, Monday, 23 March 2014**

During a meeting with the Emir of Qatar, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that the bilateral trade was much below its potential. The Emir responded that Qatar would look into investment opportunities in Pakistan, including the energy sector.

*Source: The Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1171397/pakistan-qatar-vow-to-enhance-bilateral-cooperation>

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### **13. Pak-Qatar energy, defence, trade ties to grow**

**Islamabad Tuesday, 24 March 2015**

Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to enhance trade and strengthen cooperation in the fields of energy, investment, trade, defence and manpower and the two sides also signed three agreements in the field of culture, youth and sports and education.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329255&Itemid=38](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329255&Itemid=38)

*See also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/108-pakistan-top-news/234033-pakistan-qatar-sign-accords-to-cooperate-in-culture-sports-education-sectors.html>

*See also: The News International, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-36581-Pak-Qatar-energy-defence-trade-ties-to-grow>

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## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **14. Dar reviewed performance of Saudi-Pakistan Co. Ltd**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 14 March 2015**

Federal Minister for Finance, Muhammad Ishaq Dar directed the Chief Executive of Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Co. Ltd. to devise a roadmap for its future investments. Saudi Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Co. Ltd. is a development finance institution and provides a range of financial products and services.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=327809&Itemid=38](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=327809&Itemid=38)

*See also: The Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1169639/saudi-pak-profit-up>

*See also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/business/14-Mar-2015/dar-reviews-performance-of-saudi-pak-co-ltd>

*See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi*

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/853438/overcoming-woes-saudi-pak-company-achieves-turnaround/>

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## **UAE**

### **15. PM encouraged UAE company to set up oil refinery in KP**

**Islamabad, Friday, 27 March 2015**

Shaikh Muhammad Ahmed Ali Alkaitoob Alnuaimi, CEO of Xclera Resources UAE called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to inform that his company wanted to set up an oil refinery in Pakistan worth US\$500 million.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=329747&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=329747&Itemid=1)

*See also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/27-Mar-2015/pm-encourages-uae-company-to-set-up-oil-refinery-in-kp>

*See also: The Nation, Lahore*

<http://nation.com.pk/business/28-Mar-2015/uae-to-set-up-500m-oil-refinery-in-kp>

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## DEFENCE ISSUES

### SAUDI ARABIA

#### 16. Pre-scheduled Pak-Saudi joint exercise being carried out since March 19

**Rawalpindi, Monday, 30 March 2015**

Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa said that a pre-scheduled Pak-Saudi joint exercise 'Samsam-5' was being carried out since 19 March in Taif and 292 Pakistani troops were participating in the exercise.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=330281&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=330281&Itemid=2)

*See also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/108-pakistan-top-news/235674-pre-scheduled-pak-saudi-joint-exercise-being-carried-out-since-march-19.html>

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### UAE

#### 17. COAS, UAE Armed Forces Chief discussed defence cooperation

**Rawalpindi, Monday, 16 March 2015**

UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hamad Mohamed Thani Al Rumaithy separately called on Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif and Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Rashad Mahmood and discussed matters of mutual interest, including measures to enhance defence cooperation.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=328022&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=328022&Itemid=1)

*See also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Mar-2015/uae-army-chief-calls-on-coas-cjcsc>

*See also: The Frontier Post, Peshawar*

<http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/270251/uae-army-chief-discusses-defence-ties-with-gen-raheel-sharif/>

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## MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

### TURKEY

#### 18. Pakistan Navy War College delegation visited Turkey

**Islamabad, Friday, 20 March 2015**

Pakistan Navy War College delegation visited Turkey from 13-18 March.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=328790&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=328790&Itemid=2)

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