

PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 50

January 2015

POLITICAL ISSUES

IRAN

1. Iran, Pakistan to play important role in improving economy, Regional security: NA speaker

Islamabad, Thursday, 4 December 2014

Speaker of National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq, while welcoming Iranian Speaker Ali Larijani, said that Pakistan and Iran could play important role in improving economy and security of their region.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=314063&Itemid=2

See also: The News International, Karachi

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-288376-Iranian-govt-team-assures-help-in-overcoming-power-loadshedding>

2. Pakistan fully committed to complete Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline Project: Shahid Khaqan

Islamabad, Monday, 8 December 2014

Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi while talking to an Iranian delegation led by Iranian Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Ali Tayebnia said that Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project was vital for Pakistan's energy needs.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=314645&Itemid=2

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/108-pakistan-top-news/209624-pakistan-fully-committed-to-complete-pak-iran-gas-pipeline-project-shahid-khaqan.html>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/803620/aziz-reaffirms-commitment-to-iran-pakistan-gas-pipeline-project/>

See also: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/business/09-Dec-2014/ip-pipeline-project-vital-for-pakistan-s-energy-needs-khaqan>

3. Iran's Deputy FM visited Pakistan embassy, offered sympathies on school attack

Islamabad, Thursday, 18 December 2014

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ibrahim Rahimpour visited Pakistan Embassy in Tehran and signed the condolence book.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316094&Itemid=2

KUWAIT

4. NA Speaker discussed issues with Amir of Kuwait

Islamabad, Tuesday, 16 December 2014

Speaker of National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq called on Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in Kuwait City to discuss bilateral relations.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315671&Itemid=2

5. Pak-Kuwait speakers for reinvigorating ties between legislatures

Islamabad, Wednesday, 17 December 2014

Ayaz Sadiq and Speaker of Majlis al-Umma (National Assembly) of Kuwait Sheikh Marzouk Ali Al-Ghanim discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations between the two legislatures.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315881&Itemid=2

See also: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315881&Itemid=1

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/17-Dec-2014/na-speaker-meets-kuwaiti-pm-majlis-speaker>

QATAR

6. Pak-Qatar bilateral relations are strong: Envoy Saad bin Abdullah

Karachi, Thursday, 25 December 2014

Consul General of Qatar Saad Bin Abdulla Al Mahmoud Al Shareef during a reception to mark Qatar National Day said bilateral relation is based on common faith and culture.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316901&Itemid=49

See also: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316901&Itemid=2

TURKEY

7. Turkish President, PM phoned PM Nawaz to condemn terrorist act

Islamabad, Tuesday, 16 December 2014

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to condemn the massacre in Peshawar school.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315776&Itemid=2

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2014/12/17/foreign/turkey-announces-one-day-mourning-over-peshawar-attack/>

8. Turkish Speaker expressed solidarity on Peshawar incident

Islamabad, Wednesday, 17 December 2014

Speaker of Turkish Parliament Cemil Cicek expressed solidarity with Pakistan on the Peshawar incident.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315941&Itemid=2

9. Turkish Deputy PM visited Pak Embassy to condole for Peshawar victims

Islamabad, Thursday, 18 December 2014

Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Blent Arin visited Embassy of Pakistan to express condolences on behalf the Turkish Government.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316064&Itemid=2

10. Turkey honoured Pak envoy with medal of distinguished service

Islamabad, Friday, 26 December 2014

The outgoing ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey Muhammad Haroon Shaukat was honoured with a medal of distinguished services for his efforts to promote bilateral relations by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=317111&Itemid=1

See also: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1153449>

UAE

11. Dar felicitated UAE on 43rd National Day

Islamabad, Wednesday, 3 December 2014

Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs of Pakistan Ishaq Dar felicitated the people and the UAE on their 43rd National Day.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=313820&Itemid=2

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/03-Dec-2014/dar-felicitates-uae-on-national-day>

12. UAE assured support to Pakistan against terrorism

Islamabad, Thursday, 18 December 2014

The UAE denounced the terror attack on a school in Peshawar and assured its support to Pakistan in the war against terrorism.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315971&Itemid=2

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/211893-uae-assures-support-to-pakistan-against-terrorism.html>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

13. Pakistan, Iran agreed to expand trade

Islamabad, Monday, 8 December 2014

Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Ishaq Dar and the Iranian Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Ali Tayebnia held a meeting along with their delegations to focus on trade promotion in the nineteenth meeting of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Economic Commission.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=314567&Itemid=1

See also: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/08-Dec-2014/pakistan-iran-agree-to-promote-trade>

14. Pakistan and Iran need to utilize untapped potential

Islamabad, Monday, 8 December 2014

Iranian Economic and Finance Minister Ali Tayebnia and Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz met and discussed bilateral relations with reference to the economic dimensions.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=314594&Itemid=2

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/108-pakistan-top-news/209592-pakistan-iran-need-to-utilize-untapped-potential.html>

15. Iranian Finance Minister called on PM

Islamabad, Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Iranian Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Ali Tayebnia called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and discussed enhancing investment and bilateral trade.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=314678&Itemid=2

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/209826-iranian-finance-minister-calls-on-pm.html>

16. Pakistan, Iran signed five MoUs for cooperation in diverse areas

Islamabad, Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Pakistan and Iran signed five memorandums of understanding for cooperation in the areas of investment, economic and technical assistance, small and medium enterprises, ports, and handicrafts at the end of 19th session of Pakistan-Iran Joint Economic Commission.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=314756&Itemid=2

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/804227/pakistan-iran-sign-5-mous-to-enhance-bilateral-cooperation/>

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/209879-pakistan-iran-sign-five-mous-for-cooperation-in-diverse-areas.html>

17. Iranian finance minister called on Shahbaz

Lahore, Wednesday, 10 December 2014

An Iranian delegation led by Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Ali Tayebnia met Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and discussed trade and economic relations.

Source: Daily Times, Lahore

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/10-Dec-2014/iran-finance-minister-calls-on-cm>

QATAR

18. Pak businessmen urged to invest in Qatar

Lahore, Friday, 26 December 2014

A six-member delegation from Qatar invited Pakistani businessmen to initiate joint ventures with Qatari entrepreneurs.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=317102&Itemid=49

See also: The News International, Karachi

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-3-292522-Qatar-invites-Pakistani-businessmen-for-joint-ventures>

See also: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1153384>

SECURITY ISSUES

TURKEY

19. Turkey, Pakistan discussed ways to further boost defence ties

Islamabad, Thursday, 11 December 2014

Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan Muhammad Zakaullah met with Turkish Minister for National Defence Ismet Yilmaz to discuss defence relations during his four days visit to Turkey.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315056&Itemid=2

See also: Business Recorder, Karachi

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/210267-turkey-pakistan-discuss-ways-to-further-boost-defence-ties.html>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

TURKEY

20. 4320 MW Dasu Hydropower project road show held in Turkey

Islamabad, Tuesday, 23 December 2014

A technical team of hydropower experts from Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority met with Turkish construction companies and explained technical details about Dasu Hydro Power Project of Pakistan.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316556&Itemid=2

UAE

21. PCB planned 3-nation "A" event in UAE next year: Shaharyar

Karachi, Thursday, 25 December 2014

Board Chairperson Shaharyar M. Khan said that Pakistan Cricket Board had planned an "A" team event between three nations in United Arab Emirates.

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad

http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316763&Itemid=290

See also: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1152940>

COMPILED BY PAULAMI SANYAL

Paulami Sanyal is a doctoral candidate at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Email: paula_kolkata@yahoo.co.in

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**