

PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 80

July 2017

POLITICAL ISSUES

PALESTINE

1. Palestine Prez grieves tanker accident

Islamabad, Thursday, 29 June 2017

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas expressed his concern and condolences over the loss of over 200 lives in oil tanker inferno in Bahawalpur in Punjab province on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/palestinian-president-grieved-over-life-loss-in-oil-tanker-incident/>

QATAR

2. Pakistan denies military involvement in Qatar

Islamabad, Sunday, 11 June 2017

Pakistan Foreign Office rejected media reports regarding the deployment of Pakistani troops in Qatar as a “malicious campaign”.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-denies-reports-regarding-troops-deployment-in-qatar/>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/209996-Pakistan-denies-reports-regarding-troops-deployment-in-Qatar>

SAUDI ARABIA

3. PM-led delegation visits Riyadh

Islamabad, Monday, 12 June 2017

PM Nawaz Sharif accompanied by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Foreign Affairs Advisor Sartaj Aziz and Army Chief Qamar Bajwa visited Riyadh to discuss the tense developments and impasse in the Gulf region with Saudi leaders.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/prime-minister-hopes-impasse-in-gulf-to-end-soon/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/national/14-Jun-2017/ksa-qatar-row-will-end-soon-hopes-pm>

4. Pakistan envoy meets Governor of Tabuk

Islamabad, Thursday, 15 June 2017

The Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia Hasham Saddique called on Governor of Tabuk region Fahad Saud to deliberate over matters of common interest.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pak-ambassador-calls-on-governor-of-tabuk-ksa/>

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/06/15/pak-ambassador-calls-governor-of-tabuk/>

5. PM visits Saudi Arabia for Umrah

Islamabad, Sunday, 18 June 2017

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif paid a private visit to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah and paying respects at Roza-e-Rasool in Madina Munawara.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pm-departs-for-saudi-arabia-on-private-visit/>

TURKEY

6. Islamabad grieves military helicopter crash in Turkey

Islamabad, Thursday, 1 June 2017

The Foreign Office condoled the military helicopter crash in Sirnak province of Turkey on 31 May, which killed 13 military personnel onboard.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-expresses-its-condolences-over-military-helicopter-crash-in-turkey/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/national/02-Jun-2017/pakistan-condoles-with-turkey-over-soldiers-death>

DEFENCE ISSUES

IRAN

7. Iranian drone shot down at border

Islamabad, Wednesday, 21 June 2017

Pakistan Air Force shot down an Iranian Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) detected 3 to 4 km inside the Pakistani territory in West Balochistan province on the Pak-Iran border.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-shoots-down-iranian-drone-near-border-area/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Jun-2017/pakistan-shoots-down-iranian-drone-near-border>

TURKEY

8. Army Chief visits Turkey

Islamabad, Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Qamar Bajwa visited Ankara to meet his counterpart and discuss bilateral and regional issues. During his official visit, he was awarded the Legion of Merit at Turkish Land Force Headquarters for his contribution to the strengthening of bilateral ties.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/pakistan-turkey-agree-to-have-tremendous-potential-for-mutual-coop-in-various-fields/>

See also: Dawn, Karachi

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1340701>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

TURKEY

9. Ankara hosts Pakistan cultural night

Islamabad, Sunday, 18 June 2017

‘Pakistan Night’ was celebrated as part of the 8th International Ramazan Festivities, hosted by the Municipality of Kecioren in Ankara where Pakistani cultural performances, Pakistan-made products, photographic display of Pakistan’s landscape and key events of Turkey-Pakistan relations were highlighted.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

<https://www.app.com.pk/turks-appreciate-rich-pakistani-culture-showcased-in-ankara/>

See also: The News International, Karachi

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/119474-Rich-Pakistani-culture-showcased-National-Day-Celebrations-Ankara>

OIC

10. OIC lauds Pakistan

Islamabad, Sunday, 4 June 2017

Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Yousef Al-thaimeen labelled Pakistan as an important partner in the OIC’s various activities, while interacting with Pakistan’s envoy to Saudi Arabia Hasham Bin Saddique.

Source: Radio Pakistan, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/04-Jun-2017/pakistan-s-role-in-oic-s-initiatives-lauded>

See also: Times of Islamabad, Islamabad

<https://timesofislamabad.com/pakistans-role-in-oic-lauded/2017/06/04/pakistan-s-role-in-oic-s-initiatives-lauded-1496589744-3950/>

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

As part of its editorial policy, the MEI@ND standardizes spelling and date formats to make the text uniformly accessible and stylistically consistent. The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views/positions of the MEI@ND. Editor, **MEI@ND: P R Kumaraswamy**