



PAKISTAN WATCH

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POLITICAL ISSUES

SAUDI ARABIA

1. Saudi Navy Commander rewarded for his contribution to strengthen bilateral naval ties

Islamabad, Wednesday, 16 December 2015

At a ceremony in Islamabad, acting President Raza Rabbani conferred one of the top military decorations, *Nishan-i-Imtiaz*, on Commander of Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Al-Sultan for his efforts to strengthen the bilateral naval ties.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://app.com.pk/video/preview.php?id=98407>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1226940>

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Dec-2015/saudi-naval-commander-calls-on-pak-naval-chief>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1011546/nishan-i-imtiaz-conferred-on-commander-royal-saudi-naval-forces/>

2. Saudi Arabia reiterates close defence, historical and cultural ties with Pakistan

Islamabad, Saturday, 19 December 2015

Speaking at the commissioning parade at Pakistan Naval Academy PNS Rahbar, Saudi Naval Forces commander Vice Admiral Al-Sultan highlighted that both nations enjoy intimate relations, and underlined their keenness to further maritime security.

Source: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1227457>

SYRIA

3. Pakistan voices its opinion against foreign intervention to topple Syrian regime

Islamabad, Thursday, 24 December 2015

Speaking at the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhary stated that Pakistan is against any attempt to topple the government of Syrian President Assad and supports a peaceful Syrian-led and inclusive solution for the ongoing crisis.

Source: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1228523>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

QATAR

4. Qatar urged to increase investment in Pakistan

Islamabad, Tuesday, 29 December 2015

In an interaction with a Qatari delegation led by Jabbor Al Thani, brother of ex-Prime Minister of Qatar at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain urged greater Qatari investment in energy, infrastructure and agriculture sectors. He further added that Pakistan was looking for expansion in its designated quota for Pakistani manpower for 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=378812&Itemid=2

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/front-top/270304-president-urges-qatar-investment-authority-to-invest-in-pakistan.html>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1018465/president-sees-qatar-investment-in-many-areas/>

TURKEY

5. Pakistan's contribution to Regional trade enhancement highlighted in the Economic Cooperation Organization conference in Turkey

Islamabad, Monday, 26 December 2015

In the 14th General Assembly meeting of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held in Ankara, President of ECO, Muhammad Adrees highlighted the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) efforts for promoting increased trade connectivity in the region.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=378269&Itemid=1

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/12/26/business/need-stressed-for-intensifying-mutual-trade-cooperation-among-eco-members/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/business/27-Dec-2015/need-stressed-for-intensifying-mutual-trade-co-op-among-eco-members>

SECURITY ISSUES

BAHRAIN

6. Pakistan Navy takes over command of Combined Task Force 151 in Bahrain

Islamabad, Tuesday, 22 December 2015

At a formal change of Command ceremony held at Bahrain, Commodore Zahid Ilyas of Pakistan took over command of Multinational Combined Task Force 151 (CTF- 151), responsible for counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and Horn of Africa

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=377507

7. Pakistan and Bahrain Navies conclude bilateral exercise

Islamabad, Saturday, 26 December 2015

Pakistani and Bahrain navies concluded bilateral naval exercise "Shaheen Al Jazeera"; that has been regularly conducted since 1997 between Special Services Group-Navy (SSG-N) and the Bahrain Navy Special Forces at Karachi and Manama in alternate years.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=378305&Itemid=1

See also: Pakistan Observer, Lahore

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=283628>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/84441-Pak-Bahrain-naval-exercise-concludes>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1228768>

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/27-Dec-2015/pak-bahrain-navy-drill-shaheen-al-jazeera-concludes>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1016854/special-operations-pakistan-bahrain-hold-joint-naval-drill/>

KUWAIT

8. Commander of Kuwait Air Force visits Pakistan Air Force Headquarters

Islamabad, Monday, 21 December 2015

Pakistan Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman welcomed Kuwait's counterpart Yaqoob Al-Foudari during his visit to the Air Headquarters in Islamabad.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=377324

See also: Pakistan Air Force Press Release, Islamabad

http://www.paf.gov.pk/press_release/uploaded/1450767896.pdf

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/22-Dec-2015/kuwait-air-commander-visits-paf-headquarters>

SAUDI ARABIA

9. Pakistan included in Saudi-led coalition against terrorism

Islamabad, Wednesday, 16 December 2015

Pakistan was included in the 34-state Islamic military coalition formed by Saudi Arabia to combat global terrorism. Welcoming the move Foreign Office spokesperson Qazi Khalilullah questioned the exclusion of Syria, Iraq and Iran from the alliance.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=376373

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1227877>

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/16-Dec-2015/pakistan-welcomes-saudi-led-military-alliance>

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/12/16/news/pakistan-welcomes-34-nation-saudi-alliance-against-terrorism/>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1010213/saudi-arabia-announces-34-state-islamic-military-alliance-against-terrorism-2/>

TURKEY

10. Two Pakistani IS suspects arrested in Turkey

Islamabad, Tuesday, 29 December 2015

Three suspected members of the Islamic State (IS) group, including two Pakistanis, have been arrested in Istanbul's central Mecidiyekoy district by Turkey's security authorities.

Source: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1018183/turkey-arrests-3-islamic-state-suspects-including-two-pakistanis-report/>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1229416>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

TURKEY

11. Pakistan-Turkey to enhance collaboration for women empowerment and poverty reduction

Islamabad, Tuesday, 15 December 2015

Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Marvi Memon met Turkish Minister for Family and Social Policies Sema Ramazanoglu in Islamabad, to enhance bilateral collaboration for women empowerment, poverty reduction, skills development.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=375839&Itemid=2

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/sports/cricket/268205-pakistan-turkey-to-collaborate-for-uplift-empowerment-of-women.html>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1010699/women-empowerment-bisp-chairperson-looks-at-turkey/>

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