



## Pakistan at a Crossroads all Over Again

*Dr Shalini Chawla | 12 February 2024*

“The election results reflect the anger of the youth, who have rejected dynasty politics, the military’s political hegemony and the growing harassment of Imran.”

Read More: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/pakistan-at-a-crossroads-all-over-again-589786>

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## Pakistan after the Polls

*Kamran Yousaf | 19 February 2024*

“The reason elder Nawaz refused to become Prime Minister stems from the fact that his party could not get a simple majority. Second, his own seat where he won against the jailed PTI-backed candidate, Dr Yasmin Rashid, is being contested. Third, Nawaz has been on the Pakistani political scene for long enough to understand that the incoming government will not be popular on the streets given the split verdict.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2456870/pakistan-after-the-polls>

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## **Hard Road Ahead**

*Maleeha Lodhi | 19 February 2024*

“If the centre will present challenges for the government, the state of play in the provinces is even more daunting. The federal government will have a complex provincial landscape to navigate. The four provinces will all be run by different political parties as a consequence of the regionalised electoral outcome.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1815394/hard-road-ahead>

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## **A Giant's Strength**

*Arifa Noor | 20 February 2024*

“That PDM 2.0 (or the senior citizens club) is about to be revived is a triumph of hope over experience. This time around, it will manage the IMF and carry out reform while saving itself and the country from its perennial finance minister.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1815655/a-giants-strength>

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## **Stuck in the Dead End Post-Election**

*Dr Moonis Ahmar | 20 February 2024*

“Unfortunately, the only focus of the stakeholders is on how to maintain power grab without addressing the real issues facing the 250 million people of Pakistan. Amid this lack of realisation on professionally and judiciously managing the prevailing crisis, which has augmented after the 2024 general election, the outcome will be an economic catastrophe in the form of a financial default; hyper-inflation and further falling in the economic growth rate.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2456966/stuck-in-the-dead-end-post-election>

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## **Pakistan, Taliban and the Durrand Line**

*Sayed Mohammed Ali | 16 February 2024*

“The resurgent Taliban have, however, repeatedly clashed with Pakistani soldiers engaged in the fencing effort and they have even torn down parts of the fence. Despite the fencing, Pakistan has not been able to halt cross-border militant movements.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2456579/pakistan-taliban-and-the-durrand-line>

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## **Will the UN Meeting in Doha bring Afghanistan out of Isolation?**

*Shadi Khan Saif | 16 February 2024*

“There is an array of brutal domestic policies the Taliban have been peddling in clear violations of the fundamental rights of the population. The UN itself has noted that the recent dress code impositions are a further escalation in the repression faced by women and girls in the country.”

**Read More:** <https://www.fairplanet.org/editors-pick/the-un-meets-in-doha-afghanistan/>

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## **The ‘inclusive’ Afghan Government Afghans do not Want**

*Obaidullah Baheer | 17 February 2024*

“Seeking inclusive governance after a conflict is a routine diplomatic intervention. The idea is that inclusion is vital in peace-building, as it can resolve grievances produced by exclusion and prevent the re-emergence of violence.”

**Read More:** <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/2/17/the-inclusive-afghan-government-afghans-do-not-want>

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## **Exposed: ISKP Terrorists under Pakistan Protection Being used against Afghanistan**

*Ehsanullah Ehsan | 18 February 2024*

“ISKP terrorists who are residing in Pakistani guesthouses and are being used as proxies to foster insecurity in Afghanistan. This list includes the names of Daesh Khorasan members associated with the Khyber Agency and Mohmand Agency in Pakistan’s tribal region.”

**Read More:** <https://sundayguardianlive.com/investigation/exposed-iskp-terrorists-under-pakistan-protection-being-used-against-afghanistan>

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## **Ensuring Food Safety in Bangladesh**

*Sanjay Dave | 10 February 2024*

“Food safety is the lynchpin of international trade. While food imports were around \$9.6 billion (FY23), the export of food products was just about \$1.16bn (FY22) despite Bangladesh being a strong agri-based economy. If exports are low and imports surge, it is the domestic market that suffers. This translates into an increased disease burden on the people.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/339056/ensuring-food-safety-in-bangladesh>

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## **It is up to Bhutan's Women to Preserve their Place in Politics**

*Chencho Dema | 18 February 2024*

“The first thing to note is that it was already inevitable that female representation would decline in the new parliament as only six female candidates were on the ballot last month: three from the PDP and three from the rival Bhutan Tendrel Party.”

**Read More:** <https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/It-is-up-to-Bhutan-s-women-to-preserve-their-place-in-politics>

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## **Neutral Rights and Myanmar's Obligations**

*Shafiqul Islam | 20 February 2024*

“All neutral states have two fundamental rights: The right to not suffer belligerent attacks and the right to not have their neutral territory infiltrated. As a neutral state, Bangladesh has the right to stay out of the conflict and not be harmed by it, standing firm and untouched while chaos reigns elsewhere.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/339879/neutral-rights-and-myanmar-s-obligations>

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## **Stuck in Conflict: Pathways to End Gaza War and Ensure Sustainable Peace**

*Col Rajeev Agarwal | 12 February 2024*

“However, with the war prolonging and casualties rising there is growing opposition back home against Netanyahu. On one such occasion, relatives of hostages burst into an Israeli parliamentary meeting on 22 January demanding immediate hostage exchange. Members of his war cabinet have openly come out in dissent too.”

**Read More:** <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/stuck-in-conflict-pathways-to-end-gaza-war-and-ensure-sustainable-peace-13716372.html>

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## **Iran, PUK and PKK: Future of Strategic Triangle**

*Çagatay Balci | 20 February 2024*

“The Iran-PUK-PKK triangle has been formed based on pragmatic motivations rather than ideological or political ones. Therefore, it can be defined as a ‘strategic triangle’.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/iran-puk-and-pkk-future-of-strategic-triangle>

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## World View | India's Significant Diplomatic Win in Qatar – Here's How it Worked

*Anil Trigunayat | 13 February 2024*

“Most recently, on the sidelines of the COP28 in Dubai, both leaders met (December 1, 2023), and it is surmised that PM Modi personally raised the concern of detainees with the Amir and an understanding was said to have been reached while the due process of law took its course. It was expected that some respite would be found.”

**Read More:** <https://www.cnbctv18.com/world/release-of-indian-navy-officers-indias-significant-diplomatic-win-in-qatar-pms-personal-intervention-how-it-worked-19037021.htm>

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## The Real Reason Qatar Freed Our Navy Veterans

*Subir Bhaumik | 25 February 2024*

“India meets 40 per cent of its gas needs through imports. The contract with QatarEnergy accounts for 35 per cent of our total gas imports. Qatar began supplying LNG from 2003–2004 under the existing deal, which is priced at a ‘slope’ (per cent) of 12.67 per cent of the current Brent crude futures rates and a fixed charge of 52 cents per unit (million British thermal units or mmBtu) of gas.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/opinion/the-real-reason-qatar-freed-our-navy-veterans>

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## A Year of Surprising Stability Arrives in Central Asia

*Kirill Nourzhanov | 19 February 2024*

“Intra-regional dynamics improved considerably during 2023. Following bloody border clashes in 2022, the demarcation of contested territories between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan proceeded in ‘an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding’. Both sides expressed hope that by early 2024 all issues in the longest-running conflict in Central Asia would be resolved.”

**Read More:** <https://eastasiaforum.org/2024/02/19/a-year-of-surprising-stability-arrives-in-central-asia/>

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## REGION IN PICTURES

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and his Brazilian counterpart Lula da Silva during the official reception ceremony at the Ittihadiya Presidential Palace in Cairo.



Pic Credits: Ahram Online

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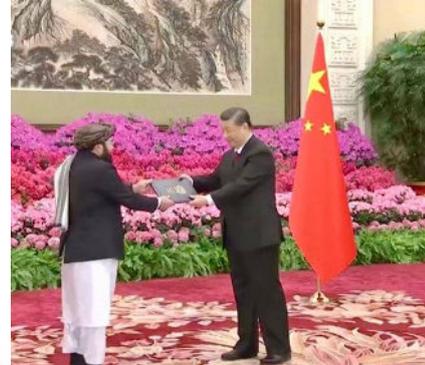
A vision for future: Prime Minister Modi with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on February 13.



Pic Credits: The Week

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The Taliban authorities in Afghanistan announced that the President of China, Xi Jinping, has officially accepted the letter of credence from their appointed ambassador in Beijing.



Pic Credits: Kabul Now

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In a diplomatic development, the Iranian minister of foreign affairs arrived in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo and engaged in discussions with senior officials regarding enhancing political, economic, scientific, technical, and technological exchanges between the two nations.



Pic Credits: Tehran Times



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

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