



The Pakistan Quagmire

Shivam Shekhawat | 03 March, 2022

“Pakistan is now caught between lobbying with the international community for recognising the Taliban regime but with no way to deal with the crisis itself.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-pakistan-quagmire/>

Despite Opposition, Pakistan’s ‘Aurat March’ Brings Together

Women to Fight for their Rights

Nadra Huma Quraishi | 07 March, 2022

“While the rest of the world is devising strategies to improve the conditions of women, Pakistani women face the challenge of whether or not they will even be allowed to share their issues on a public forum on this day.”

Read More: <https://thewire.in/women/despite-opposition-pakistans-aurat-march-brings-women-together-to-fight-for-their-rights>

Tragic End Game

Najam Sethi | 18 March, 2022

“The Miltabishment has realized that its hybrid experiment led by Bonsai Khan has come a cropper, in the bargain discrediting the institution hugely. Now when the public mood is rabidly anti-PTI, as every survey of public opinion shows, it simply can’t afford to be seen to embrace Khan.”

Read More: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2022/03/18/tragic-end-game/>

Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine Helps the Taliban and Makes Afghans Worse Off

Scott Worden | 07 March, 2022

“The political impacts of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Afghanistan are more difficult to discern. Russian and United States’ goals in Afghanistan are largely aligned, as evidenced by a series of joint statements issued by the United States, Russia, China and Pakistan calling for a more inclusive Taliban government, counter terrorism guarantees and respect for universal human and women’s rights. Despite the vastly increased tensions between the United States and Russia over Ukraine, the common Afghan interests remain largely unchanged.”

Read More: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/03/russias-invasion-ukraine-helps-taliban-and-makes-afghans-worse>

Afghanistan Girls’ Tears Over Chaotic Taliban Schools U-Turn

Secunder Kermani | 24 March, 2022

“The chaotic nature of this policy reversal, suggests the groups’ central leadership decided at the last minute to overrule their own Ministry of Education, nervous about alienating their most ultra-conservative members.”

Read More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60848649>

The Emergence of Civilian Resistance to Military Rule in Myanmar

Jaspar Picard | 08 March, 2022

“Now, more than a year on from the coup, PDFs have emerged as a new dominant force. There are over 70 separate PDFs in Sagaing Region alone, and perhaps as many as 300 nationwide.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/03/the-emergence-of-civilian-resistance-to-military-rule-in-myanmar/>

PM Seeks Larger UAE Investment in Bangladesh

BSS News Service | 10 March, 2022

“An MoU was signed between the FBCCI and the UAE Chambers to establish a Joint Business Council between the two countries.”

Read More: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/49500>

The 25 Year Iran-China Agreement, Endangering 2,500 Years of Heritage

Ghazal Vaisi | 01 March, 2022

“The popular perception in Iran is that the 25-year strategic agreement with China will only strengthen the Iranian regime by helping it to impose new oppressive measures, control information, spread propaganda, and spy on dissidents and their families. What’s more, in return, Beijing will continue to kill off Iranian craftsmanship with a flood of inexpensive goods and destroy the environment with white-elephant infrastructure projects that profit China rather than Iran.”

Read More: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/25-year-iran-china-agreement-endangering-2500-years-heritage>

How Does Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine Impact the Middle East?

Joe Macaron | 17 March, 2022

“Since Joe Biden’s election as US president in November 2020, Middle Eastern leaders have been working to reduce regional tensions by rekindling strained bilateral relations. Turkey, for example, has opened channels of communication with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Israel; there are also talks between Qatar and Egypt, and between Saudi Arabia and Iran.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/3/17/how-does-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-impact-the-middle-east>

In Tajikistan’s Pamir Mountains, Tensions Simmer Dangerously

Agnieszka Pikulicka-Wilczewska | 28 February 2022

“Russia, which has been the main destination for Tajik migrants for years, and one of the main sources of the country’s GDP, is an unlikely safe haven for the Pamiris. While Pamiri organizations operate in Moscow, the close relationship between Russia and Tajikistan makes it a risky place for the Tajik opposition.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/in-tajikistans-pamir-mountains-tensions-simmer-dangerously/>

REGION IN PICTURES

IPakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan delivered a keynote address at the inaugural session of the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad on 22 March 2022. The aim of the two-day annual meeting of OIC was held under the theme of “Building Partnerships for Unity, Justice, and Development.



Pic Credits: Naveed Siddiqui via The Dawn

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited Pakistan from 03-04 March 2022. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including cabinet members and businessmen.



Pic Credits: Via Radio Pakistan

The Sri Lankan government started to seek support from two global competing rivals: India and China. Sri Lanka has had strong economic ties with both these countries over the decades; economic relations with China in particular have gotten stronger during the last 20 years, with China emerging as the biggest bilateral lender and FDI provider to Sri Lanka.



Pic Credits: The Diplomat

Najam Sethi joins Raza Rumi and Murtaza Solangi to discuss the delay in the vote of no-confidence motion, Imran Khan's meeting with TV anchors, and the FM Qureshi's bill seeking South Punjab province.



Pic Credits: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2022/03/26/does-imran-have-a-surprise-ace-or-not-which-way-will-allies-go-naya-daur-najam-sethi-official/>



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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.