



Terror Nexus in Afghanistan

Zahid Hussain | 07 Dec 2022

“A major reason for the resurgence of the terrorist networks are the ideological linkages the Afghan Taliban have had with foreign militant groups like the TTP and IMU.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1725112/terror-nexus-in-afghanistan>

Afghanistan's Guerrilla Generation: An Interview With Ahmad Massoud

David Loyn | 05 Dec 2022

“There are other potential military forces willing to take up arms against Taliban, although dislocation of the collapse, which scattered prominent Afghans across the globe, has made both political and military organisation difficult.”

Read More: <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-next-guerrilla-generation-in-afghanistan-an-interview-with-ahmad-massoud/>

Political Uncertainty in Pakistan

Shalini Chawla | 03 Dec 2022

“Even though the political instability has been cyclic in Pakistan, what has been different in Khan’s case is that he managed to build a support lobby for himself within the critical institutions in Pakistan, which have backed his actions and narratives against the establishment.”

Read More: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/features/political-uncertainty-in-pak-457353>

The Anti-American Delusions of Imran Khan

Sadanand Dhume | 24 Nov 2022

“Contrary to his claims, the U.S. has treated Islamabad generously, sometimes to the detriment of American interests. If Washington now favors India, Pakistan has only itself to blame.”

Read More: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/anti-american-pakistan-army-economic-growth-gdp-imran-khan-india-foreign-policy-oil-fertilizer-russia-sanctions-nuclear-terrorism-jihad-11669248217>

The Mountains Facing Pakistan’s New Army Chief

Tim Willasey-Wilsey | 28 Nov 2022

“Gen Munir will have to show diplomatic finesse in restoring some balance between the Pakistan army’s Chinese and US relationships.”

Read More: <https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/mountains-facing-pakistans-new-army-chief>

China Is Investing Billions in Pakistan: Its Workers There Are Under Attack

Saeed Shah and Chun Han Wong | 23 Nov 2022

“Pakistan is a toxic brew for China where they have become enemy No. 1 for an array of militant groups on the ground due to their proximity to the Pakistani state.”

Read More: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-pakistan-attacks-belt-and-road-11669218179>

Sindhi and Baluch Separatists Team Up to Target Chinese Interests in Pakistan

Syed Fazl-e-Haider | 02 Dec 2022

“At present, Pakistani counter-terrorism authorities do not view Sindhi militancy a major threat to security. The Baluch-Sindhi nexus however, could make both contingents more lethal and aggravate the threat to the Chinese projects in Sindh.”

Read More: <https://jamestown.org/program/sindhi-and-baluch-separatists-team-up-to-target-chinese-interests-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Tops New Index Measuring Chinese Influence Around The World

Reid Standish | 02 Dec 2022

“While trade and investment were an early impetus, Chinese influence now plays a growing role in foreign policy, local media, and increasingly in defense and security.”

Read More: <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/pakistan-china-index-influence/32168060.html>

How the War in Ukraine is Stress Testing West Asia’s Geopolitics

Kabir Taneja | 21 Nov 2022

“This is increasingly becoming a driving reason why Gulf capitals are attracted towards the concept of ‘strategic autonomy’, one that is attractive on paper, but for West Asia, challenging in practice.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/how-the-war-in-ukraine-is-stress-testing-west-asias-geopolitics/>

Iran’s People Have Begun An Irreversible Process —Tearing Off The Theocratic Veil

Praveen Swami | 27 Nov 2022

“The rise of the authoritarian-populist Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, though, saw the gains reversed, as the regime sought to consolidate its authority with religious nationalism.”

Read More: <https://theprint.in/opinion/security-code/irans-people-have-begun-an-irreversible-process-tearing-off-the-theocratic-veil/1237274/>

Protests and Polling Insights From the Streets of Iran: How Removal of the Hijab Became a Symbol of Regime Change

Kasra Aarabi and Jemima Shelley | 22 Nov 2022

“Despite ongoing internet blackouts, and credible accounts of torture and intimidation, the Iranian people are actively resisting and bravely continuing their protests on the streets.”

Read More: <https://institute.global/policy/protests-and-polling-insights-streets-iran-how-removal-hijab-became-symbol-regime-change>

Turkey’s Future Drone Carriers

Olli Pekka Suorsa And Brendon J. Cannon | 30 Nov 2022

“Ankara is now pursuing the development of fully-fledged “drone carriers,” a class of light carriers carrying several dozen still-in-development Bayraktar TB3 remotely piloted aircraft.”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2022/11/turkeys-future-drone-carriers/>

Azerbaijan’s War Against Armenia Matters as much as Russia-Ukraine. India Must Stand with Yerevan

Kapil Komireddi | 22 Nov 2022

“Their impulse to punish Russia for waging war against Ukraine has prompted them to reward Azerbaijan, a spectacularly corrupt hereditary dictatorship at war with Armenia.”

Read More: <https://theprint.in/opinion/azerbaijans-war-in-armenia-worse-than-russia-ukraine-its-in-indias-interest-to-do-more/1229099/>

Significance of Myanmar-Bangladesh ‘Border Guard Diplomacy’ – OpEd

Arpita Hazarika | 26 Nov 2022

“Relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar are now at a chilly level, with talks surrounding the Rohingya crisis and Myanmar’s last-minute bungling of repatriation. In such a context, Bangladesh is looking for a possible solution to this crisis in military diplomacy.”

Read More: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/26112022-significance-of-myanmar-bangladesh-border-guard-diplomacy-oped/>

China's Influence in Myanmar Could Tip the Scales Towards War in the South China Sea

Htwe Htwe Thein | 18 Nov 2022

“Myanmar’s closest neighbours are still committed to a policy of dialogue and “non-interference” – though Malaysia and Indonesia are increasingly arguing for a tougher approach as the atrocities mount.”

Read More: https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-turns-against-west-as-russia-uses-its-drones-on-ukraine-11666370375?mod=world_major_2_pos2

REGION IN PICTURES

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Saudi Arabia and Iran in his first trip to the Middle East since taking power.



Pic Credits: - afp

The first India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs/secretaries of security councils to discuss challenges of terrorism in the region, was hosted in New Delhi.



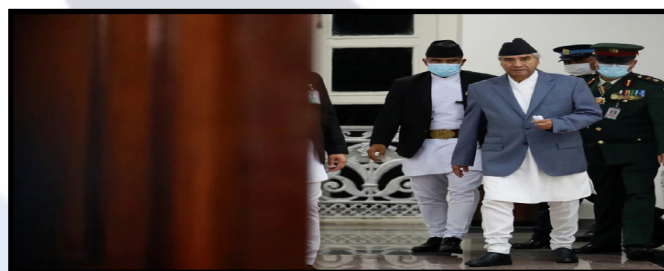
Pic Credits: Hindustan Times

President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon made a two day visit to Pakistan in which progress on CASA-1000 and cooperation in agriculture, energy, connectivity etc were discussed.



Pic Credits: Dawn

The ruling alliance, led by the Nepali Congress party of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, is likely to form the government with support of other parties after failing to secure a clear majority in national election held in Nov 22.



Pic Credits: Reuters



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NOTE: **Regional Opinion and Trends** aims to capture prevailing opinions in South Asia and West Asia.

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