



Test for Fragile Democracy

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob | 22 August 2024

“The writing of the detailed reasons and the hearing of the review petitions were both put off because the judges proceeded on summer vacation. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, who heads the committee, disagreed and stressed that the right to review, as provided by the Constitution, should take precedence over the convenience of judges on leave or on vacation.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1853901/test-for-fragile-democracy>

Toshakhana Hocus Pocus

Ahsan Munir | 20 August 2024

“The spirit of Toshakhana hocus pocus has infiltrated society to such an extent that self-sanctioned perks and privileges are no longer considered a sin but rather an earned right. Hence, the existential question is: Can our country survive even another twenty-five years of this plunder?”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Aug-2024/toshakhana-hocus-pocus>

Drugs, Terrorism & Youth

Salman Javed | 15 August 2024

“Pakistan finds itself increasingly vulnerable to the consequences of the regional drug trade. The 2,611-kilometre porous border that Pakistan shares with Afghanistan serves as a conduit for this trade, presenting severe challenges for the country, especially in the context of rising drug trafficking and its growing intersection with terrorism.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Aug-2024/drugs-terrorism-youth>

Kazakhstan, Pakistan Launch Trans-Afghan Multimodal Transport Corridor

Muhammad Rafiq | 14 August 2024

“Pakistan is already a key player of the Trans-Afghan Corridor but its transformation into a multimodal corridor by including Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Caspian ports, has opened new economic opportunities. Pakistan’s National Logistic Corporation, with its logistic solutions and cross-border transport under the TIR system, is ready to contribute to the success of the Trans-Afghan Multimodal Transport Corridor.”

Read More: <https://astanatimes.com/2024/08/kazakhstan-pakistan-launch-trans-afghan-multimodal-transport-corridor/>

Pakistan’s Economic and Political Quagmire

Durdana Najam | 11 August 2024

“Recurrent high fiscal deficits, driven by excessive government expenditure, have led to a burgeoning national debt. This unsustainable fiscal position diverts scarce resources from critical public investments in infrastructure and social welfare programmes, compromising long-term growth prospects.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2487082/pakistans-economic-and-political-quagmire>

Is Nuclear Brinkmanship a New Normal?

Dr Shalini Chawla | 01 August 2024

Pakistan has long held the belief that being a weaker state, it can compensate for that weakness by taking bold initiatives, preferably with strategic surprise, to attack the Indian military capability and thus, reduce the adverse margin of capabilities. This was the military strategy it practised in all the wars it waged against India.”

Read More: <https://capsindia.org/is-nuclear-brinkmanship-a-new-normal/>

The Taliban Concern

Touqir Hussain | 20 August 2024

“Regardless of who has ruled Afghanistan, it has always been a problem neighbour. The Pakistani establishment may have thought the problem would be solved with the Afghan Taliban’s return to power but it has worsened. Afghanistan has become both a critical foreign policy challenge and a serious domestic policy concern.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1853472/the-taliban-concern>

Collective Punishment: The Absence of Logic in Taliban Governance

Muhammad Ali Nazari | 20 August 2024

“One should not be swayed by propaganda about the Taliban. Towards the end of the republic, there was a campaign suggesting that the Taliban had changed and were now committed to respecting human rights, not violating freedoms, and avoiding discrimination. Still, all those claims were false, and people have now fully realized their inaccuracy.”

Read More: <https://8am.media/eng/collective-punishment-the-absence-of-logic-in-taliban-governance/>

The Faiz Phenomenon

Abbas Nasir | 18 August 2024

“Former spymaster retired Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed’s arrest and the news that he may be facing a field general court martial for activities prejudicial to the military’s rules and regulations have understandably generated immense excitement in the media.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1853043/the-faiz-phenomenon>

Afghanistan and its Women, Forgotten

Pedro González | 17 August 2024

“The ephemeris of that chaotic withdrawal has hardly had any international echo, and certainly almost none among supposedly feminist organisations in the Western world, the same ones that shout and express themselves with uncontainable rage when they demand rights, already obtained and fortunately consolidated, and anathematise heteropatriarchies that have been happily defunct for several decades now.”

Read More: <https://www.atalayar.com/en/opinion/pedro-gonzalez/afghanistan-and-its-women-forgotten/20240817140000204194.html>

Regaining the Confidence of Bangladeshis is Key to Safeguarding India's National Security

Lt Gen H S Panag (Retd) | 22 August 2024

“A time of crisis is also a time of opportunity for a new beginning. No government in Bangladesh can ignore India's importance for its security and economic development or want to fritter away the gains from the last 15 years. For India, regaining the confidence of the people of Bangladesh is the key to safeguarding its national security interests.”

Read More: <https://theprint.in/opinion/regaining-the-confidence-of-bangladeshis-is-key-to-safeguarding-indias-national-security/2233215/>

The Boat Sank Itself

Tanmoy Dhar | 21 August 2024

“Awami League's fall can be directly attributed to their detachment from reality and abandonment of politics for people. The political legacy they have left behind today is not the one where they led the War of Liberation or “Digital Bangladesh” or made us one of the fastest growing economies. It is, unfortunately, one that left the whole country in ruins.”

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/355493/the-boat-sank-itself>

A Daunting Task for Interim and Future Governments

M Munir Hossain | 20 August 2024

“The interim government headed by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, and the upcoming government, once formed after a free and fair election, will face the mammoth task of steering the country's economy back on track, which has been devastated by the policies and misgovernance of the ousted Sheikh Hasina-led administration.”

Read More: <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/762833>

Bangladesh: The Four Political Power Players

Dr Moonis Ahmar | 20 August 2024

“Amid the political upheaval, four major power players have emerged on the political scene in Bangladesh since August 5. They are: student community; Army; BNP; and Awami League. The emerging situation in Bangladesh needs to be analysed from three angles.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2489373/bangladesh-the-four-political-power-players>

What We Need for a New Bangladesh

Mohasin Mithu | 08 August 2024

“Bangladesh is finally free from the autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina after 15 long years of oppression. Many have expressed that we have attained independence for ourselves for the second time. While this is indeed a moment to celebrate, it is also a critical juncture for the nation.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/what-we-need-new-bangladesh-3672381>

Economic Crisis, Policy Choices, Anti-Incumbency Shape Sri Lanka’s Presidential Race

Kelum Bandara | 22 August 2024

“Be that as it may, the present presidential election is conducted at a time when the country is at a crossroads. People have been given the opportunity to decide on their next ruler two years after it experienced its worst ever economic crisis in 2022. The country was declared bankrupt in April, 2022. Now debt restructuring has been done, but much remains to be done to unleash the full potential of the country.”

Read More: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Economic-crisis-policy-choices-anti-incumbency-shape-Lankas-presidential-race/231-289956>

Evolution of Universal Franchise and Voters’ Dilemma

Sugeeswara Senadhira | 05 August 2024

Ranil Wickremesinghe announced his candidature for the Presidential Election slated for 21 September making it a four-cornered contest. Three other leading candidates are Sajith Premadasa, Anura Kumara Dissanayaka and Dhammika Perera, the most likely candidate of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP).”

Read More: <https://ceylontoday.lk/2024/08/05/evolution-of-universal-franchise-and-voters-dilemma/>

Nepal Won't Go Bangladesh's Way

Narayan Upadhyay | 13 August 2024

“In Nepal, the culture of performing political vendettas is almost nonexistent. Since restoring democracy in the 1990s, competing political party leaders have imprisoned no major leaders. Despite dominating politics for decades, rivalries between communist and Nepali Congress officials have never escalated to a personal level.”

Read More: <https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/47341>

Political Instability takes Toll on Nepal's Economic Development

Dutta Shree Duwadi | 12 August 2024

“The Nepalese economy has also suffered as a result of political instability. Businesses and investors are hesitant to invest in the country due to the lack of stability and predictability. This has resulted in a lack of economic growth and job creation, as well as increased poverty and inequality.”

Read More: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/political-instability-takes-toll-on-nepal-s-economic-development/?categoryId=opinion>

China's Geopolitical Maneuvering in Myanmar: A Tale of Influence and Infiltration

Vaishali Basu Sharma | 09 August 2024

“The engagement with pro-junta hardliners and other political factions serves to bolster China's influence within Myanmar's political landscape. By aligning itself with key political players, China wants to ensure that its interests are safeguarded regardless of the outcome of the upcoming elections.”

Read More: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/opinion/guest-column/chinas-geopolitical-maneuvering-in-myanmar-a-tale-of-influence-and-infiltration.html>

Balancing Regional Integration Amid Global Rivalries

Nikola Mikovic | 14 August 2024

“Central Asia has become a focal point for world and regional powers such as China, Russia, the European Union, the United States, and Turkey. Amid geopolitical uncertainty and a shifting global order, regional cooperation seems to be a top priority for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan in their foreign policy.”

Read More: <https://timesca.com/balancing-regional-integration-amid-global-rivalries/>

Netanyahu Regime has “Lost the North”

Wesam Bahrani | 21 August 2024

“This foolish enemy, mired in the quagmire of Gaza, seeks to escape daily from the blows and ambushes of our fighters. How can they confront and fight you?” the Gaza resistance writes to Hezbollah chief.”

Read More: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/502790/Netanyahu-regime-has-lost-the-north>

Iran’s Calculus: Iran Supreme Leader Faces a Bitter Choice on Israel

Ali Hashem | 21 August 2024

“The explosion that killed Haniyeh, which Iran believed was a missile launched from within its own borders, was a breach of sovereignty that angered Tehran and put Khamenei’s 2003 fatwa prohibiting the manufacture, use and storage of nuclear weapons under increased scrutiny.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/8/21/khameneis-calculus-ran-supreme-leader-faces-a-bitter-choice-re-israel>

In Gaza, Education is Resistance

Eman Alhaj Ali | 12 August 2024

“Education has been a form of Palestinian resistance to Israeli attempts to erase the Palestinian people since the Nakba of 1948. When Jewish militia forces ethnically cleansed and expelled about 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland, one of the first things they did when they settled down in refugee camps was to open schools for their children.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/8/12/in-gaza-education-is-resistance>

Turkiye Addresses a Chance for Abbas to Define Position on Gaza

Didenur Dařtan | 09 August 2024

“Having Abbas speak at the Turkish Parliament lends support to the Palestinian cause and presents an opportunity for him to recalibrate his position as an alternative to Hamas in ongoing cease-fire efforts with Israel.”

Read More: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/news-analysis/turkiye-address-a-chance-for-abbas-to-define-position-on-gaza>

REGION IN PICTURES

EAM Dr S Jaishankar met his Polish counterpart Radosław Sikorski “Discussed the Ukraine conflict, Indo- Pacific situation and bilateral cooperation. Confident that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit will give a fresh impetus to India-Poland ties,” tweeted EAM S Jaishankar on 22nd August 2024.



Pic Credits: ANI

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (L) greets Israeli President Isaac Herzog (R) ahead of their meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel on August 19, 2024.



Pic Credits: Middle East Monitor

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar chaired the first Foreign Ministers’ Session of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit.



Pic Credits: Ministry of External Affairs

Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, back row, left, and Taliban Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, back row, right, oversee the signing of Memorandums of Understanding in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 17, 2024.



Pic Credits:VOA News



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