



PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 77

April 2017

POLITICAL ISSUES

IRAN

1. Pakistan, Iran discuss bilateral issues

Islamabad, Wednesday, 1 March 2017

On the sidelines of the 13th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani held a bilateral meeting to discuss socio-economic, political and cultural areas of cooperation.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/nawaz-rouhani-exchange-views-on-bilateral-ties-regional-world-issues/>

2. Iranian envoy meets Army Chief

Islamabad, Saturday, 4 March 2017

Iranian envoy to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost visited Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Qamar Bajwa to deliberate over matters of regional security and mutual interest.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/iranian-ambassador-calls-on-coas-discuss-regional-security/>

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/03/04/iranian-ambassador-meets-army-chief-to-discuss-regional-security/>

IRAQ

3. Pakistan condemns car bombing by IS in Baghdad

Islamabad, Tuesday, 21 March 2017

Foreign Office strongly condemned the deadly terrorist attack by the Islamic State in Baghdad's Shiite-dominated Amil neighbourhood in Southwest Baghdad on 20 March, leaving at least 27 dead.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-condemns-terrorist-attack-in-baghdad-2/>

See also: Pakistan Point, Lahore

<https://www.pakistanpoint.com/en/pakistan/news/pakistan-condemns-terrorist-attack-in-baghdad-116967.html>

4. Pakistan offers development assistance to Iraq army

Islamabad, Thursday, 30 March 2017

Secretary of Defence Zamir-Ul-Hassan Shah offered infrastructural assistance and capacity building to Iraqi Armed Forces by Pakistan during his meeting with Iraqi envoy Ali-Rahmani in Islamabad.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/iraqi-envoy-calls-on-defence-secretary/>

KUWAIT

5. Pakistan PM visits Kuwait

Islamabad, Monday, 6 March 2017

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Kuwait accompanied by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi and Board of Investment Chairman Miftah Ismail and other officials and investors for an in-depth review of bilateral relations.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pm-arrives-in-kuwait-on-two-day-visit/>

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/03/06/pm-nawaz-sharif-leaves-for-kuwait-today/>

TURKEY

6. Pakistan-Turkey Bilateral Consultations held in Islamabad

Islamabad, Tuesday, 7 March 2017

The fifth Round of Pakistan-Turkey Bilateral Consultations on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Issues was held in Islamabad with participation of Turkish delegation led by Alper Coskun, Director General for International Security Affairs of the Turkish Foreign Ministry and Pakistan's Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tasnim Aslam.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-turkey-hold-bilateral-consultations-on-npdi/>

7. Turkish Health delegation visits Punjab

Islamabad, Sunday, 26 March 2017

A high-level delegation from Turkish Health Ministry led by Managing Director for International Health Policies, Selami Kilic held a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss prospects of healthcare collaboration.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/turkish-health-ministry-delegation-meets-punjab-cm/>

8. Pakistan parliamentary delegation visits Ankara, Konya

Islamabad, Monday, 27 March 2017

Pakistani parliamentary delegation led by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq interacted with the Turkish delegation led by Speaker of Turkish parliament Ismail Kahraman in Ankara and Governor of Konya Yakup Janpolat, to highlight avenues for bilateral cooperation, domestic and regional developments. On the sidelines, Sadiz also met Turkish President Erdogan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pak-turk-talks-at-parliamentary-level-starts/>

YEMEN

9. Yemen Foreign Minister visits Pakistan

Islamabad, Monday, 13 March 2017

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Yemen Jalil Al Mekhlafi held a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad to discuss situation in Yemen and bilateral issues, during his two-day visit from 12-14 March 2017.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/foreign-minister-of-yemen-calls-on-sartaj-aziz/>

DEFENCE ISSUES

IRAN

10. Pakistan Naval college delegation visits Tehran

Islamabad, Thursday, 9 March 2017

A 16-member delegation from Pakistan Navy War College led by college commandant Moazzam Ilyas paid a five-day visit to Tehran to meet senior Iranian military leadership and visit military establishments.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-navy-war-college-delegation-visits-tehran/>

11. Pakistan Navy ships reach Tehran

Islamabad, Sunday, 12 March 2017

Pakistan Navy Ships TIPPU SULTAN (DDG-185) and JURRAT arrived at the Iranian Port Bandar Abbas on 12 March, for a three-day port visit to enhance bilateral cooperation and promote maritime collaboration.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-navy-ships-reach-iranian-port-on-three-day-visit/>

JORDAN

12. Pakistan Naval Chief visits Jordan

Islamabad, Wednesday, 8 March 2017

Pakistan's Chief of the Naval Staff Muhammad Zakaullah met Hassan Bin Talal, former Crown Prince of Jordan to discuss matters relating security collaboration and avenues for enhancing cooperation with Royal Jordanian Naval Force.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/cns-meets-former-crown-prince-of-jordan/>

See also: Pakistan Observer, Islamabad

<http://pakobserver.net/cns-meets-prince-hassan-of-jordan/>

SAUDI ARABIA

13. Pakistan clarifies military stance on Yemen conflict

Islamabad, Wednesday, 15 March 2017

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif rejected the media reports about sending a Pakistan army brigade to Saudi Arabia for participating in ongoing Saudi-Yemen conflict and clarified that Pakistan would not get involved in this conflict.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/no-military-brigade-sent-to-saudi-arabia-khawaja-asif/>

14. Foreign Affairs Assistant visits Riyadh

Islamabad, Wednesday, 22 March 2017

Tariq Fatemi, Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Foreign Affairs held a meeting with Saudi Minister for Labour and Social Development Ali bin Nasir in Riyadh to discuss issues relating Pakistani workers and future cooperation in this sector during his visit on 22 March.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/fatemi-holds-meeting-with-saudi-minister-for-labour-and-social-development/>

TURKEY

15. Turkish Naval Commander visits Pak

Islamabad, Wednesday, 1 March 2017

Turkish Armed Forces Commander Hulusi AKAR visited Air Headquarters on 1 March and met Pakistan's Chief of Air Staff Sohail Aman to discuss potential areas of military and defence cooperation.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/commander-turkish-armed-forces-meets-naval-chief/>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

BAHRAIN

16. Bahrain's Commerce Minister visits Pakistan

Islamabad, Tuesday, 28 March 2017

Commerce Minister of Bahrain Zayed Alzayani paid a two-day visit to Pakistan to attend Pakistan-Bahrain Business Conference in Islamabad. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his interaction with Alzayani invited Bahrain to explore investment opportunities in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/commerce-minister-of-bahrain-arrives-on-two-day-visit/>

IRAN

17. Sindh Governor invites Iranian investors

Islamabad, Wednesday, 15 March 2017

In a meeting with Consul General of Iran Ahmad Muhammadi, Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair invited investors from Iran to take advantage of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and highlighted Karachi, as an attractive destination for national and international investors.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/sindh-governor-invites-investors-from-iran-to-take-advantage-of-cpec-2/>

SAUDI ARABIA

18. President underlines importance of Pakistani Diaspora in Saudi Arabia

Islamabad, Friday, 24 March 2017

President Mamnoon Hussain held a farewell meeting with the outgoing Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani and reiterated importance of Saudi Arabia for the state of Pakistan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-saudi-arabia-always-stood-with-each-other-president/>

See also: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/21-Apr-2017/pakistan-and-saudi-arabia-have-always-stood-by-each-other-in-testing-times-pm>

19. Pakistan offers assistance to illegal Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia

Islamabad, Thursday, 30 March 2017

Pakistan consul General in Riyadh released helpline numbers and opened special assistance service for Pakistani community members who wish to leave for their native country without any penalty under the Saudi Government's amnesty scheme.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pak-consulate-to-provide-assistance-to-illegal-pakistanis-in-ksa/>

TURKEY

20. Punjab government delegation visits Turkey

Islamabad, Tuesday, 21 March 2017

A delegation of Punjab Government led by Director General Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Zahid Zaman visited Ankara on invitation of Turkish Contractors Association (TCA) to address the Turkish private sector representatives about investment opportunities in Punjab's real estate sector.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/turkish-companies-apprired-of-investment-opportunities-in-punjab/>

COMPILED BY DIVYA MALHOTRA

Divya Malhotra is a Doctoral candidate at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Email: divyaidsa@gmail.com

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