



PAKISTAN WATCH

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POLITICAL ISSUES

BAHRAIN

1. Foreign Affairs Advisor visits Bahrain for Manama Dialogue

Islamabad, Friday, 9 December 2016

Foreign Affairs Advisor Sartaj Aziz represented Pakistan at the Manama Security Dialogue held during 10-11 December, and held a meeting with Bahraini Foreign Minister Al Khalifa to discuss avenues for enhancing bilateral trade and investment.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/sartaj-visits-bahrain-for-manama-dialogue/>

See also: Dispatch News Desk, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Lahore

<https://dnd.com.pk/sartaj-aziz-to-represent-pakistan-in-12th-manama-dialogue/120852>

EGYPT

2. Pakistan Foreign Affairs Advisor meets Egyptian Foreign Minister

Islamabad, Sunday, 11 December 2016

On the side lines of the Manama Security Dialogue 12th Regional Security Summit in Bahrain, Pakistani Foreign Affairs advisor Sartaj Aziz met the Foreign Minister of Egypt Sameh Shoukry to discuss the trajectory of bilateral relations and future course of action.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-egypt-pledge-to-strengthen-bilateral-ties/>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1301982>

PALESTINE

3. Pakistan reiterates support for Palestinian cause; questions new Jewish settlements

Islamabad, Thursday, 29 December 2016

In the weekly briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Nafees Zakaria reiterated Pakistan's continued support for Palestine and emphasized on the need to resolve the on-going Middle East conflict.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-sincerely-supports-cause-of-afghani-palestinian-people-for-durable-peace/>

TURKEY

4. Pakistan President condemns blasts in Turkey

Islamabad, Sunday, 11 December 2016

Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in the Besiktas district of Istanbul on 10 December and reassured Pakistan's support in fighting terrorism.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/president-strongly-condemns-bomb-blasts-in-turkey/>

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/2016/12/11/331334/president-strongly-condemns-bomb-blasts-in-turkey-331334/>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/11-Dec-2016/president-mamnoon-hussain-strongly-condemns-bomb-blasts-in-istanbul>

5. Turkish delegation meets Punjab CM

Islamabad, Saturday, 24 December 2016

In a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, a delegation of Turk Health Ministry discussed avenues of healthcare cooperation including launch of Motorbike Ambulance Service in Punjab and training of Pakistani health personnel in Turkey.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/turk-delegation-meets-shehbaz-sharif/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/lahore/28-Dec-2016/cm-reviews-turkish-healthcare-system-for-punjab>

UAE

6. Pak, UAE to strengthen defence ties

Islamabad, Wednesday, 21 December 2016

UAE envoy to Pakistan Ali Noaimi called on Chairman of Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) Mahmood Hayat to underline issues concerning defence cooperation.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-uae-reaffirm-to-forge-deeper-defence-security-ties/>

See also: Pakistan Observer, Islamabad

<http://pakobserver.net/pakistan-uae-reaffirm-to-forge-deeper-defence-security-ties/>

DEFENCE ISSUES

EGYPT

7. Pakistan Defence Production minister meets counterpart in Cairo

Islamabad, Tuesday, 6 December 2016

Defence Production Minister Tanveer Hussain held a meeting with Egyptian Defence Minister Sedki Sobhy and other ministers in Cairo to discuss matters relating supply of Super Mushshak and JF-17 Thunder aircraft to Egypt.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/defence-minister-holds-meeting-with-egyptian-minister/>

JORDAN

8. Pak-Jordan Counter-terrorism exercise conducted

Islamabad, Thursday, 29 December 2016

Two-week counter terrorism exercise “Fajr-ul-Sharq 1” was conducted jointly by armies of Pakistan and Jordan in the Bahadur Ranges near Attock, Punjab for counter terrorism training of the military personnel.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-jordan-armies-conduct-counter-terrorism-exercise/>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1305307>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/national/29-Dec-2016/army-chief-witnesses-pak-jordan-military-drills>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

9. Pak, Iran discuss IP Gas pipeline

Islamabad, Tuesday, 13 December 2016

Iran, Pakistan discussed amendment in the Gas Sale Purchase Agreement (GSPA) for implementation of the stalled Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project in the extended period.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/iran-agrees-to-negotiate-amendment-in-gas-sale-purchase-agreement/>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/171582-IP-gas-pipeline-Iran-agrees-to-negotiate-amendment-in-GSPA>

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/business/07-Sep-16/trade-with-iran-will-rise-to-5bn-in-four-years-durrani>

TURKEY

10. “Pakistan Country Day” seminar held in Istanbul, investment opportunities discussed

Islamabad, Saturday, 17 December 2016

Turkey-Pakistan bilateral business and investment potential was discussed at a seminar jointly organized by Consulate General of Pakistan and Istanbul Chamber of Industry.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistans-investment-potential-highlighted-to-leading-turkish-businessmen-2/>

11. Turkey to invest in Punjab’s housing, social sector

Islamabad, Sunday, 18 December 2016

In a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Turkish Investment Group Ahmet Albayrak expressed interest in investment in housing and social sectors in Punjab.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/chairman-turkish-investment-group-calls-on-cm-punjab/>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

12. OIC’s strategy to curb Islamophobia lauded

Islamabad, Monday, 5 December 2016

Pakistan's Secretary Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage (IB&NH), Mohsin Raza lauded the media strategy of Organization of Islamic Cooperation in combating Islamophobia and projecting Islam in a proper perspective.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/saba-mohsin-lauds-oics-media-strategy-to-combat-islamophobia/>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/20-Dec-2016/secretary-information-lauds-efforts-of-oic>

EGYPT

13. Pakistani sailors stranded in Red Sea near Suez Port

Islamabad, Sunday, 11 December 2016

Eighteen Pakistani sailors were stranded onboard MV AKKAZ, the Ship owned by a Kuwaiti company in the Red Sea, near the Port Suez due to mechanical failure and expiry of technical license.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-embassy-in-cairo-extending-full-support-to-stranded-pakistani-sailors/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Dec-2016/pakistan-embassy-in-cairo-extending-full-support-to-stranded-pakistani-sailors-fo>

IRAN

14. Pakistan to import electricity from Iran

Islamabad, Monday, 5 December 2016

Pakistan Envoy to Iran Asif Durrani held a meeting with Managing Director of Iran Power and Water Industries Equipment and Services Export Company (Sunir), Bahman Salehi to discuss terms and conditions for importing more electricity from Iran.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/islamabad-intends-to-buy-more-electricity-from-iran-envoy/>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/169960-Pakistan-intends-to-buy-more-power-from-Iran-envoy>

15. Iran to invest in Pakistan's road transport system

Islamabad, Friday, 16 December 2016

Iranian Consul General Mehdi Sobhani held a meeting with Sindh Minister for Transport and Mass Transit Nasir Shah and proposed investments in public transport, especially in Sindh Province.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/iran-offers-to-provide-latest-buses-to-improve-public-transport-system-in-pakistan/>

See also: Dispatch News Desk, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Lahore

<https://dnd.com.pk/iran-offers-to-provide-latest-buses-to-improve-public-transport-system-in-pakistan/121504>

OMAN

16. Oman-Pakistan discuss public diplomacy initiatives

Islamabad, Tuesday, 6 December 2016

Chief Editor, *Times of Oman* Scott Armstrong, in a meeting with Pakistan Ambassador Ali Javed appreciated the Pakistan mission's public diplomacy initiatives in Oman and lauded the achievements of Pakistani youth in sports, arts and academics.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/chief-editor-too-meets-pak-envoy/>

TURKEY

17. Turkish religious delegation visits Pak

Islamabad, Saturday, 10 December 2016

Pakistani President held a meeting with a religious delegation led by Mehmet Gormez, President of Religious Affairs of Turkey in Islamabad and emphasized the need for enhanced religious and educational cooperation between the two countries.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pak-turkey-ties-beneficial-for-ummah-president/>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/10-Dec-2016/exchange-of-delegations-b-w-pakistan-turkey-will-further-strengthen-bilateral-relations-president>

18. Pakistan National Poet Iqbal honoured posthumously in Turkey

Islamabad, Saturday, 10 December 2016

Turkish Minister for Culture and Tourism Nabi Avci posthumously honoured Pakistan's national poet Allama Iqbal with the prestigious "Dost award" for his contribution to Islam and Muslim political thought, in an award ceremony held in Konya.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/turkey-honours-allama-iqbal-with-dost-award/>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/17-Dec-2016/turkey-honours-allama-muhammad-iqbal-with-dost-award-for-service-to-islam>

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