



PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 58

September 2015

POLITICAL ISSUES

EGYPT

1) President expressed desire for further expansion of Pak-Egypt ties

Islamabad, Wednesday, 26 August 2015

Talking to the outgoing Egyptian Ambassador Said Hindam in Islamabad, President Mamnoon Hussain called for more business interaction, cultural exchange and defence ties to strengthen bilateral relations.

Source: Pakistan Observer, Islamabad

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=271521>

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/08/26/national/president-wants-stronger-ties-with-egypt/>

See also: Daily Capital, Islamabad

<http://dailycapital.pk/president-for-strong-pak-egypt-defence-ties/>

IRAN

2) Iran to expand relations with Pakistan

Islamabad, Thursday, 13 August 2015

During his one-day visit to Pakistan, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif emphasized on greater economic, energy and security ties between the two neighbours.

Source: Dawn, Islamabad

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1200244>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/937859/regional-visit-tehran-backs-growth-anywhere-in-pakistan-says-zarif/>

3) Pakistan-Iran for joint efforts against terrorism

Islamabad, Thursday, 13 August 2015

Prime Minister's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif discussed the prospects of enhanced cooperation to combat extremism and terrorism.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=352808

JORDAN

4) Pakistan President underlined importance of ties with Jordan

Islamabad, Friday, 21 August 2015

During the formal felicitation of the ambassador-designate Shafatullah Shah, President Mamnoon Hussain stated that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Jordan and highlighted keenness to enhance defence ties with Jordan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en /index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=354185

See also: The News International, Karachi

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-335679-Pakistan-attaches-great-importance-to-ties-with-Jordan:-Mamnoon>

SAUDI ARABIA

5) Terrorist attack at Saudi Arabia mosque condemned by Pakistan

Islamabad, Thursday, 6 August 2015

Pakistan strongly condemned the terrorist attack at a mosque in the southern city of Abha, Saudi Arabia which left 15 dead and many more injured.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en /index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=351653

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/single/1214900:pakistan-condemns-saudi-arabia-mosque-attack/>

TURKEY

6) Turkish President meets Prime Minister during stopover

Islamabad, Saturday, 1 August 2015

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with President Erdogan during his stop over at Nur Khan Airbase and discussed Islamic State militants and the need to enhance cooperation in various sectors.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en /index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=350615

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/930565/bilateral-meeting-turkish-president-arrives-in-islamabad/>

See also: Daily Pakistan, Lahore

<http://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/headline/33987-893/>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

7) Pakistan requested Iran to lift rice, Kinno import ban

Islamabad, Thursday, 27 August 2015

Iran was requested to withdraw its ban on imports of rice and kinno. The ban led to 76 per cent decline in value of Pakistan's exports to Iran from US\$ 182 million in 2010 to US\$ 43 million in 2014.

Source: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1203051>

QATAR

8) Qatar gas to assess Pakistan preparedness before signing long-term LNG deal

Islamabad, Tuesday, 18 August 2015

A delegation of Qatar Gas, which is the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) company agreed to visit Islamabad for assessing the feasibility of a long-term LNG supply agreement between the two nations.

Source: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1201115>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-335258-LNG-deal-with-Qatar-possible-if-payment-mechanism-finalised>

TURKEY

9) Pakistan, Turkey and Iran officials meeting for ECO train to be held soon

Lahore, Friday, 14 August 2015

Proposal for Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) train, between Turkey and Pakistan via Iran, was put forward in a meeting presided over by Pakistan Railway Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique at Turkish Railways headquarters. The next round of meeting between the railway officials of the three countries would be held in Pakistan.

Source: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/937759/pak-iran-turkey-meeting-set-to-finalise-eco-train/>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/896217/pak-iran-and-turkey-to-launch-freight-train>

10) Turkish Minister assured more Turkish investment in energy sector

Islamabad, Friday, 21 August 2015

In his meeting with visiting Pakistan delegation led by Punjab Minister Sher Ali Khan, Turkish Minister for Forestry and Water Veysel Eroglu assured more Turkish investment in Pakistan's vital sectors such as energy and mining.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=354152

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/942517/forestry-and-hydel-power-turkey-assures-more-investment/>

SECURITY ISSUES

QATAR

11) Qatar Armed forces Chief visited Naval Headquarters

Islamabad, Tuesday, 18 August 2015

Major General of the Qatar Armed Forces Shaheen Al-Ghanim paid a visit to the Naval Headquarters in Pakistan to discuss issues of mutual interest including maritime security situation and operational developments in the Indian Ocean.

Source: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/18-Aug-2015/qatari-armed-forces-chief-visits-naval-headquarters>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/national/18-Aug-2015/bilateral-relations-with-qatar-to-be-strengthened-pm-nawaz>

See also: Daily Pakistan, Lahore

<http://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/pakistan/qatar-an-important-country-for-pakistan-pm-nawaz/>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

KUWAIT

12) 241 Pakistanis imprisoned in Kuwait

Islamabad, Monday, 10 August 2015

Pakistan's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz informed that 241 Pakistanis were imprisoned in various jails in Kuwait, out of which 175 has been accused of drug trafficking.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=352331

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/109/250875-241-pakistanis-incarcerated-in-kuwait-na-told.html>

QATAR

13) Qatar in talks to host Pakistan Twenty20 League

Islamabad, Wednesday, 26 August 2015

The head of the Qatar Cricket Association, Gul Khan stated that there was a high chance of Doha hosting the Pakistan Twenty-20 tournament in February 2016.

Source: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/944479/qatar-in-talks-to-host-pakistan-twenty20league/>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1202791>

See also: Newsweek, Lahore

<http://newsweekpakistan.com/pakistan-to-host-twenty20-league-in-qatar-next-year/>

SAUDI ARABIA

14) 139 buildings hired to accommodate Pakistani Hajj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia

Islamabad, Thursday, 13 August 2015

Saudi Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed that the ministry had made appropriate arrangements to accommodate 71,684 Pakistani hujji.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=352871

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/13-Aug-2015/arrangements-for-hajj-pilgrims-completed-in-saudi-arabia>

UAE

15) Anchorperson Moeed Pirzada arrested in Abu Dhabi, released on bail

Islamabad, Monday, 10 August 2015

Anchor Moeed Pirzada was indicted for forging documents while he was in the UAE to visit his ailing father on 4 August. He was later released on bail and is likely to be allowed to leave for Pakistan within few weeks.

Source: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1199017>

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/172:pakistan/1216490:moeed-pirzada-freed-on-bail/>

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