



Afghanistan: The Taliban and World Nations Find a Way to Engage, Without Formal Recognition

Dr Shalini Chawla | 22 August 2023

“The Taliban have evolved in terms of their willingness to stay connected to the world, and they extensively use traditional and social media to appeal for recognition across the globe. But there is limited evolution in terms of the Taliban’s thinking and policies, which have brutally denied human rights, freedom of expression, inclusiveness in governance, and most importantly, women’s rights for education and work.”

Read More: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/opinion/afghanistan-the-taliban-and-world-nations-find-a-way-to-engage-without-formal-recognition-11234031.html>

Afghanistan: The Limits of Intelligence and the way Forward

Inam Ul Haque | 17 August 2023

“As a rare response, Afghan interim defence minister Mullah Yaqub in an interview during first week of August revealed that Moulvi Haibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban spiritual leader, has declared attacks outside Afghanistan ‘haram’ and not jihad, through an internally circulated decree not shared with the press.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2431015/afghanistan-the-limits-of-intelligence-and-the-way-forward>

China’s Influence is Rising in Afghanistan

Adela Raz | 19 July 2023

“China’s influence in Afghanistan has become increasingly evident following America’s withdrawal in August 2021. With the collapse of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the takeover by Taliban, China has strategically sought to expand its engagement and presence in the country. The United States should see the situation as more than a humanitarian crisis, as Afghanistan could play a crucial role in countering China’s growing hegemony in the region.”

Read More: <https://themessenger.com/opinion/chinas-influence-is-rising-in-afghanistan>

Afghanistan: To Counter Relocate, Tehreek-e-Taliban Warns of Joining Hands with ISIS

Amitabha Roychowdhury | 29 July 2023

“The Afghan regime, which has promised not to allow the land-locked nation to become a hotbed of terrorism, has recently started pressuring TTP, whose sizeable cadres and their families have settled long the Pak-Afghan border, to relocate elsewhere.”

Read More: <https://www.newsclick.in/afghanistan-counter-relocation-tehreek-e-taliban-warns-joining-hands-isis>

Should World Leaders Start Talking to the Taliban?

Lyse Doucet | 14 August 2023

“Two year since the Taliban swept into power in Afghanistan, not a single country has formally recognised their rule. Even engaging with the Taliban government remains deeply controversial. Some say talking with them will help bring about change, others insist the Taliban will never change so there’s no point in talking.”

Read More: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-66494200#>

The Reset in the US Strategy on Engaging the Taliban may Work

Obaidullah Baheer | 14 August 2023

“A recent meeting in Doha shows that a major barrier to cooperation between the US and the Taliban may have been surmounted.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/8/14/the-reset-in-the-us-strategy-on-engaging-the-taliban-may-work>

What is Happening Inside the Afghan Resistance?

Jeff Schogol | 17 August 2023

“Today, the Taliban has control over the entire country, but they continue to face armed opposition from groups such as the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, NRF, and Afghanistan Freedom Front, AFF. These remaining resistance groups have made little demonstrable progress though.”

Read More: <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/afghanistan-anti-taliban-resistance-groups/>

Snakes in the Backyard

Dr Shalini Chawla | 2 August 2023

“Pakistan continues to prioritise covert war as a foreign policy tool but desires immunity from terrorism on its own soil.”

Read More: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/snakes-in-the-backyard-531129>

Pakistan's Permanent Terror Problem

Salman Rafi Sheikh | 8 August 2023

“The July 30 terror attack in Pakistan’s mountainous, spectacular Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area, which killed 56 people and injured nearly 200 is a reminder that Pakistan’s War on Terror is far from over and that it results from a major failure of the decades-long policy of supporting and investing in the Afghan Taliban.”

Read More: https://www.asiasentinel.com/p/pakistan-permanent-terror-problem?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web

Pakistan's Afghanistan Policy

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi | 17 August 2023

“Afghanistan’s internal developments are of importance to its neighbours, especially Pakistan. But far more important is Pakistan’s Afghanistan policy mess which is a direct consequence of Pakistan’s political situation. Pakistan should invest diplomatically and economically in Afghanistan’s stability and prosperity.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1770589/pakistans-afghanistan-policy>

Is Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan Merging Into al-Qaida?

Abdul Basit | 02 August 2023

“This evolving dynamic has several important implications for Afghanistan and Pakistan’s threat landscape. First, after weathering the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and giving sufficient space to the Taliban to entrench their grip on power in Afghanistan by maintaining a low profile, al-Qaida is now seeking local alliances by throwing its weight behind organizations like TTP.”

Read More: <https://southasianvoices.org/is-tehreek-e-taliban-pakistan-merging-into-al-qaida/>

A Looming Challenge: Women in Pakistan's Terrorism Landscape

Dr. Amira Jadoon and Iqraa Bukhari | 14 August 2023

“In Pakistan, the recruitment of women is likely to deliver specific advantages to anti-state groups such as the TTP, BLA, and the Islamic State. It can allow them to evade security measures, expand the scope of their targets, and incorporate an element of surprise into their attacks due to the unexpected profile of the perpetrator.”

Read More: <https://www.9dashline.com/article/a-looming-challenge-women-in-pakistans-terrorism-landscape>

What Lies Ahead for Pakistan's Caretaker Government?

Umair Jamal | 17 August 2023

“The recent appointment of Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as the caretaker prime minister of Pakistan has sparked intrigue and interest among political analysts and citizens alike. What makes Kakar's appointment particularly interesting is not only his relative obscurity on the national political stage but also his background as a little-known politician from Balochistan province.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/what-lies-ahead-for-pakistans-caretaker-government/>

Strategic Policy Options for Pakistan on Russia-Ukraine War

Asma Khan | 7 August 2023

“The ongoing war has the potential to jolt the economy of the world. Therefore, Pakistan may adopt prospective foreign policy options such as good offices, mediation, meeting with regional organizations such as SCO and SAARC, and the role of a third party. Promoting Russia's agenda could lead to diplomatic isolation for Pakistan, hence Pakistan takes a principled stance that supports Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty while advocating for peaceful resolution.”

Read More: <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/08/07/strategic-policy-options-for-pakistan-on-russia-ukraine-war/>

China's Problem With Nepal

Santosh Sharma Poudel | 15 August 2023

“Beijing is frustrated with the lack of progress in Nepal's implementation of Belt and Road projects. But rhetorical bullying of its small neighbour won't help.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/chinas-problem-with-nepal/>

An Unholy Omen is Looming Over Bangladesh

Jyoti Rehman | 16 August 2023

“There is every reason to fear that Bangladesh may witness the age-old tactic of communal violence ahead of the upcoming election.”

Read More: <https://thewire.in/south-asia/an-unholy-omen-is-looming-over-bangladesh>

Reappraising Myanmar Military Statecraft

David Scott Mathieson | 17 August 2023

“There were big changes in Myanmar in recent weeks with the extension of the state of emergency and a cabinet reshuffle and, most dramatically, the masthead of the venerable Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper received a stylish makeover.”

Read More: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/opinion/guest-column/reappraising-myanmar-military-statecraft.html>

Trans-Caspian Route: Kazakhstan’s Gateway to Europe

Rahimbek Abdrahmanov and Kamshat Zhumagulova | 16 August 2023

“Considering that oil is the primary export commodity ensuring the inflow of foreign currency for Kazakhstan, trade with the European Union is a crucial element in the architecture of the country’s economic stability and security.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/trans-caspian-route-kazakhstans-gateway-to-europe/>

GCC and Central Asia Summit Amidst Great Power Competition

Ayjaz Wani | 3 August 2023

“Amidst the current fragile world order and great power competition, the summit intended to strengthen political and strategic relations between the GCC and CARs based on shared values, deep historical ties, and mutual interests.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/gcc-and-central-asia-summit-amidst-great-power-competition/>

The Jeddah Summit was as much about Multipolarity as it was about Ukraine

Kabir Taneja | 9 August 2023

“Ukraine and the US alike see opportunity in the Global South’s Multipolarity because the so-called ‘Global South’ is presenting itself as one. Government and security officials from over 40 countries have descended on Saudi Arabia’s port city of Jeddah on the coast of the increasingly important Red Sea to discuss the continuing conflict in Ukraine, and, more importantly, ideate on how to bring it to a logical end.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-jeddah-summit-was-as-much-about-multipolarity/>

Israel: Impunity Comes Home to Roost

Mouin Rabbani | 5 August 2023

“The current political crisis in Israel is precipitated by decades of unconditional Western support or Israeli apartheid and occupation.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/8/5/israel-impunity-comes-home-to-roost>

Israel in Africa: Old and New Partners

Alvite Ningthoujam | 20 July 2023

“Israel is making a serious political-diplomatic effort to strengthen relations with African countries, particularly several key northern and sub-Saharan states. The parties are seeking enhanced cooperation in trade, energy, food security, climate security, water security, agriculture, cyber security, and defence.”

Read More: <https://besacenter.org/israel-in-africa-old-and-new-partners/?swcfpc=1>

REGION IN PICTURES

Saudi Arabia and Iran are making progress on mending ties, Iran's foreign minister has said after meeting with his counterpart in Riyadh, as the two regional heavyweights seek to overcome past hostility and boost cooperation.



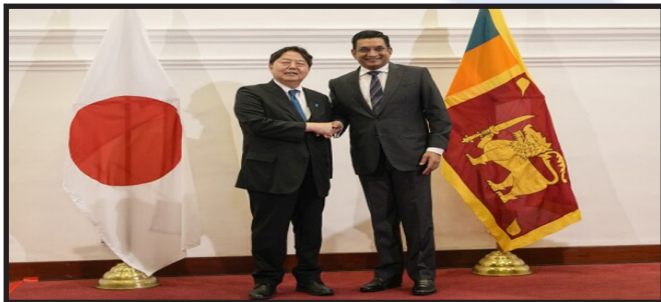
Pic Credits: - Al Jazeera

A 19-member Cabinet of Pakistan's newly appointed caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar took oath to run the cash-strapped country until the general elections and ensure a seamless transition of power.



Pic Deccan Herald

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said that Sri Lanka is a key partner in a Tokyo-led initiative aimed at building security and economic cooperation around the Indo-Pacific but also at countering an increasingly assertive China.



Pic Credits: AP News

The Taliban view their rule of Afghanistan as open-ended, drawing legitimacy from Islamic law and facing no significant threat, their chief spokesman said in an interview marking the second anniversary of the Taliban takeover of the country. He also suggested a ban on female education will remain in place.



Pic Credits: Dawn



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Centre for Air Power Studies

P-284, Arjan Path, Subroto Park, New Delhi 110010

Tel: +91 11 25699130/32, Fax: +91 11 25682533

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Editor: Dr Shalini Chawla e-mail: shaluchawla@yahoo.com

Compilation and Designing: Ms Anadi, Ms Priyadarshini Baruah and Mr Rohit Singh

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