



PAKISTAN WATCH

No. 57

August 2015

POLITICAL ISSUES

QATAR

1) Qatari delegation called on Pakistan president

Islamabad, Tuesday, 31 July 2015

Delegation from Qatar headed by Abdullah Bin Thani, a member of the royal family met President Asif Ali Zardari and discussed economic and commercial investment.

Source: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/220450/bilateral-ties-qatari-delegation-calls-on-president/>

SAUDI ARABIA

2) Pakistani commentator Zaid Hamid denied consular access by Saudi Arabia

Islamabad, Wednesday, 1 July 2015

Pakistan consulate in Saudi Arabia has been denied access to Zaid Hamid; the political commentator who was sentenced to eight years in prison in June, by the Saudi authorities. He was indicted for criticizing Saudi government during a private visit in June.

Source: The Dawn, Islamabad

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1191659>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/913572/pakistan-approaches-saudi-arabia-to-confirm-zaid-hamid-prison-sentence/>

3) PM Nawaz met Saudi king Salman after Umrah

Islamabad, Monday, 13 July 2015

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had a meeting with King Salman in Mecca and discussed several aspects of bilateral cooperation and regional developments.

Source: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1194053>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/919413/pm-nawaz-reaches-saudi-arabia-to-perform-umrah/>

See also: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/07/12/national/pm-in-ksa-for-umrah-meets-king/>

TURKEY

4) Pakistan condemns terrorist attack in Turkey

Islamabad, Tuesday, 21 July 2015

Pakistani officials condemned the deadly suicide bombing at a rally the Sanliurfa Province of Turkey. The main targets of the attack were activists preparing to visit the Syrian town of Kobani.

Source: The Nation, Lahore

<http://nation.com.pk/national/21-Jul-2015/pakistan-condemns-terrorist-attack-in-turkey>

See also: Daily Pakistan, Lahore

<http://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/pakistan/pakistan-condemns-terrorist-attack-in-turkey-167/>

5) Turkish President's visit to Pakistan on 1 August 2015

Islamabad, Friday, 31 July 2015

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will stop over in Pakistan following his trip to Indonesia in August to discuss bilateral relations.

Source: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/929865/turkish-president-to-visit-pakistan-tomorrow/>

See also: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1197569>

See also: The Daily Times, Islamabad

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/31-Jul-2015/erdogan-to-hold-talks-with-nawaz-during-stopover>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

6) Iranian Delegation to visit Pakistan in August

Islamabad, Sunday, 26 July 2015

A delegation from Iran is scheduled to arrive in Pakistan in August to explore trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

Source: The Express Tribune, Islamabad

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/926466/much-needed-iranian-delegation-to-visit-pakistan-next-month/>

SECURITY ISSUES

IRAN

7) Iran, Pak discussed extradition of captured terrorist

Islamabad, Sunday, 5 July 2015

Under the extradition agreements, a meeting was held for extradition of Abdo-Sattar Rigi, commander of the terrorist organization Jaish al-Nasr. He was arrested by Pakistani forces in March 2015.

Source: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/07/05/national/iran-pak-in-talks-over-extradition-of-captured-terrorist/>

8) Iranian forces fired mortar shells into Pakistani territory

Islamabad, Tuesday, 21 July 2015

Iranian border guards fired four mortar shells in Soorap area of Baluchistan's Panjgur district close to the Iranian border.

Source: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/07/21/national/iranian-forces-fire-mortar-shells-into-pakistani-territory/>

See also: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1195490>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/780467/iranian-border-guards-fire-mortar-shells-into-pakistani-territory/>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

BAHRAIN

9) Bahrain asks PIA to clear dues within a month

Islamabad, Thursday, 23 July 2015

Bahrain Ministry of Transport and Communication has asked the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to clear the accumulated dues worth 71,000 riyals in connection with parking, overflying and landing charges since 2010.

Source: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1195821>

IRAN

10) Iran handed over 124 deportees to Pakistan

Islamabad, Sunday, 12 July 2015

Around 124 Pakistani nationals were handed over to Pakistani military near the Pak-Iran border in Taftan area of the Baluchistan.

Source: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/07/12/national/iran-hands-over-124-deportees-to-pakistan/>

QATAR

11) 200,000 Pak workers to be sent to Qatar ahead of FIFA world cup

Islamabad, Tuesday, 21 July 2015

Pakistani government will send 200,000 skilled and semi-skilled workers to Qatar ahead of FIFA World Cup 2022 for the construction of infrastructure, and other projects.

Source: Pakistan Today, Lahore

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/07/21/business/200000-pak-workers-to-be-sent-to-qatar-ahead-of-fifa-world-cup/>

12) Qatar Airways launched services in Sialkot, Faisalabad

Islamabad, Wednesday, 22 July 2015

Qatar Airways announced four weekly passenger services to Sialkot and three weekly flights to Faisalabad from 16 July.

Source: Pakistan Today

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/07/22/national/qatar-airways-launches-services-in-sialkot-faisalabad/>

TURKEY

13) Pakistanis among 150 migrants detained in Turkey

Islamabad, Tuesday, 14 July 2015

Around 150 migrants, including some from Pakistan were detained by Turkey's coastguard as they attempted to sail from Turkey's western coast to the Greek island of Lesbos.

Source: The Dawn, Karachi

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1194317>

See also: The Express Tribune, Karachi

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/920156/pakistanis-among-150-migrants-detained-by-turkey-for-trying-to-sail-to-greece/>

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