



## Peace Pipe and War

*F.S Aijazuddin | 2 May 2024*

“Pakistan is trapped between two options: crippling sanctions or prohibitive penalties, between an American devil and the deep Caspian Sea. What was once touted as a pipeline of peace has been re-engineered into an instrument of war.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1830906>

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## Insurgency and Social Change

*Muhammad Amir Rana | 12 May 2024*

“The recent killing of seven barbershop workers from Punjab Gwadar is another indicator that the insurgency in Balochistan is evolving and intensifying demographic changes, which will impact the socio-political landscape of the province.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1832982/insurgency-and-social-change>

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## **AJK and GB Movements**

*Sajjad Ahmad | 20 May 2024*

“In both AJK and GB’s cases, the protests and marches occurred only when negotiations with regional governments failed. With these repeated episodes, one wonders why conciliation and crisis management are so difficult for the centre.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1834580>

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## **Humpty Dumpty had a Great Fall**

*M Bilal Lakhani | 26 May 2024*

“It feels like all the political, economic and constitutional faultiness of Pakistan are converging towards a decision point. And everyone is sitting on the edge of that wall, waiting for a fall. In the process, they have finally bent the arc of Pakistan’s history definitively towards civilian supremacy and read out a namaz-e-janaza for the politics of the electable and the controllable.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2468310/humpty-dumpty-had-a-great-fall>

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## **In Defamation’s Name**

*Umair Javed | 27 May 2024*

“It is an indictment of public authority in this country that punitive attempts to resolve a problem such as fake news invite significant scepticism about intentions and expected use. It reflects a deepening of mistrust between key civil society stakeholders and the state, and an erosion of democratic norms that grants rights and space for the functioning of political opposition.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1835909/in-defamations-name>

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## **More Difficult Now**

*Dr Niaz Murtaza | 28 May 2024*

“State elements now face a unique challenge in sustaining their hegemony. Cosy ties with the US are over and other powers (China and Saudi Arabia) can’t provide large, one-window aid.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1836170/more-difficult-now>

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## **Pakistan's Nuclear Deterrence**

*Sher Ali Khan | 27 May 2024*

“Despite significant international pressure and sanctions, Pakistan conducted a successful nuclear test as a direct response to the Indian second nuclear test.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nation.com.pk/27-May-2024/pakistan-s-nuclear-deterrence>

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## **Radical Economic Transformation**

*Mosharraf Zaidi | 28 May 2024*

“The powers-that-be have concluded that ‘radical transformation of Pakistan’s economic trajectory- is the only path out of the current, now almost two-year long, polycrisis Pakistan is mired in.’”

**Read More:** <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1193975-radical-economic-transformation>

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## **A Sustainable Future**

*Dr Sharmila Faruqi | 28 May 2024*

“The true measure of a nation is not how it fares in times of comfort, but how it rises to the challenges of crisis. This sentiment is vividly illustrated by the recent protests in AJK, highlighting a broader crisis in Pakistan and prompting us to think: can a nation thrive on short-term solutions alone?”

**Read More:** <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1193978-a-sustainable-future>

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## **Chabahar Port: Afghanistan's Gateway to Global Trade**

*Hashmat Nasiri | 22 May 2024*

“Chabahar port represents a transformative opportunity for Afghanistan, offering enhanced trade connectivity, economic diversification, and regional integration. Afghanistan’s active participation and cooperation are essential for realizing the full potential of Chabahar port and leveraging it as a gateway to global trade and prosperity.”

**Read More:** <https://thekabultimes.com/chabahar-port-afghanistans-gateway-to-global-trade/>

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## **Taliban's Dilemma: To Attend or Skip Doha-III**

*Imtiaz Gul | 25 May 2024*

“The Taliban government, the Islamic Emirate, continues to link its participation in the Doha meeting with the acceptance of its conditions. This nevertheless underscores Taliban’s dilemma—also dichotomous to realpolitik; they expect political and financial favour from the UN members, without obliging the global community’s requests on human, female rights and inclusivity.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2468171/talibans-dilemma-to-attend-or-skip-doha-iii>

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## **Afghans Fear Life on Both Sides of Durand Line**

*Somaiyah Hafeez and Ali M. Latifi | 22 May 2024*

“Every day, hundreds of families continue to arrive in the Afghan provinces of Kandahar and Nangarhar from Pakistan—many of whom have never before lived in their homeland. Meanwhile, with efforts to push them out barrelling ahead, many Afghans still in Pakistan are filled with dread at the thought of having to restart their lives in Afghanistan.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2024/05/22/afghans-fear-life-both-sides-durand-line>

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## **Without Security, There can be no Development in Afghanistan**

*Aidar Borangaziev | 26 May 2024*

“Currently, the Taliban have every opportunity to lay the foundation for a new model of regional and international security, which would allow them to create conditions for the return of Afghanistan to the system of normal international relations. In this unpredictable geopolitical environment, the Taliban can either take the lead on new security arrangements or once again experience an undesirable worsening of the security situation that goes beyond their control.”

**Read More:** <https://timesca.com/without-security-there-can-be-no-development-in-afghanistan/>

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## **Challenges of Islamic Radicalisation in Assam and Secularisation of Education**

*Dr Shalini Chawla and Priyadarshini Baruah | 27 May 2024*

“The initiative to secularise education is in sync with the ongoing deradicalisation and counter-radicalisation initiatives in India, which primarily focus on community engagement, family involvement, and broadening employment potentials.”

**Read More:** [https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CAPS\\_IB\\_SCPB\\_27\\_5\\_24\\_NIS.pdf](https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CAPS_IB_SCPB_27_5_24_NIS.pdf)

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## **Is the US Really the Top Investor in Bangladesh?**

*Syed Akhtar Mahmood | 21 May 2024*

“If the US is serious about being an important economic partner of Bangladesh, it should focus its attention on substantially increasing the flow of efficiency-seeking FDI to the country.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/longform/347063/is-the-us-really-the-top-investor-in-bangladesh>

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## **Why are IMF Policies Failing to Stabilise our Economy?**

*Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb | 27 May 2024*

“Despite Sri Lanka stabilising its economy within six to nine months of entering a deal with the IMF, Bangladesh hasn’t, raising questions about the effectiveness of IMF engagement here.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/why-are-imf-policies-failing-stabilise-our-economy-3619251>

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## **Bangladesh at the Forefront of Climate-Induced Migration in South Asia**

*Sheikh Mehbuba Moitree | 24 May 2024*

“Bangladesh’s struggle with climate-induced displacement is a stark reminder of the urgent need for global climate action. As sea levels rise and weather patterns become increasingly erratic, millions more are at risk of losing their homes and livelihoods.”

**Read More:** <https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/bangladesh-at-the-forefront-of-climate-induced-migration-in-south-asia-138213>

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## **“Operation Sajaba”: Blueprint for Re-unification of the Green Party**

*D.B.S. Jeyaraj | 27 May 2024*

“With the 2024 Presidential election drawing near, a re-alignment of political parties and MPs became a possibility. Although the political climate was conducive to potential SJB crossovers, there has been very little forward movement on that front in the past months. This is mainly due to President Wickremesinghe who does not seem to want “pre-mature” crossovers from the SJB Now.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Operation-Sajaba-Blueprint-for-Re-unification-of-the-Green-Party/172-28338>

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## **Maldives-India Political Fallout Tests Tourism Ties**

*Samatha Mallempati | 09 May 2024*

“Maldivian President Mohammed Muizzu’s anti-India stance, including his request for China to become the Maldives’ top tourist source market, seem to have impacted long-term people-to-people exchanges between India and the Maldives. This may have a far-reaching impact on the economy of Maldives, which heavily relies on tourism.”

**Read More:** <https://eastasiaforum.org/2024/05/09/maldives-india-political-fallout-tests-tourism-ties/>

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## **Muizzu, India and the Indian Ocean**

*Radhey Tambi | 10 May 2024*

“The unexpected landslide victory of Mohamed Muizzu in the Parliamentary elections of Maldives has once again brought India vs China to the frontline in the immediate neighbourhood of India. Foreign policy is yet to be perched as a dominant option during voting in a country of Maldives’ size”

**Read More:** [https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CAPS\\_InFocus\\_RT-10\\_5\\_24NIS-1.pdf](https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CAPS_InFocus_RT-10_5_24NIS-1.pdf)

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## **Oli’s Brinkmanship**

*Anurag Acharya | 16 May 2024*

“Dahal may be on the throne, but it is clear who is setting the rules of the game. The recent decision by the current government to include Nepal’s new map in its currency note has Oli’s footprints all over it.”

**Read More:** <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2024/05/15/oli-s-brinkmanship>

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## **Disruption, Scuffles on the Rise in Parliament: Due to Impunity Despite Provision of Punishment**

*Jiba Raj Pokharel | 22 May 2024*

“The UML and consequently the RSP and MC have thus been caught in an uneasy soup for condemning the NC for something that it itself had done in the past thereby hilariously seeking to use one rule for oneself and another for others.”

**Read More:** <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/disruption-scuffles-on-the-rise-in-parliament-due-to-impunity-despite-provision-of-punishment>

## **Impact of Iranian Regime Change on the Middle East**

*Irfan Raja | 27 May 2024*

“Once again, many Western politicians and sections of the media are openly endorsing the regime change approach. In an ongoing confrontation between Iran and the West, such signals could possibly escalate the already tense situation in the Middle East.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/impact-of-iranian-regime-change-on-the-middle-east>

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## **Iran Shifts Focus to Presidential Election after Mourning Ebrahim Raisi**

*Mausam Jha | 28 May 2024*

“Iran mourns President Ebrahim Raisi’s death in a helicopter crash, focusing on the upcoming election for his successor. The June vote faces challenges amid the Gaza war, economic hardship, and diplomatic tensions over Iran’s nuclear program.”

**Read More:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/iran-presidential-elections-june-28-mohammad-baqer-qalib-ebrahim-raisi-israel-gaza-war-palestine-hamamiddle-east-11716873082763.html>

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## **2 Isolated Countries: Israel and Iran**

*Hakki Öcal | 27 May 2024*

“The ethnic cleansing of Muslims from Palestine is no different than the cleansing of Jews from Israel. Both are genocide, and it simply makes Netanyahu’s Israel and mullahs’ Iran both pariah states.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/columns/2-isolated-countries-israel-and-iran>

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## **Türkiye-Kyrgyzstan Partnership fuels Middle Corridor’s Rise**

*Ayaz Museyibov | 03 May 2024*

“In recent decades, Türkiye has been bolstering its positions in the Middle East, North Africa and the Eurasian region, with Central Asia emerging as a focal point in its expanding sphere of influence.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/turkiye-kyrgyzstan-partnership-fuels-middle-corridors-rise>

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## **Netanyahu's Way of Governance Leads to Unilateral Recognition of Palestinian State**

*Maya Sion-Tzidkiyahu and Reef Itzhaki | 28 May 2024*

“Israel must repudiate Netanyahu’s lack of statesmanship, which is leading Western countries to recognize a Palestinian state that could become a real Hamastan.”

**Read More:** <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-803906>

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## **How the Arab World will Enable Palestine to Win its War of Liberation**

*Jeffrey Sachs and Sybil Fares | 24 May 2024*

“As long as the Arab world remains steadfast and clear that the US must stop blocking the two-state solution, an independent, sovereign UN member state of Palestine will likely emerge very soon.”

**Read More:** <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/5/24/how-the-arab-world-will-enable-palestine-to-win-its-war-of-liberation>

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## REGION IN PICTURES

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Maldives Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer at a meeting, in New Delhi on 9 May 2024.



Pic Credits: The Print

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US Central Command Commander Gen. Michael Kurilla visited Pakistan on 7-9 May 2024. He met Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff, Gen. Syed Asim Munir Shah, and other senior military leaders at several locations to discuss counter-terrorism efforts.



Pic Credits: Anadolu Ajansi

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ECI chief Rajiv Kumar welcomes 75 foreign delegates from 23 countries to observe LS elections 2024.



Pic Credits: Tripura Star News

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Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi and his entourage who have travelled to Iran to offer sympathies over the martyrdom of president Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, met with Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri on 27 May 2024.



Pic Credits: Foreign Ministry, Islamic Republic of Iran



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