



PAKISTAN WATCH

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POLITICAL ISSUES

BAHRAIN

1. Pak Navy Ship PNS Zulfiquar reaches Bahrain; Crown prince attends welcome ceremony

Karachi, Friday, 13 May 2016

An elaborate ceremony was organized to welcome PNS Zulfiquar at Sheikh Salman International port in Manama on 13 May, acknowledging the training visit as a goodwill gesture. The attendees included Governor of Manama, Shaikh Hesham Abdulrahman and Pakistan's prominent businessmen.

Source: Press Information Department, Government of Pakistan

<http://www.pid.gov.pk/?p=19845>

See also: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-bahrain-to-enhance-bilateral-ties-javed-malik/> *See also: Times of Islamabad, Islamabad*

<https://timesofislamabad.com/pakistan-bahrain-strategic-ties-acknowledged/2016/05/13/>

IRAN

2. Pak-Iran Joint Economic Commission to be held in Tehran

Islamabad, Monday, 16 May 2016

While addressing a meeting at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Iran's Consul General, Bani Asadi informed that bilateral economic commission meeting would be held in July in Tehran to discuss post-sanction opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/pak-iran-je-commissions-meeting-after-ramzan-iranian-consul/>

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/pakistan/general-news/296308-pak-iran-je-commissions-meeting-after-ramzan-iranian-consul.html>

3. Iranian envoy invites Pak to join Chabahar agreement

Karachi, Friday, 27 May 2016

Iranian envoy Mehdi Honardoost invited Pakistan to join the trilateral Chabahar-port agreement signed between India, Iran and Afghanistan on 23 May 2016, while delivering a talk on regional significance of Chabahar port at Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/chabahar-not-rival-to-gwadar-port-iranian-envoy/>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1261006>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/123267-Iranian-envoy-says-Chabahar-not-rival-to-Gwadar>

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/28-May-16/chabahar-not-rival-to-gwadar-port-iran>

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

4. Pak to make preparations for 2017 OIC summit

Islamabad, Tuesday, 17 May 2016

Foreign Affairs advisor Sartaj Aziz informed the National Assembly that preparations for OIC Summit on Science and Technology, scheduled to be held in 2017 in Astana, would be made in Pakistan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/preparations-for-oic-summit-on-st-be-made-in-pakistan-sartaj/>

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/17-May-16/pakistan-to-host-oic-meeting-on-may-30-sartaj>

QATAR

5. Minister for Water, power meets Qatar's PM

Islamabad, Saturday, 21 May 2016

In a meeting with Qatar's Prime Minister Nasser Al-Thani in Doha, Pakistan's Minister for Water and Power Muhammad Asif discussed matters relating labour employment, defence, energy and economic cooperation.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/khawaja-asif-meets-qatari-pm-in-doha/>

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/pakistan/general-news/297533-khawaja-asif-meets-qatari-pm-in-doha.html>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/22-May-2016/pakistan-qatar-discuss-ways-to-enhance-defence-ties>

SAUDI ARABIA

6. Pak-Saudi Arabia Parliamentary Friendship group hold first meeting

Islamabad, Saturday, 14 May 2016

Parliamentary Friendship Group of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia held their maiden meeting on 14 May in Islamabad to discuss the current status of bilateral relations and set the template for future cooperation.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/pak-ksa-parliamentary-friendship-group-chalks-out-future-working-plan/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/15-May-2016/meeting-of-pak-ksa-parliamentary-friendship-group-held>

See also: Senate of Pricing, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.senate.gov.pk/en/news_content.php?id=2290

TURKEY

7. Turkey repatriates arrested Pak nationals

Islamabad, Monday, 16 May 2016

Over 4,800 Pakistan nationals, who had been detained in Turkey over the last three years on charges of illegal border crossing, were repatriated from Turkey. Additionally, 31 Pakistani nationals, who were deported from Greece to Turkey in April this year, have also been sent back after verification.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/over-4800-arrested-pakistani-nationals-repatriated-from-turkey-so-far-sartaj-aziz/>

See also: Times of Islamabad, Islamabad

<https://timesofislamabad.com/pakistanis-deported-from-greece-to-turkey/2016/05/14/>

8. Judiciary delegation from Pak visits Ankara

Islamabad, Wednesday, 18 May 2016

High level delegation comprising members of Pakistan judiciary visited Turkey from 15-20 May to expand cooperation in judicial training.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-and-turkey-to-share-experience-in-judicial-training/>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/18-May-2016/pakistan-turkey-agrees-to-promote-mutual-cooperation-in-judicial-training>

DEFENCE ISSUES

TURKEY

9. Pak Army Chief attends joint military exercise in Turkey

Islamabad, Tuesday, 31 May 2016

Chief of Pakistan's Army Staff Raheel Sharif attended two sessions of joint multi-national exercise "EFES 2016" held in Turkish coastal city of Izmir on 30 and 31 May. The event witnessed participation of a Pakistan army contingent along with troops from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, US and UK.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/coas-witnesses-multi-national-military-exercise-in-turkey/>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/124218-Army-Chief-witnesses-military-exercise-in-Turkey>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/01-Jun-2016/coas-witnesses-military-exercise-in-turkey-meets-president-erdogan>

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/31-May-16/army-chief-witnesses-multi-national-military-exercise-in-turkey>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

SAUDI ARABIA

10. Saudi-Arabia gifts 200 tons of Dates to Pak

Islamabad, Thursday, 12 May 2016

In a ceremony in Islamabad, Saudi envoy Al Zahrani handed over 200 tons of dates to Additional Secretary Tariq Zaman, followed by a brief discussion on the historic relations enjoyed by the two nations.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/saudi-arabia-hands-over-200-tons-of-dates-to-pakistan/>

See also: Pakistan Observer, Karachi

<http://www.pressreader.com/pakistan/pakistan-observer/20160106/282084865787026/TextView>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/12-May-2016/saudi-arabia-hands-over-200-tons-of-dates-to-pakistan>

11. Pak-Saudi investment company resists audit by Pakistan auditing authority

Islamabad, Tuesday, 24 May 2016

Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company established in 1980 as a joint government venture, refused audit by Auditor General of Pakistan and being an “unlisted” public limited company it sought exemption from audit laws applicable to public sector.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/saudi-pak-approaches-ihc-claiming-immunity-from-audit/>

TURKEY

12. Turkey to open cultural institute in Lahore

Islamabad, Thursday, 26 May 2016

Vice President of Turkish Cultural Institute, Saban Cobanoglu met Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif to prepare a blueprint for setting up Institute’s branch in Lahore with the view to popularize Turkish language and culture among Pakistani youth.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.app.com.pk/vice-president-turkish-cultural-institute-calls-on-shahbaz-sharif/>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/26-May-2016/pakistan-turkey-enjoy-historic-brotherly-ties-shahbaz>

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