



Making Sense of the Islamic State’s War on the Afghan Taliban

Abdul Sayed, Pieter Van Ostaeyen and Charlie Winter | 26 April 2022

“ISKP’s militancy is not about establishing Afghanistan as a new core of the Islamic State caliphate—at least not yet. It is about demonstrating presence, defiance, and intent, and shaping the terrain for future insurgency.”

Read More: <https://www.hudson.org/research/17796-making-sense-of-the-islamic-state-s-war-on-the-afghan-taliban>

US Backed General Sadat Poised to Lead Anti Taliban Movement in Afghanistan

M.K.Bhadrakumar | 02 May 2022

“There is a lot of infighting amongst marginalised Afghan elites, civilian and military. Apparently, the western powers are trying to rally them behind Sadat.”

Read More: <https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/newsdetail/index/4/21810/us-backed-general-sadat-poised-to-lead-anti-taliban-movement-in-afghanistan>

China Wants its Investments in Afghanistan to be Safer Than in Pakistan

Raffaello Pantucci and Ajmal Waziri | 03 May, 2022

“By linking the Afghan economy to China’s at a lower level, Beijing would help support stability in Afghanistan at little cost to itself.”

Read More: https://www.fairobserver.com/region/central_south_asia/omar-sadr-afghanistan-taliban-rule-totalitarianism-human-rights-news-2441/

Who is Talking to TTP and why?

Muhammad Noman | 22 May 2022

“Talks were held between the Government of Pakistan and the Taliban Movement of Pakistan with the mediation of the Islamic Emirate.”

Read More: <https://www.bolnews.com/newspaper/national-nerve/2022/05/who-is-talking-to-ttp-and-why/>

The Rise, Fall, and Rise of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

Kunwar Khuldune Shahid | 25 April 2022

“While Khan’s chances depend on how far his narrative of victimhood can carry him, he would still need the military leadership on board.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/04/the-rise-fall-and-rise-of-the-pakistan-tehreek-e-insaf/>

The New Crop of Baluchi Insurgents are Politically Radicalized and are Striving to Convert a Tribal Uprising Into a Full-Fledged Guerrilla War

Akbar Jan Marwat | 03 May 2022

“The increase in the attacks by the Baluchi insurgents can be seen as an opportunity for them to grab the international spotlight. This in turn emboldens them to carry out more high impact attacks on the [Pakistani] security forces.”

Read More: <https://www.memri.org/reports/pakistani-writer-akbar-jan-marwat-discusses-role-non-jihadi-terror-groups-baluchistan-says>

Delay in CPEC Projects Sowing Frustration in Pakistan, China: Report

07 May 2022

“Delay in CPEC projects is sowing frustration in Pakistan. Highly irregular payment of debt instalments is creating doubt in minds of the population.”

Read More: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/delay-in-cpec-projects-sowing-frustration-in-pakistan-china-report/articleshow/91402698.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

The Middle East Abhors a Vacuum

Kenneth M. Pollack | May/June 2022

“As new military and civilian technologies emerge, and as the United States contemplates a smaller role in the region’s internal affairs, Middle Eastern states are finding it increasingly difficult to know who holds the strategic upper hand.”

Read More: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/2022-04-19/middle-east-abhors-vacuum?utm_medium=newsletters&utm_source=fatoday&utm_campaign=The%20M

Can The Riyadh Reshuffle Bring Peace To Yemen?

Alexandra Stark | 29 April 2022

“Truce represents a “rare opportunity to pivot toward a peaceful future”,but if the ceasefire is not renewed and fighting continues, this opportunity could quickly disappear.”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2022/04/can-the-riyadh-reshuffle-bring-peace-to-yemen/>

Does Hezbollah Have a New Iranian Long Range Cruise Missile? - Analysis

Seth J. Frantzman | 15 May 2022

“The apparent unveiling of this threat comes as Hezbollah has criticized the US for backing a maritime boundary agreement between Israel and Lebanon.”

Read More: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-706732>

US Aiming to Break Russia's Hold on Central Asia

Nikola Mikovic | 15 May 2022

“Because Russia is not actively pressuring its allies to take sides on the invasion, it is not surprising that Central Asian nations are attempting to carefully balance their nominal alliance with the Kremlin with the growing influence of other foreign actors including the US.”

Read More: <https://asiatimes.com/2022/05/us-aiming-to-break-russias-hold-on-central-asia/>

The Sri Lankan Crisis: Domestic and Regional Implications

Roshni Kapur | 29 April 2022

“On a regional front, the economic crisis in Colombo is presenting an opportunity for New Delhi to restore its traditional influence in the country. It will also help India to push back against Beijing’s increasing clout in the region.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/sri-lankan-crisis-domestic-and-regional-implications/>

REGION IN PICTURES

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with a high level delegation visited Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 28 to 30 April 2022.



Pic Credits: - PTV

Leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia met in Brussels and agreed to work further on a peace plan for Nagorno-Karabakh.



Pic Credits: REUTERS/Johanna Geron

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned from his post after the anti-government Protests turned violent prompting authorities to impose a nationwide curfew.



Pic Credits: Reuters

The first Turkey-Pakistan security dialogue was held in Istanbul where in a group of scholars and practitioners from both countries deliberated on regional security issues.



Pic Credits: MEE/Wahaj Bani Mufleh



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

Formatting and Assistance: Col S K Tanwar VSM, Prof (Dr) DK Pandey, Dr Anu Sharma 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.