



Afghanistan's Throes of Instability and Conflict

Saman Ayesha Kidwai | 19 June 2023

“Afghanistan, the ‘graveyard of empires,’ has experienced continuous conflicts and instability within its borders and with Pakistan and Iran. The Taliban has enforced strict rules on ordinary Afghans, leaving them no means to evade their oppressive regime. Simultaneously, hostile factions and international power brokers have frequently challenged their authority. The Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) has emerged as a significant jihadist rival, determined to seize absolute power.”

Read More: <https://chanakyaforum.com/afghanistans-throes-of-instability-and-conflict/>

The Taliban Are Now Arms Dealers

Lynne O'Dennell | 5 July 2023

“Terrorists are shopping for left-behind American weapons—and turning them against Washington’s friends round the world.”

Read More: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/07/05/taliban-afghanistan-arms-dealers-weapons-sales-terrorism/>

Reimagining the Pashtun's Cultural Identity in Pakistan

Barkat Shah Kakar | 3 July 2023

“In the wake of the two decade-long Cold War, and the attack on the Twin Towers on 9/11 that triggered the US and NATO military intervention in Afghanistan, Afghans, Pathans, Pashtuns or Pakhtuns are no longer alien to the wider world.”

Read More: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2023/07/03/reimagining-the-pashtuns-cultural-identity-in-pakistan/>

China or the US: Pakistan's Choice

Furqan Khan | 11 July 2023

“Pakistan is among the frontline states in the China-U.S. contest for influence in Asia. As Washington cements its strategic partnership with New Delhi, Islamabad's growing tilt toward Beijing is raising concerns in Western capitals.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/07/china-or-the-us-pakistans-choice/>

IMF Approves Much-awaited \$3 Billion Bailout for Pakistan

Munir Ahmed | 13 July 2023

“The International Monetary Fund approved a much-awaited \$3 billion bailout for Pakistan on Wednesday, the global lender said, a move that's likely to save the nation from defaulting on its debt repayments.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/07/imf-approves-much-awaited-3-billion-bailout-for-pakistan/>

Pakistan's New Nuclear Strategy Is a Crisis in the Making

Manpreet Sethi, Radm Sudarshan Shrikhande, and Arun Sahgal | 15 July 2023

“Proposals to deploy front-line tactical nuclear weapons, on the basis that India will not respond to their usage, is folly. Yet that is precisely what Pakistan's military leadership is seemingly proposing.”

Read More: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/pakistan's-new-nuclear-strategy-crisis-making-206646>

Why TTP is Opening Another Front in Balochistan

Muhammad Akbar Notezai | 15 July 2023

“The recent militant attack in the Zhob town of Balochistan, where the Pakistan military lost nine soldiers, was one of the latest in a string of attacks targeting security forces in areas that were previously considered relatively free of militancy.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1764840/why-ttp-is-opening-another-front-in-balochistan>

Understanding The Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's Return

Mohammad Sinan Siyech | 15 July 2023

“From being banned to holding a political rally in Dhaka, the return of the BJI has implications for Bangladeshi democracy.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/understanding-the-bangladesh-jamaat-e-islam-is-return/>

The Middle East Might Be Moving Toward Stability

Ross Harrison and Alex Vatanka | 26 June 2023

“Several foreign ministers gathered in an Asian capital to negotiate an end to regional turmoil. One of the countries represented at the meeting brokered an agreement to end hostilities between the others.”

Read More: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/06/26/iran-saudi-arabia-china-middle-east-diplomacy/>

The Shadow of Israel-Iran Hostility Amidst Diplomatic Détentes in West Asia

Kabir Taneja | 28 June 2023

“An unresolved and unaddressed Iran-Israel Dynamic Ultimately Threatens Any Other Regional Normalisation.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-shadow-of-israel-iran-hostility-amidst-diplomatic-detentes-in-west-asia/>

Israel's Role in Sri Lanka's Dirty War

Rathindra Kuruwita | 12 July 2023

“Apparently, Sri Lanka had sought security help from the U.S., Britain and West Germany to improve the “intelligence system and [for] training troops in counterinsurgency.” Their refusal forced Colombo to turn to Israel.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/07/israels-role-in-sri-lankas-dirty-war/>

Turkey and The Gulf States: A Complicated Relationship

Cathrin Schaer | 16 July 2023

“The Turkish president is set to visit the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The four nations have gone from unhappy antagonists to, more recently, allies. How did they get there?”

Read More: <https://www.dw.com/en/turkey-and-the-gulf-states-a-complicated-relationship/a-66236291>

EU’s Expanding Engagement in Central Asia to Counter Russia and China

Samuel Doveri Vesterbye and Ayjaz Wani | 14 July 2023

“The geopolitical and security crisis has forced the CARs and the EU to rethink their foreign policy regarding the region’s sovereignty, safety and stability.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/eus-expanding-engagement-in-central-asia/>

The Myanmar Crisis Continues To Raise Questions On ASEAN Unity and Centrality

Sreeparna Banerjee and Premesha Saha | 15 July 2023

“The meeting received condemnation from Myanmar’s parallel civilian government, the National Unity Government, and over 300 civil society organisations and regional lawmakers. They viewed it as a clear violation of ASEAN’s consensus agreement to exclude junta representatives from high-level meetings.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-myanmar-crisis-continues-to-raise-questions-on-asean/>

REGION IN PICTURES

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting of the council of heads of the member states was held virtually on July 4, 2023 with India hosting the summit for the first time.



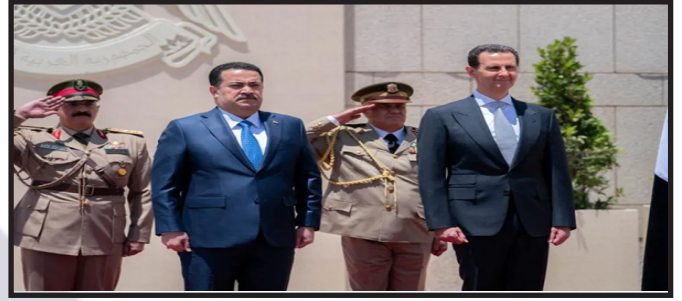
Pic Credits: - Republicworld.com

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi attends a joint press conference with Kenya's President William Ruto at the State House in Nairobi, Kenya, July 12, 2023.



Pic Credits: Reuters

Iraq's prime minister has held talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus during the first trip of its kind to the war-torn country since the 12-year conflict began.



Pic Credits: Al Jazeera

Pakistan COAS Gen. Seyed Asim Munir and Iran Foreign Affairs Minister H. Amirabdollahian meets and 'vows to eradicate terrorism' in border areas.



Pic Credits: Dawn



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