



Time for World to Stand up to Taliban's Gender Apartheid

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim | 27 November 2023

“The term “gender apartheid” aptly describes the Taliban’s approach to women’s rights. With echoes of their oppressive rule in the 1990s, the Taliban’s draconian interpretation of Shariah law seeks to confine women to a restricted, subservient role. This manifests itself in the denial of education, employment and participation in public life.”

Read More: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2416186>

Afghanistan's Climate Tragedy Ignored at COP28

Shadi Khan Saif | 15 December 2023

“Furthermore, temperatures in the country have surged by 1.8 degree Celsius in recent decades, double the global rate. However, support from the international community for mitigation and funding has waned since the withdrawal of foreign troops and the Taliban’s return to power in August 2021.”

Read More: <https://www.fairplanet.org/story/afghanistans-climate-tragedy-ignored-at-cop28/>

2024 Elections in Pakistan: Play of Alliances and Dictated Democracy

Dr Shalini Chawla | 27 December 2023

“With the military’s expanded powers and the state using draconian measures to curb anti-state/ establishment voices, the credibility of the 2024 elections remains questionable and it’s once again a full circle for Pakistan where the selected leader is likely to be elected in a military-dictated electoral exercise.”

Read More: <https://capsindia.org/2024-elections-in-pakistan-play-of-alliances-and-dictated-democracy/>

Pakistan Seeks US Help Against Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan

Akmal Dawi | 13 December 2023

“Pakistan’s army chief is in Washington this week seeking U.S. assistance against what Islamabad alleges are terrorist havens in neighboring Afghanistan.”

Read More: <https://www.voanews.com/a/pakistan-seeks-us-help-against-pakistani-taliban-in-afghanistan/7397076.html>

Cost of Election Delay

Maleeha Lodhi | 11 December 2023

“Any delay would have constitutional, political and economic implications. There are no constitutional grounds on which elections can be delayed. To postpone elections now would be an outright constitutional transgression. Politically, such a move could set the stage for turmoil in the country, deepen polarisation and become a source of political instability.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1796898/cost-of-election-delay>

21st Century Lessons for the Pakistan Military

Ahsen Khan | 20 December 2023

“The key point is that Pakistan’s military must invest in drones and missiles of all shapes, sizes, and functions and it must integrate them within all levels of its forces from the squad and platoon level to the divisional headquarters level to ensure their maximum effectiveness.”

Read More: <https://thefridaytimes.com/20-Dec-2023/21st-century-lessons-for-the-pakistan-military>

Pakistan's Education Crisis has Roots in the Country's Early Political Choices

Parvez Mahmood | 25 November 2023

“From the very beginning, Pakistani leadership showed no interest in setting up institutions of higher learning for the educated and of vocational training for the semi-literate. In 1951, when India was setting up its first IIT, Pakistan founded Jamia Darul-Uloom Korangi, its first major religious seminary. There has been no looking back since then.”

Read More: <https://thefridaytimes.com/25-Nov-2023/pakistan-s-education-crisis-has-roots-in-the-country-s-early-political-choices>

Pakistan's Undocumented Economy

Muhammad Umar Ayaz | 9 December 2023

“In Pakistan, the informal economy is mostly caused by corruption among tax authorities and businesses. According to a LUMS study, out of Rs100 of tax collected, only Rs38 goes to the government while Rs62 is divided among the taxpayer, tax collector and tax practitioner, leading to unrealised tax income.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449373/pakistans-undocumented-economy>

Islamabad at a Critical Juncture: Pakistan Must Prioritize its Ties to Saudi Arabia

Kameesh Karim | 24 November 2023

“Islamabad and Riyadh have a history of strong ties largely due to religious linkages, similar historic foreign policy orientations, shared strategic interests, and economic dependencies. Pakistan's economy is dependent on Saudi Arabia for energy imports, financial support during economic crises, and inflows of remittances.”

Read More: <https://southasianvoices.org/pak-saudi-ties/>

Elections and Fair Play

Zahid Hussain | 20 December 2023

“With the other two mainstream political parties, the PML-N and PPP, almost novices in the use of social media, the domain is completely dominated by the PTI, thus increasing the reach of the party's message to the young population. The party's call for voters to turn out in large numbers could complicate the game on polling day.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1799341>

Sino-Japanese Strategic Competition in Bangladesh

Himel Rahman | 01 December 2023

“Both China and Japan have cultivated the image of an ‘all-weather friend’ to Bangladesh. Beijing and Tokyo upgraded their relations with Dhaka to the status of strategic partnership in October 2016 and April 2023, respectively. The two countries have so far carefully avoided involving themselves in internal political conflicts in Bangladesh.”

Read More: <https://southasianvoices.org/sav-explainer-sino-japanese-strategic-competition-in-bangladesh/>

Sheikh Hasina at Crossroads: Bangladesh’s High-Stakes Election is a Brewing Battleground for Secular and Radical Forces

Jaideep Saikia | 16 December 2023

“Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina could well be under certain compulsions within her country and party. In exactly less than a month Bangladesh goes to the polls. Election observers across the world are terming it as one of the most crucial elections in South Asia.”

Read More: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/sheikh-hasina-at-crossroads-bangladeshs-high-stakes-election-is-a-brewing-battleground-for-secular-and-radical-forces-13511182.html>

Economics of Remittance

Upen Pandey | 01 December 2023

“Nevertheless, earnings from foreign employment are unsustainable in two ways. First, since most Nepali workers work in resource-reliant (oil) and emerging economies—which experience frequent economic volatility—there is a high probability of losing jobs during shocks caused by plummeting crude oil prices in the world market.”

Read More: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2023/11/30/economics-of-remittance>

Prioritising National Security in National Interest

Jehan Perera | 14 November 2023

“It is noteworthy that this foreign direct investment in Colombo port is by a foreign government and not by a private sector company. US companies such as Apple and Microsoft are investing billions in other parts of the developing world, but not in Sri Lanka.”

Read More: <https://island.lk/prioritising-national-security-in-national-interest/>

Navigating Green Path: Financing Green Transition in Central Asia

Rauan Khadessov | 05 December 2023

“Transitioning to a green economy can provide a significant opportunity to address various issues, while simultaneously promoting sustainable growth and development. A green transition involves shifting to an economy that relies on renewable energy resources, prioritizes energy efficiency, and embraces sustainable development.”

Read More: <https://astanatimes.com/2023/12/navigating-green-path-financing-green-transition-in-central-asia/>

Why a “Day After” Plan in the Israel-Hamas War is Unlikely

David Ottaway | 28 November 2023

“Most analysts feel safe in predicting Israel will eventually prevail over Hamas militarily if outside pressure does not force it to halt its invasion beforehand. One major unknown, however, is whether military defeat for Hamas will translate into a political one, as both Israeli and the Biden administration dearly hope.”

Read More: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/why-day-after-plan-israel-hamas-war-unlikely>

Use Sanctions to Dismantle Hamas

M.D. Nalapat | 10 December 2023

“Hamas has learnt from ISIS how to use the civilian population as a shield, which is why the war on ISIS involved so many civilian casualties. Just as is taking place in Gaza since the second week of October, street after street, house after house in towns where ISIS ruled were converted to unlivable rubble.”

Read More: <https://sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/editorial/use-sanctions-to-dismantle-hamas>

Hamas’ Attack on Israel: Part of a Grand Strategy to Derail the Efforts Towards Regional Normalisation

Amey Velangi | 16 December 2023

“Did Hamas attack Israel just as a tactic to pin down its security apparatus or is there a larger plan to derail the normalisation of the Middle East?”

Read More: <https://viyug.com/2023/12/16/hamas-attack-on-israel-part-of-a-grand-strategy-to-derail-the-efforts-towards-regional-normalisation/>

REGION IN PICTURES

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Abu Dhabi for talks with his UAE counterpart Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on December 6 2023.



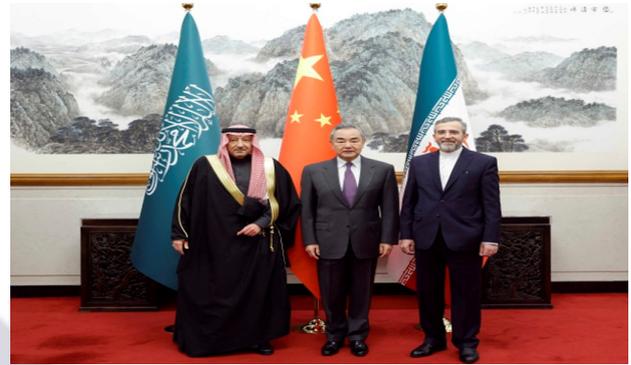
Pic Credits: - CNN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting with President of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu during the COP28, in UAE, December 1, 2023.



Pic Credits: The Hindu

1st meeting of China-Saudi Arabia-Iran trilateral joint committee concludes; Middle East should 'no longer be geopolitical arena' for great powers.



Pic Credit: Global Times

The thirteenth annual Meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Central Asian states, convened by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), took place in Bishkek on 27-28 November.



Pic Credits: UNRCCA



Centre for Air Power Studies

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