



Taliban Cant't Take On The Islamic State Alone

Amira Jadoon and Andrew Mines | October 14, 2021

“Preventing the Islamic State from holding territory is just one of the challenges the Taliban faces. For now, at least, the Islamic State in Afghanistan’s strategy no longer appears to prioritize the costly struggle for territorial control. Instead, it is focused on leveraging operational assets to attack the Taliban.”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2021/10/the-taliban-cant-take-on-the-islamic-state-alone/>.

Pakistan At Crossroads Again

Najam Sethi | October 01, 2021

“Pakistan’s ruling civil-military elite needs to reset the framework of National Power – kinetic security, sustained and non-dependent economic growth, fairer regional and class distribution of the fruits of development and consensual rules of political participation and constitutional governance.”

Read More: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/crossroads-again/>.

Western Dependence On Pakistan Is Not Going Away

Rupert Stone | October 02, 2021

“While many lawmakers in Washington want to get even with Islamabad for its allegedly nefarious role in the Afghan war, it remains true that the United States and its allies are dependent on Pakistan in significant respects.”

Read More: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/western-dependence-pakistan-not-going-away-194746>

US, China, Iran Triangle: Between a Rock And a Hard Place

Yonah Jeremy Bob | Septmeber 29, 2021

“The latest US move to seek help from China after letting Iran spend several months with increasingly dangerous violations of the JCPOA’s nuclear limits and inspections is weak. It continues to signal to Tehran that the regime can stonewall for at least several more weeks – and maybe months – before Biden will take stronger action economically, let alone militarily.”

Read More: <https://www.jpost.com/international/us-china-iran-triangle-between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place-analysis-680581>

Quest For More Leverage Drives Iran’s Nuclear Stalling Tactic

Parisa Hafezi and John Irish | October 05, 2021

“Emboldened by the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, Iran’s rulers are confident their stalling strategy will not bring serious repercussions, analysts said, especially when U.S. President Joe Biden is embroiled in a growing rivalry with China and battling a COVID-19 crisis at home.”

Read More: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/quest-more-leverage-drives-irans-nuclear-stalling-tactic-analysts-say-2021-10-05/>

What’s Behind Fresh Tensions On Iran-Azerbaijan Border?

RFE RL | October 02, 2021

“Tensions have increased recently between Tehran and Baku over three issues: a joint military drill that Azerbaijani troops conducted alongside their Turkish and Pakistani counterparts some 500 kilometers from the Iranian border; Azerbaijani restrictions on Iranian truck drivers’ access to Armenia and the detention of two drivers; and Azerbaijani ties to Iran’s archenemy Israel.”

Read More: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/02102021-whats-behind-fresh-tensions-on-iran-azerbaijan-border-analysis/>

Can India and Israel help drive Cooperation In The Middle East?

Murali Krishnan | October 20, 2021

“Any similar quadrilateral cooperation in the Middle East is likely to focus more on fostering economic, technology, and development ties, rather than the security-oriented dialogue aimed at the Indo-Pacific.”

Read More: <https://www.dw.com/en/can-india-and-israel-help-drive-cooperation-in-the-middle-east/a-59563532>

The Fourth Division: Syria’s Parallel Army

Abdullah Alghadawi | September 24, 2021

“As Russian enthusiasm for restructuring the Syrian army, which started in 2015, is currently weakening, that may increase the hegemony of the Fourth Division, further strengthening the military’s dominance over all aspects of life in Syria and making it a state exclusively linked to the army.”

Read More: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/fourth-division-syrias-parallel-army>.

Myanmar’s Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Is Dead

David Scott Mathieson | October 15, 2021

“On the sixth anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) it is worth considering how much can be salvaged from a discredited peace process, when Myanmar is facing multiple conflicts on top of the world’s longest-running and most complex civil war.”

Read More: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/opinion/guest-column/myanmars-nationwide-ceasefire-agreement-is-dead.html>

REGION IN PICTURES

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Saudi Arabia to participate in the "Green Middle East Initiative" (GMI) thus signaling an improvement in bilateral relations between Riyadh and Islamabad.



Pic credits: Bandar Algaloud

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the newly built Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre (BBCFEC) at Dhaka. The facility is aimed at organizing trade fairs and enhancing business ties.



Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) three-day plenary was held from 19 Oct to 21 October 21. Pakistan and Turkey are among 23 countries that are on the grey list which includes Morocco, Myanmar, Jordan and Philippines.



Russia hosted the third meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan, which saw the participation of special representatives from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.





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The views expressed in this brief are those of the author and not necessarily of the Centre or any other organisation.