

# PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 51

February 2015

## POLITICAL ISSUES

### BAHRAIN

#### 1. King of Bahrain hosted banquet for PM Sharif

Manama, Wednesday, 7 January 2015

King Hamad hosted a banquet for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who was on a two-day visit to Bahrain.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318404&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318404&Itemid=2)

#### 2. PM met King of Bahrain, discussed bilateral ties

Manama, Wednesday, 7 January 2015

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met King of Bahrain Hamad and discussed efforts to strengthening of bilateral relations.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318419&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318419&Itemid=2)

*See Also: The News International, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-171121-PM-Nawaz-meets-King-of-Bahrain,-discusses-bilateral-ties>

#### 3. Pakistan keen to improve trade, economic ties with Bahrain: PM

Manama, Wednesday, 7 January 2015

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in delegation-level talks with Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa emphasized on improvement of bilateral economic relations. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the status of defence and security cooperation between the two countries. After the talks, the two prime ministers witnessed signing of a number of agreements and MoUs

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318254&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318254&Itemid=2)

*See Also: The Nation, Lahore*

<http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Jan-2015/pakistan-bahrain-sign-six-pacts>

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2015/pakistan-keen-to-improve-trade-economic-ties-with-bahrain-pm>

*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/215607-pakistan-keen-to-improve-trade-economic-ties-with-bahrain-pm.html>

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#### **4. PM offered Bahrain for manpower export**

**Manama, Thursday, 8 January 2015**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Bahrain's Labour Minister Jameel bin Mohammad Ali Humaidan offered to provide manpower to Bahrain to meet its requirements.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318437&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318437&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/215779-pm-offers-bahrain-for-manpower-export.html>

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#### **5. Pakistan, Bahrain agreed to enhance cooperation in diverse areas**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 8 January 2015**

Pakistan and Bahrain have agreed to enhance cooperation in sectors like energy, youth and sports, advancement of women, social works and human resource development, agriculture, marine resources, cattle breeding, poultry and fish-farming.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318524&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318524&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/business-a-economy/sin:/1140703:diverse-areas-of-mutual-interest-pakistan-bahrain-agree-to-enhance-cooperation/?date=2015-01-09>

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#### **6. PAF chief called on King of Bahrain in Manama**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 27 January 2015**

Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Tahir Rafique Butt called on King Hamad and discussed regional and international issues.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=320813&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=320813&Itemid=2)

*See Also: The News International, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-298516-PAF-chief-calls-on-King-of-Bahrain-in-Manama>

*See Also: The Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1159967>

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### **IRAN**

#### **7. Pakistan to participate in NAM Ministerial Conference to be held in Iran**

**Islamabad, Friday, 9 January 2015**

During a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Alireza Hagighiain in Islamabad, Minister for Science and Technology and Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said Pakistan would participate in Non-Alignment Movement member countries' conference on science and technology.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318584&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318584&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/08-Jan-2015/pakistan-iran-enjoying-fraternal-ties-tanveer>

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## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **8. Nisar, Saudi ambassador discussed bilateral matters**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 14 January 2015**

Acting Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Jassem Al-Khaledi called on Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and discussed matters of mutual interest.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=319067&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=319067&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/14-Jan-2015/nisar-saudi-ambassador-discuss-bilateral-matters>

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### **9. PM arrived in Saudi Arabia on two-day visit**

**Riyadh, Thursday, 15 January 2015**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived on a two-day private visit to Saudi Arabia to inquire the health of King Abdullah and he would also meet Crown Prince Salman and Deputy Crown Prince Muqrin.

*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/217384-pm-arrives-in-saudi-arabia-on-two-day-visit.html>

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### **10. PM, Saudi Crown Prince discussed bilateral ties**

**Riyadh, Thursday, 15 January 2015**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Salman and discussed bilateral relations, situation in the Middle East and issues facing the Muslim world.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=319223&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=319223&Itemid=2)

*See Also: The Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1157170>

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### **11. King Abdullah's funeral prayer in absentia offered**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 24 January 2015**

The funeral prayer late Saudi King Abdullah was offered at Faisal Mosque and was organized by International Islamic University Islamabad and led by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=320366&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=320366&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/109-world-top-news/219538-king-abdullahs-funeral-prayer-in-absentia-offered-at-faisal-mosque.html>

*See Also: The Nation, Lahore*

<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/25-Jan-2015/funeral-prayer-in-absentia-for-saudi-monarch-offered>

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### **12. PM felicitated King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz**

**Islamabad, Friday, 23 January 2015**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif felicitated the newly crowned King of Saudi Arabia Salman and Crown Prince Muqrin.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=320333&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=320333&Itemid=2)

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### **13. President felicitated King Salman bin Abdul Aziz**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 24 January 2015**

President Mamnoon Hussain felicitated the newly crowned King of Saudi Arabia Salman.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=320336&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=320336&Itemid=2)

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*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/24-Jan-2015/president-felicitates-king-salman-bin-abdulaziz>

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### **14. Senate offered Fateha for departed soul of Saudi King**

**Islamabad, Friday, 30 January 2015**

Pakistan Senate offered Fateha led by State Minister Abdul Ghafoor Haideri for the late King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=321350&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=321350&Itemid=2)

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*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/pakistan/general-news/221097-senate-offers-fateha-for-departed-soul-of-saudi-king.html>

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## **TURKEY**

### **15. NA Speaker called on Turkish president**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 20 January 2015**

Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara and briefed him about the proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=319901&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=319901&Itemid=2)

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*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/21-Jan-2015/turkish-president-receives-na-speaker-hopes-pakistan-would-soon-come-out-of-current-challenges>

*See Also: The Dawn, Karachi*

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1158440>

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### **16. Pakistan, Turkey agreed to further boost parliamentary relations**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 22 January 2015**

Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly Cemil Cicek met on the sidelines of the 10th session of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states and agreed to enhance interaction between the parliamentarians of the two countries and share legislative experience.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=320165&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=320165&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/22-Jan-2015/pakistan-turkey-agree-to-further-boost-parliamentary-relations>

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## **UAE**

### **17. Pakistani envoy, UAE Health Minister discussed cooperation in health field**

**Islamabad, Tuesday, 27 January 2015**

Pakistan's Ambassador Asif Durrani met the UAE Minister for Health, Salem Abdul Rahman Al Darmaki in Dubai and discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of health.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=320756&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=320756&Itemid=2)

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## **ECONOMIC ISSUES**

### **BAHRAIN**

#### **18. PM's Bahrain visit to attract more foreign investment: Miftah**

**Islamabad, Thursday, 8 January 2015**

Chairperson of the Board of Investment Miftah Ismail while talking to PTV termed the recent visit by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Bahrain as "highly successful and would help attract more foreign investment in the country."

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318497&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318497&Itemid=1)

*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/215938-pms-bahrain-visit-to-attract-more-foreign-investment-miftah.html>

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#### **19. PM invited Bahrain's investment in energy sector**

**Manama, Thursday, 8 January 2015**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Bahrain's Energy Minister Abdul Hussain Bin Ali Mirza said that Pakistan was looking forward to early establishment of Pakistan Energy Fund to help overcome its acute energy shortage and invited Bahrain's investors for joint ventures in energy sector.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318440&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318440&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/08-Jan-2015/pm-invites-bahrain-s-investment-in-energy-sector>

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### **SAUDI ARABIA**

## **20. Saudi Arabia would provide Riyal 206 million for Muzaffarabad road project**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 7 January 2015**

Jassim Al Khaldi, Charge d'affaires in the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, informed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar that Saudi Arabia would provide Pakistan loan of Riyal 206 million for constructing Chehlla Bandi road in Muzaffarabad.

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/business/07-Jan-2015/saudi-arabi-providing-riyal-206mln-for-muzaffarabad-road-project>

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## **DEFENCE ISSUES**

### **BAHRAIN**

#### **21. PM visited Headquarters of Bahraini Defence Forces**

**Manama, Thursday, 8 January 2015**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited the Headquarters of Bahrain Defence Forces and held meeting with its Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318473&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318473&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/08-Jan-2015/pm-visits-bahraini-defence-forces-headquarters>

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#### **22. PAF Chief visits Bahrain Defence Forces' Headquarters in Manama**

**Islamabad, Monday, 26 January 2015**

Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt visited the General Headquarters of Bahrain Defence Forces in Manama on the official invitation of Royal Bahrain Air Force.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=320618&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=320618&Itemid=2)

*See Also: The Nation, Lahore*

<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/27-Jan-2015/paf-chief-visits-bahrain-defence-hq>

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### **SAUDI ARABIA**

#### **23. Pak-Saudi Arabia to expand cooperation in military training, exercises**

**Rawalpindi, Wednesday, 7 January 2015**

The Deputy Commander of Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Ibrahim Nassir Maghlouth, called on Secretary of Defence Lieutenant-General Muhammad Alam Khattak (retired) and discussed defence collaboration between the two countries.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318275&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318275&Itemid=1)

*See Also: Business Recorder, Karachi*

<http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/172:pakistan/1140473:military-training-exercises-pakistan-saudi-arabia-to-expand-cooperation/>

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## **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES**

### **TURKEY**

#### **24. Pakistan to set up Imam Hatim schools on pattern of Turkey: Yousaf**

**Islamabad, Saturday, 3 January 2015**

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Muhammad Yousaf said while talking to a two-member Turkish delegation that Pakistan wanted to set up Imam Hatim Schools System on pattern of Turkey for imparting religious education.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=317807&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=317807&Itemid=2)

*See Also: The News International, Karachi*

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-6-294107-Imam-Hatim-schools-to-be-set-up-on-pattern-of-Turkey>

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#### **25. Role of Pak-Turk School System in education lauded**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 7 January 2015**

Deputy Chairperson Sabir Ali Baloch hosted a reception for a delegation from the Pak-Turk International School and praised the role of the school for imparting quality education in Pakistan.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318344&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318344&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2015/role-of-pak-turk-school-system-in-education-lauded>

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#### **26. Turkish officials commemorate Peshawar terrorist attack victims**

**Islamabad, Wednesday, 7 January 2015**

Mayor of Kecioren Multiplicity of Ankara, Justice and Development Party, its Youth Wing and Pakistan Embassy officials in Turkey have planted trees to pay homage to the school-children and staff who died in a terrorists' attack in the Army Public School, Peshawar.

*Source: Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad*

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=318347&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=318347&Itemid=2)

*See Also: Daily Times, Lahore*

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/07-Jan-2015/turkey-pays-homage-to-peshawar-school-attack-victims>

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