



March of 'Terror': Pakistan Grapples with Deadly Attacks on China Interests

Abid Hussain | 29 March 2024

“Attacks on strategic facilities linked to China surge, as the killings of Chinese nationals test Pakistan’s new government.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/3/29/march-of-terror-pakistan-grapples-with-deadly-attacks-on-china-interests>

Bolstering Security for Foreign Nationals

Mohsin Saleem Ullah | 23 April 2024

“Terrorism remains a shared concern , necessitating intensified cooperation between Pakistan and China.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2463598/bolstering-security-for-foreign-nationals>

Learning from the Kingdom

Masood Lohar | 23 April 2024

“When a nation faces a humiliating struggle to secure a small amount of loan from the IMF to avoid default and is ready to sell national assets, thereby neglecting its potential for tourism, which requires minimal investment, and when even clerics themselves fail to exhibit basic human decency, why not consider aligning with the reformative agenda of brotherly Islamic countries, such as the visionary reforms introduced by Saudi Arabia’s crown prince?”

Read More: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1181213-learning-from-the-kingdom>

NACTA is the Changing Security Landscape

Azhar Zeeshan | 21 April 2024

“Pakistan faces an increasingly complex security landscape that demands a robust, proactive, and adaptive strategy. The rise of new militant organizations, coupled with the growing sophistication of existing groups, presents a significant challenge.”

Read More: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2024/04/21/nacta-in-the-changing-security-landscape/>

PTI’s Many Dilemmas

Abbas Nasir | 21 April 2024

“Notwithstanding its unprecedented public support, the PTI is facing multiple dilemmas. Recent statements by its leaders, including the party’s founder Imran Khan, suggest its fight for survival and relevance will have to be fought on more than one front.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1828750/ptis-many-dilemmas>

At the Edge of a Cliff

Najm us Saqib | 22 April 2024

“The finance minister’s talks aiming at securing at least \$6 to 8 billion from the IMF did not produce any encouraging results as the Fund would not start the next program once the current \$3 billion arrangement ends in late April.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/22-Apr-2024/at-the-edge-of-a-cliff>

The Looming Test

Khurram Husain | 25 April 2024

“The primary balance on the fiscal account was also in surplus until December, with all indications suggesting it will comfortably meet the target set under the IMF programme by June.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1829515/the-looming-test>

Debt, Climate, Inflation

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh | 25 April 2024

“Can Pakistan’s economic, climate and foreign policies latch on to the current international initiatives to manage debt, climate and inflation challenges?”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1829516/debt-climate-inflation>

India Adopts a Cautious Middle Path in Afghanistan

Dr Shalini Chawla | 28 March 2024

“The Taliban have welcomed India’s approach and have been keen for India to expand its assistance into the domain of development. While India has been extending its support in humanitarian assistance, it is likely to move ahead with a well-considered approach, given its historical and cultural linkages with Kabul, its commitment to support the Afghans, and, very importantly, the evolving regional, strategic and security dynamics.”

Read More: <https://capsindia.org/india-adopts-a-cautious-middle-path-in-afghanistan/>

Taliban and its Neighbours: A Regional Format for Overcoming Challenges in Afghanistan and Beyond

Aidar Borangaziyev | 08 April 2024

“The joint coordinated steps of the five Central Asian republics with regard to Afghanistan can ultimately become the basis for devising ways and realizing prospects for further integration to the benefit of the entire region.”

Read More: <https://timesca.com/taliban-and-its-neighbors-a-regional-format-for-overcoming-challenges-in-afghanistan-and-beyond/>

Taliban an on Girls' Education Defies both Worldly and Religious Logic

Sultan Barakat | 01 April 2024

“The ban stands against the core principles of Islam and hinders Taliban’s efforts to gain International Recognition.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/4/1/taliban-ban-on-girls-education-defies-both-worldly-and-religious-logic>

Second Phase of Afghan Refugee Expulsion from Pakistan: Thousands at Risk

Muhammad Ali Nazari | 16 April 2024

“Human rights organizations, journalist supporters, and refugee advocates must collectively initiate extensive efforts to halt this widespread expulsion of migrants from Pakistan. Sending thousands of people into the jaws of death is a grave stain on the Pakistani government and human rights organizations.”

Read More: <https://8am.media/eng/second-phase-of-afghan-refugee-expulsion-from-pakistan-thousands-at-risk/>

Strategic Approach of Bangladesh's Economic Growth

Muhammad Zamir | 23 April 2024

“The recent past has witnessed discussion, deliberation, praise and criticism pertaining to developments taking place in Bangladesh’s economic and financial sectors. It has been eventful, particularly if one takes into consideration our sustained economic growth despite many handicaps. This has also assumed particular interest as our country has gradually moved from the status of being a LDC towards a Developing country.”

Read More: <https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/strategic-approach-of-bangladesh-s-economic-growth-136057>

Transforming the way We Handle Freight

Kabir Ahmed | 24 April 2024

“As a key player in the global supply chain, the freight forwarding industry in Bangladesh is also contributing significantly to the country’s economy. However, the freight forwarding industry seems to be at a crossroads, due to traditional methods facing disruption from technological advancements.”

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/344769/transforming-the-way-we-handle-freight>

Boycotting Polls: Upazila Parishad Election Dynamics

Dr Pranab Kumar Panday | 24 April 2024

“Regarding the BNP leadership, they exhibit a lack of ability to learn lessons from their past errors. Their decision to abstain from participating in elections has consistently undermined their position in the political arena.”

Read More: <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/744977>

A US “Kaputa”, a Lankan “Nariya” and a Presidential “Feast”

D.B.S. Jeyaraj | 15 April 2024

“The responsibility of arriving at a decision has been given to party leader Mahinda Rajapaksa. It is believed that the pragmatic Mahinda would reach a decision that would benefit his party as well as Namal his eldest son and political heir.”

Read More: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/A-US-Kaputa-a-Lankan-Nariya-and-a-Presidential-Feast/172-280735>

How Lanka got her Groove Back

Aqdas Afzal | 22 April 2024

“Sri Lanka’s remarkable economic recovery would not have come about without the tremendous leadership displayed by President Wickremesinghe.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1828932/how-lanka-got-her-groove-back>

The Half-Yearly Report Card of Muizzu’s Foreign Policy

Radhey Tambi | 22 April 2024

“The six-month stocktaking of Muizzu’s foreign policy has several important inferences not only for India and China, the two countries that seem to be significant players in Maldives. But also for several other Western and Eastern powers who are working to ramp up their ties with the island nation.”

Read More: <https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-the-half-yearly-report-card-of-muizzus-foreign-policy-3464660/>

‘Absolute Power’: After Pro-China Maldives Leader’s Big Win, What’s Next?

Zaheena Rasheed | 24 April 2024

“The parliamentary polls sweep by Muizzu’s party raises fears of a return to ‘tyranny’ and questions whether Beijing will step in to alleviate Maldives’s economic woes.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/24/absolute-power-after-pro-china-maldives-leaders-big-win-whats-next>

Geoeconomics of Alternative Energy

CK Lal 23 | April 2024

“Political negotiations can help Nepal benefit from Chinese power projects as long as India is kept out of the arrangement.”

Read More: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2024/04/23/geoeconomics-of-alternative-energy>

Desperation is Pushing Pakistan and Iran to Mend Ties—That’s Why they are also Raising Kashmir Issue

Monica Verma | 25 April 2024

“Now as the ties between Pakistan and Iran are getting warmer, India must certainly take notice. Despite an exchange of missile attacks early this year, they have found a common plank to target India over Kashmir.”

Read More: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/desperation-is-pushing-pakistan-and-iran-to-mend-ties-thats-why-they-are-also-raising-kashmir-issue-13763764.html>

Iran-Israel Conflict will now be shaped by 3H—Houthis, Hamas, Hezbollah

Pia Krishnankutty | 20 April 2024

“Israel’s response to Iran’s retaliatory attack was relatively small and also downplayed by Tehran. But there are factors that could jeopardise this perceived reprieve.”

Read More: <https://theprint.in/opinion/newsmaker-of-the-week/iran-israel-conflict-will-now-be-shaped-by-3h-houthis-hamas-hezbollah/2048929/>

The Kazakh-Uzbek ‘Tandem’: Good for Central Asia, not so good for Karakalpak Activists

Chris Rickleton | 19 April 2024

“Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, has arguably never been better. That can only be good for Central Asia—a region that has for a long time been dominated by outside countries at the expense of genuine integration. But it has only added to the precarity of life for activists from Uzbekistan’s autonomous republic of Karakalpakstan, which was roiled by deadly unrest that broke out nearly two years ago.”

Read More: <https://www.rferl.org/amp/kazakh-uzbek-tandem-central-asia-karakalpak-activists-mirziyoev-toqaev/32912827.html>

After Nine Years of War, Yemen becomes Another Forgotten Crisis

Anne Garella | 05 April 2024

“After the outbreak of the Israel-Gaza war, hostilities around the Red Sea and the recent US designation of the Houthis as a terrorist organisation are combining to pose new challenges in an already complex region.”

Read More: <https://www.fairplanet.org/op-ed/after-nine-years-of-war-yemen-becomes-another-forgotten-crisis/>

Yahya Sinwar’s Disappointing Ramadan

Yoni Ben Menachem | 16 April 2024

“With hopes pinned on support from Iran to bolster his rule in the Gaza Strip, Sinwar’s ambitions faced a setback as Israeli security forces maintained a delicate yet firm presence around the Temple Mount, preventing any potential escalation.”

Read More: <https://jcpa.org/yahya-sinwars-disappointing-ramadan/>

How Will Israel-Arab Alliances be Affected After the War in Gaza?

Arielle Vogel Valk | 21 March 2024

“Israel’s economy, security capabilities, and technological innovations make it a valuable partner. Israel must maintain its expediency with the same long-term thinking as its Arab allies.”

Read More: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-792962>

REGION IN PICTURES

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, in a meeting held at the PM House in Islamabad, (22 April 2024) agreed to bolster bilateral relations in diverse fields, particularly in combating terrorism in the region.



Pic Credits: Associated Press of Pakistan

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan meets with Ismail Haniyeh, leader of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Istanbul, Turkey, April 20, 2024.



Pic Credits: Reuters

On April 18, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan met Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, where the two leaders signed a Treaty on Allied Relations between their countries.



Pic Credits: AKI Press

Chinese diplomat Wang Kejian met with Hamas Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and the visiting Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, held a meeting.



Pic Credits: The Himalayan



Centre for Air Power Studies

The Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) is an independent, non-profit think tank that undertakes and promotes policy related research, study and discussion on defence and military issues, trends, and development in air power and space for civil and military purposes, as also related issues of national security. The Centre is headed by Air Marshal Anil Chopra PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd).

Centre for Air Power Studies

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

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

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

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

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

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