



## World is not about Indo-Pak Ties

*Jawed Naqvi | 15 October 2024*

“Did anybody suggest that India should consider talking to Pakistan during the fraught international meeting in Islamabad? What could have prompted the comments, that have little to do with the agenda at hand? “Wo baat saarey fasaane mein jiska zikr na tha/ Wo baat unko bahot nagawaar guzri hai” (‘a subject we did not discuss/ Is the source of a strange fuss’ — apologies to Faiz).”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1865297/world-is-not-about-indo-pak-ties>

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## Clearing the Air

*Zofeen T. Ebrahim | 16 October 2024*

“Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar’s historic visit — historic because the last official visit to Pakistan by an Indian foreign minister was undertaken by his predecessor, Sushma Swaraj, in 2015 to attend a conference — comes at a time when the air in the federal capital is at its crispest. There is just the right amount of nippiness in the evening air for a hot cup of the popular pink Kashmiri chai to produce the perfect warmth — and thus thwart the toxic air between India and Pakistan.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1865544/clearing-the-air>

## **Pashtuns in the Crossfire of Conflict**

*Abdullah Iqbal | 20 October 2024*

“The Pashtun region has long been a theatre for international conflict, making it difficult for outsiders to fully comprehend the agony endured by its people. In this international war, Pashtuns have not only suffered casualties, but according to data presented at the Jirga, the number of missing persons has reached 6,700.”

**Read More:** <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2024/10/20/pashtuns-in-the-crossfire-of-conflict/>

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## **Leviathan that We Need**

*Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan | 20 October 2024*

“It is very disheartening to see the disruption of civil society in Pakistan. A great number of people including students and lawyers are out on streets protesting. In fact, protests on roads and streets have become a new societal norm and we as a society need to find a more dignified and stately way to address our issues.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2503979/leviathan-that-we-need>

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## **Rethinking Agriculture for Economic Revival**

*Humayun Akhtar Khan | 21 October 2024*

“The government of Pakistan has a choice: it could use this difficult moment to rethink and reform its approach to the economy or it could use the shot in the arm from new IMF loans to continue with business as usual. In the latter case, Pakistan risks going deeper into debt and dependency at the expense of citizen welfare and business progress.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1242222-rethinking-agriculture-for-economic-revival>

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## **The New Frontline**

*Salman Javed | 21 October 2024*

“The most dangerous element of this crisis is the nexus between drug trafficking and terrorism. TTP, in particular, benefits from this illicit trade, using drug money to finance terror operations. The Taliban’s rule in Afghanistan has further emboldened the TTP, with drug trafficking acting as a lifeline for both groups. This deadly combination of drugs and terrorism is most evident in the regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, where drug cultivation and trafficking routes overlap with terrorism hotspots.”

**Read More:** <https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Oct-2024/the-new-frontline>

## **Iran's Border Security Forces Allegedly Massacre 'Dozens' of Afghan Migrants**

*Ayaz Gul | 16 October 2024*

“The Taliban probe was announced after an Iranian rights group, known as Halvash, initially reported the alleged Afghan casualties, saying they occurred Sunday in Iran’s Sistan-Baluchistan border province. The organization quoted survivors as saying that about 300 Afghan migrants were attempting to enter Iran unlawfully when they were assaulted by Iranian border guards, resulting in deaths and injuries.”

**Read More:** <https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-s-border-security-forces-allegedly-massacre-dozens-of-afghan-migrants-/7824988.html>

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## **Taliban Tourism 'Distorting The Truth' in Afghanistan**

*Abubakar Siddique and Frishta Sahak | 01 October 2024*

“To boost its international image, the hard-line Islamist group has tried to woo foreign tourists to the country, where violence has significantly dropped since the Taliban seized power in 2021. But even as the Taliban looks to cash in on propaganda and financial benefits of foreign visitors, the groups’ widespread restrictions on the movement of Afghans, especially women, have stifled the growth of the local tourism industry.”

**Read More:** <https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-tourism-youtubers/33134969.html>

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## **Will Suing the Taliban Protect Afghan Women? Maybe with China's Help**

*Chris Fitzgerald | 01 October 2024*

“China’s position on women in Afghanistan has been consistent with that of the broader international community, demanding the Taliban respect the rights of women and girls. But this has not stopped Beijing from seeking closer ties with the Taliban.”

**Read More:** <https://www.scmp.com/opinion/china-opinion/article/3280488/will-suing-taliban-protect-afghan-women-maybe-chinas-help>

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## **Framing Fear: ISKP's Media Propaganda**

*Priyadarshini Baruah | 03 October 2024*

“The digital blitzkrieg in IS’ online propaganda appears to be linked to a well-organised sequence of IS publications. Taking cue from its core group, ISKP, the regional tentacle of IS in South Asia, has also incorporated online propaganda as a central part of its operations, especially via its digital magazine Voice of Khorasan. Of late, its contents have begun engaging with larger audiences and diaspora communities beyond its core geographical scope.”

**Read More:** [https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CAPS\\_InFocus\\_BP\\_03\\_10\\_24.pdf](https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CAPS_InFocus_BP_03_10_24.pdf)

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## **Navigating Economic Crisis and Political Unrest: Lessons Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Can Share**

*Selim Raihan and Ganga Tilakaratna | 21 October 2024*

“Both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have suffered from crony capitalism in recent years, where political favouritism and close ties between business elites and government officials have led to inefficient resource allocation, corruption, and exacerbated economic vulnerabilities.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/navigating-economic-crisis-and-political-unrest-lessons-bangladesh-and-sri-lanka-can-share-3732461>

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## **The Role of Opposition Parties, Cyber Warriors, Expatriates**

*Mostofa Sarwar | 22 October 2024*

“The Bangladeshi diaspora played a vital role in galvanising the Gen Z Revolution. The relentless support, encouragement, and information flow to the students and masses when the media in Bangladesh was silenced or the media leaders took the role of sycophants were priceless. The information warriors in cyberspace joined the revolution with the ruthless weapons of information war via the internet and social media talk shows that fuelled the passion of the vanguards and the masses.”

**Read More:** <https://www.newagebd.net/post/opinion/248330/the-role-of-opposition-parties-cyber-warriors-expatriates>

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## **How to Jointly Decarbonize Bangladesh's Garment Sector**

*Julia Wesemann | 22 October 2024*

“As Bangladesh’s garment industry moves beyond its reliance on cheap labour, sustainability and decarbonization will become the new competitive advantages. With collaborative efforts between brands and factories, the path forward for Bangladesh’s garment sector lies in embracing climate action as both a moral imperative and an economic opportunity.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/362719/how-to-jointly-decarbonize-bangladesh-s-garment>

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## **Risks of Being Penny Wise, Pound Foolish**

*Dilum Alagiyawanna | 18 October 2024*

“In an increasingly sustainability-conscious world, Sri Lanka must avoid being penny wise and pound foolish. By prioritising domestic industrialisation, energy security, and environmental conservation, Sri Lanka can secure long-term prosperity without compromising its natural heritage or economic future.”

**Read More:** <https://island.lk/risks-of-being-penny-wisepound-foolish/>

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## **World Bank's Development Trap for Sri Lanka**

*Ahilan Kadirgamar | 21 October 2024*

“In a world where we should care about people and their social lives, the World Bank’s discourse of “human capital” should be a warning sign of how global capital’s only interest is to seek profits from human life itself. The pipe dreams of the World Bank peddled in the developing world often come with enticing prefixes like modern, global and commercial.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/World-Banks-Development-Trap-for-Sri-Lanka/172-294141>

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## **Opposition in Need of Leadership**

*Rajpal Abeynayake | 20 October 2024*

“The 2024 Presidential election effectively neutralised the most potent opposition force in the country. The NPP may not have had significant representation in Parliament. But it wasn’t a secret that the JVP as an oppositional force was potent, perhaps far more feared than the rather prosaic SJB, which was in a cosy comfort-zone in the opposition ranks compared to the pugnacious JVP, the effective junior partner in recent anti-Government ranks.”

**Read More:** <https://www.sundayobserver.lk/2024/10/20/opinion/35747/opposition-in-need-of-leadership/>

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## **Muizzu’s Visit to India: An Attempt to Reset Ties**

*Dr Amit Ranjan | 15 October 2024*

“Economic challenges in the country have forced Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu to reset ties with New Delhi. For strategic reasons, India did not disappoint him. Muizzu’s visit to New Delhi and India’s extension of help prove that despite bilateral issues, the smaller South Asian countries cannot afford to stay away from New Delhi for long. On its part, as the agreements between India and the Maldives show, New Delhi has regained some of the lost ground in Malé.”

**Read More:** <https://www.isas.nus.edu.sg/papers/muizzus-visit-to-india-an-attempt-to-reset-ties/>

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## **Reflections on Muizzu’s First State Visit to India**

*Radhey Tambi | 23 October 2024*

“An important dimension of the visit was, of course, the economic assistance that Muizzu was looking for from New Delhi, especially after extremely low forex reserves, risks of Islamic debt default, and the dwindling number of Indian tourists. Tourism contributes 22.5 per cent to the GDP and remains a quintessential source of income for Maldivians.”

**Read More:** [https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CAPS\\_InFocus\\_RT\\_23\\_10\\_24.pdf](https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CAPS_InFocus_RT_23_10_24.pdf)

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## **Nepal's Floods: Time to Get on the Front Foot with Climate Change in Cities**

*Prasesh Pote Shrestha | 18 October 2024*

“Nepal’s Department of Hydrology and Meteorology confirmed that 2024’s monsoon had registered 25% above normal rainfall, with the rain that fell on 27th and 28th September pushing that figure to 32% above. Such rainfall is likely part of a wider change in rainfall patterns: and of a monsoon that we can be confident will hit our region with ever greater force and intensity in the years to come.”

**Read More:** <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/nepals-floods-time-to-get-on-the-front-foot-with-climate-change-in-cities>

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## **Navigating Afghan-Pakistani Conflict: Central Asia’s Mediating Role in Regional Stability**

*Aidar Borangazyev | 21 October 2024*

“The confrontation between the two neighbors in South Asia is a source of concern for other countries in the region, especially for the Central Asian republics, which are increasingly acquiring the status of independent players in their dealings with Afghanistan. Due to their proximity, these republics to varying degrees link their development with a stable Afghanistan designed to become a bridge to South Asia.”

**Read More:** <https://timesca.com/navigating-afghan-pakistani-conflict-and-central-asias-mediating-role-in-regional-stability/>

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## **Azerbaijan Sets a Green Energy Benchmark Ahead of UN COP29: A Vision for Sustainable Development**

*Fatima Tuz Zehra | 19 October 2024*

“Active steps towards the development of a green energy policy and concept in Azerbaijan are evident from the investments made in renewable energy and projects undertaken in the liberated territories of Garabagh and Eastern Zangazur. In order to develop hydro electricity and sustainable power sector within the country, the government even targets to supply energy and be part of mitigating the climate change phenomenon.”

**Read More:** <https://theeuropetoday.com/2024/10/19/azerbaijan-sets-a-green-energy-benchmark-ahead-of-un-cop29-a-vision-for-sustainable-development/>

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## **Iran's Nuclear Ambition**

*Shahid Javed Burki | 21 October 2024*

“Israel and Iran escalate tensions as missile strikes raise concerns over Tehran’s nuclear ambitions and conflict. The Iranians are taking their own measures to make their nuclear programme safe from attacks. Under the watchful eyes of American and Israeli satellites, Iran began digging a vast tunnel network just south of a place called Natanz that is believed to be new enrichment centre, Iran’s largest. This can make Iran even more vulnerable.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2504158/irans-nuclear-ambition>

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## **How Iran Boasts Small Wins While Hiding Major Failures**

*Majid Mohammadi | 07 October 2024*

“The Islamic Republic is quick to publicize events it deems successful, often broadcasting them live. For instance, Friday prayers and war room directives to attack Israel are shown on state media, with foreign coverage re-aired on Farsi outlets. However, when incidents result in failure or embarrassment, the propaganda machine remains silent. What does this behavior tell us about the propaganda apparatus of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes and even authoritarian parties in democratic systems?”

**Read More:** <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202410078385>

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## **A Death Foretold**

*Zarrar Khuhro | 21 October 2024*

“If the Israeli intention was to show Sinwar’s helplessness and, by extension, the hopelessness of resistance, then they have achieved the exact opposite. If they thought that eliminating Sinwar would eliminate his movement, then that shows that they have not understood that resistance is not a function of leadership as much as it is a function of oppression; so long as the one exists, so too will the other.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1866557/a-death-foretold>

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## How the Abraham Accords and Kurdish Alliances Could Transform the Middle East

*Veysi Dag | 21 October 2024*

“By eliminating the hostile pan-Sunni and pan-Shia forces, the Abraham Accords will certainly replace the dark Middle East with a bright Middle East, offering its people peace, welfare, and democracy. To this end, Kurdish actors in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria must move beyond ideological dogmatism and listen to their people’s democratic demands in order to advocate for the peace project embodied by the Abraham Accords.”

**Read More:** <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-825371>

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## REGION IN PICTURES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right), and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu shake hands before their delegation level meeting in New Delhi, India on October 7, 2024.



Pic Credits: AP

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Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi discussed developments in the region at a meeting in Riyadh on October 9, 2024.



Pic Credits: The Times of Israel

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar shakes hands with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Islamabad on October 16, 2024.



Pic Credits: Foreign Policy

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The sixth Moscow Format meeting on Afghanistan began on October 4, 2024. Representatives from Russia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the Taliban attended this meeting.



Pic Credits: The Khaama Press News Agency



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