



## China Re-evaluating CPEC Undertaking?

*Imtiaz Gul | 26 July 2024*

““For Chinese officials, the primary challenge is to ensure that existing projects are effectively functional, an apparent precondition for committing to financing new projects under CPEC Phase II. Why waste money and time when the optimal utilisation and output are uncertain?”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2482957/china-reevaluating-cpec-undertaking>

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## Pakistan’s Many Economic Challenges

*Rana Tariq Mehboob | 17 July 2024*

“In my opinion, our faulty economic policies and a lack of direction are the primary causes of our economic turmoil. Pakistan has endured a prolonged period of political unrest, financial losses due to the war on terrorism, climate change damages and inconsistent economic policies.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2024/pakistan-s-many-economic-challenges>

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## **High-Risk Game**

*Maleeha Lodhi | 22 July 2024*

“The government’s announcement about banning PTI evoked widespread condemnation by many political leaders, the media, lawyers and human rights groups. The grounds cited by government spokesmen were flimsy, involving charges that the judiciary had already thrown out.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1847182/high-risk-game>

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## **Deja Vu or Karma?**

*Saleem Qamar Butt | 23 July 2024*

“For the younger generation, however, it may just be Déjà vu/ “already seen” confusing feelings. Nevertheless, the hopelessness and frustration among the 65% young population of Pakistan is already on display as emotional pressure cookers are frequently being seen bursting all over the country.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Jul-2024/dej-vu-or-karma>

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## **Fallacy of Digital Terrorism**

*Zahid Hussain | 24 July 2024*

“It is apparent that the presser has fuelled political tensions, and left people more confused over the counterterrorism campaign. In this atmosphere, it would not be surprising to see more Bannu-like incidents. It is highly unfortunate for the country, which has to contend with a most serious challenge to its security.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1847671/fallacy-of-digital-terrorism>

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## **Tenuous Taliban Control Gives Life to Al- Qaida, Islamic State**

*Jeff Seldin | 10 July 2024*

“Taliban efforts to solidify the group’s control over Afghanistan are bringing a measure of peace and stability to its residents, but intelligence gathered by United Nations member states suggests the reprieve is not likely to last. The U.N. sanctions monitoring team warns that Afghanistan will almost certainly remain a source for insecurity with terror groups like al-Qaida and Islamic State either finding safe haven or finding ways to exploit the Taliban’s weaknesses.”

**Read More:** <https://www.voanews.com/a/tenuous-taliban-control-gives-life-to-al-qaida-islamic-state/7693555.html>

## **Afghanistan in the Vortex of Climate Change, Population Growth, and Statelessness**

*Dr Zia Nezm | 23 July 2024*

“Unfortunately, Afghanistan, in such an emergency, is governed by rulers who not only lack the ability and plans to combat the adverse effects of climate change but also do not value any constructive efforts beyond suppressing opponents and maintaining power. During the republic, although no tangible executive actions were taken to mitigate the effects of climate change, there was at least awareness that climatic crises were imminent and preparations were necessary.”

**Read More:** <https://8am.media/eng/afghanistan-in-the-vortex-of-climate-change-population-growth-and-statelessness/>

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## **Modi 3.0 and the Island States of the Indian Ocean**

*Radhey Tambi | 5 July 2024*

“Apart from sending signals about expanding the arc of India’s neighbourhood circle, the guest list at PM Modi’s Swearing-in ceremony sent a message about the growing relevance of the maritime sphere for India. Additionally, it conveys to global policymakers and commentators that with New Delhi emerging as the link between the Global North and South, it is well set and ready to manage and engage with both its continental and maritime neighbours.”

**Read More:** [https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CAPS\\_InFocus\\_RT\\_5\\_7\\_24NIS.pdf](https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CAPS_InFocus_RT_5_7_24NIS.pdf)

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## **A Vision for the Future Founded on a Shared History**

*Shamsher M Chowdhury | 26 July 2024*

“A look at the bucket list shows that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s two-day visit to India might have been short in time but undeniably long on substance. While issues of bilateral importance and priorities were widely covered and plans were announced for the future, it was the reference to a shared view on a “free, open, secure and rule based” Indo-Pacific region that could have implications far beyond the bilateral canvas.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/352741/a-vision-for-the-future-founded-on-a-shared>

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## **A Man-Made Disaster and the Major Economic Losses it Caused**

*Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem | 25 July 2024*

“The restoration of the economy from such a crisis, which is man-made in nature, depends not only on providing financial support, economic incentives and benefits, or identifying and taking actions against extremists involved in the arson and vandalism of public and private properties, but more on healing the wounds that were caused in the process of addressing people’s demands.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/man-made-disaster-and-the-major-economic-losses-it-caused-3661016>

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## **All is Not Well That Ends Well**

*Zafar Sobhan | 26 July 2024*

“The AL should understand better than anyone the power of the Bangladeshi people. It should know that they will not be dictated and they will not be dominated. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln: You can dominate some of the Bangladeshis all of the time and all of the Bangladeshis some of the time. But you can’t dominate all of the Bangladeshis all of the time.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/352742/all-is-not-well-that-ends-well>

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## **Voting With Heart, Not With the Brain Might Disappoint Ranil This Time**

*Ranga Jayasuriya | 17 July 2024*

“That unique Sri Lankan psyche might haunt Ranil Wickremesinghe, who thinks the economic recovery would serve his luck. That might also explain why not a single government in the past opted to implement far-reaching liberal economic reforms to turbo-charge the underperforming Sri Lankan economy.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Voting-with-heart-not-with-the-brain-might-disappoint-Ranil-this-time/172-287396>

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## **Tamil ‘Self-Determination’ is Back on the Table, or, is it?**

*N Sathiya Moorthy | 26 July 2024*

“An overwhelming Tamil mandate for ‘self-determination’ is the beginning, rather a new beginning, a decade-and-a-half of after the end of the ethnic war, where the Tamil community only stood to lose, all round. And, the Diaspora also ensured that the Sampanthan-led TNA could not strike a favourable deal with the post-war Rajapaksa regime. And, their tool? The international community, ‘war crimes probe’ and ‘accountability issues’, et al.”

**Read More:** <https://ceylontoday.lk/2024/07/26/tamil-self-determination-is-back-on-the-table-or-is-it/>

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## **Implications of Securitising and De-securitising the Maldives’ Partnerships**

*Athaula A Rasheed | 23 July 2024*

“The negative labelling of the Maldives-China partnership has also impacted how the Maldives has been viewed in the regional security space. The Maldives-China relations have often been securitised by the Indo-Pacific partners, including India. This has involved raising concerns about the potential security implications of China’s increased presence in the Maldives’ territory.”

**Read More:** <https://www.isas.nus.edu.sg/papers/implications-of-securitising-and-desecuritising-the-maldives-partnerships/>

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## **Leveraging the Flair of Diplomacy**

*Dev Raj Dahal | 20 July 2024*

“Nepal, holds a locational advantage between two powerhouses of Asia - India and China. Both are giving priority to neighbourhoods through their policy initiative of connectivity. Strategic geography can be utilised to get support from the world’s major powers and improve its diplomatic clout.”

**Read More:** <https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/46057>

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## **Tackling Foreign Policy Challenges**

*Dr Narad Bharadwaj | 26 July 2024*

“In order to recover its diplomatic image, Nepal requires to reinvent its past efficiency and take drastic measures toward the institutional reform in the field of diplomacy. If the new coalition government forms domestic consensus on broad issues of foreign policy, it may be able to navigate the complex web of foreign policy challenges that lie ahead.”

**Read More:** <https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/46371>

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## **India’s Assurance and Bhutan’s Challenges: A Delicate Balance in the Himalayan Kingdom**

*Y Nithyanandam | 24 July 2024*

“India’s assurance that financial support for Bhutan’s crucial initiatives will continue without interruption serves as a testament to the strong ties between the two countries. Bhutan may find China a substitute for India to keep its choices open and gain from both sides. Hence, it is imperative to constantly observe developments on this front even if Bhutan may not act quickly as it depends more on India.”

**Read More:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/web-only/2024/Jul/24/indias-assurances-and-bhutans-challenges-a-delicate-balance-in-the-himalayan-kingdom>

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## **Bhutan: The Paradox of Happiness and Human Rights Violations**

*CM Niroula | 11 July 2024*

“The dark side of Bhutan’s happiness narrative is most apparent in the treatment of its ethnic Nepali-speaking people who have faced systematic discrimination and violence. In the 1990s, the Bhutanese government embarked on a campaign to strip thousands of them of their citizenship, leading to mass expulsions and widespread human rights abuses.”

**Read More:** <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/bhutan-the-paradox-of-happiness-and-human-rights-violations/?categoryId=opinion>

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## **The Chinese Way of ‘Peacemaking’ and ‘Democracy-Building’ in Myanmar**

*Aung Zaw | 15 July 2024*

“Observers commented that the move reflects a level of dependence on Beijing unprecedented in the 76 years since Myanmar gained independence. The decision is certainly controversial and has caused unease among Myanmar citizens including military personnel.”

**Read More:** <https://www.irrawaddy.com/opinion/commentary/the-chinese-way-of-peacemaking-and-democracy-building-in-myanmar.html>

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## **SCO Summit: A Battle for Influence in Central Asia**

*Nikola Mikovic | 08 July 2024*

“Thus, unless the SCO manages to find a way to develop joint economic projects and strengthen political ties among its members – which could be easier said than done given their diverse geopolitical interests – the group will remain merely a security-oriented talking club with no real power in the global arena.”

**Read More:** <https://timesca.com/sco-summit-a-battle-for-influence-in-central-asia/>

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## **Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in SCO: Achievements and Future Directions**

*Muhammad Asif Noor | 10 July 2024*

“One of the hallmark achievements of Kazakhstan’s chairmanship was the development and implementation of 60 new strategic documents. These include an anti-drug strategy, a comprehensive plan for economic cooperation, an environmental protection agreement, and a strategy for the development of energy cooperation.”

**Read More:** <https://astanatimes.com/2024/07/kazakhstans-chairmanship-in-sco-achievements-and-future-directions/>

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## **From East to West: Türkiye is the bridge builder in multipolar system**

*Suay Nilhan Acikalin | 17 July 2024*

“Türkiye’s role as a bridge builder can be examined through two main aspects: establishing new trade and energy routes and mediating regional conflicts. The concept of a bridge builder needs clarification. Türkiye has been labeled as a bridge for many years, but it has often been seen in a passive role.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/from-east-to-west-turkiye-is-the-bridge-builder-in-multipolar-system>

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## **Netanyahu Brings Damage to Israel Through Silence and Speech**

*Irving Yitz Greenberg | 23 July 2024*

“The only way this legitimate war of self-defense could avoid criticism – even from moderates who are on our side – would be for Israel to acknowledge the problem and deal with it publicly.”

**Read More:** <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-810941>

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## REGION IN PICTURES

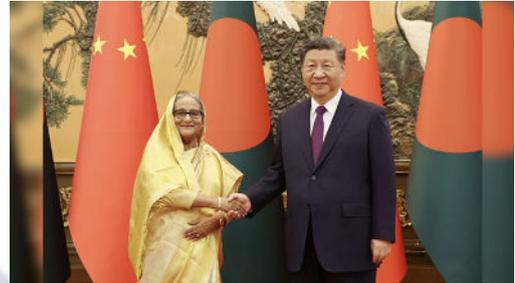
Russia's President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence near Moscow, Russia July 8, 2024.



Pic Credits: Reuters

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President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh on 10 July 2024. Hasina was reportedly on a four-day visit to China but returned a day earlier. Hasina's early return indicated that her objectives for the visit were not met.



Pic Credits: Business Standard

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The Taliban Spokesman Office, Zabihullah Mujahid, the chief spokesman for the Taliban government who leads the Taliban delegation, center right, speaks with Russian Presidential Envoy to Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov, during a meeting in Doha, Qatar, June 30, 2024.



Pic Credits: Taliban Spokesman Office via AP

Mahmoud al-Aloul, vice chairman of the Central Committee of Fatah (L), China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (C), and Mousa Abu Marzouk, senior Hamas member, attend an event at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, 23 July 2024



Pic Credits: Al Jazeera



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