



Connecting with South Asia

Muhammad Amir Rana | 17 November 2024

“However, disconnecting from South Asia would not be a simple path for Pakistan, as deep civilisational and cultural roots are not easily severed. Pakistanis living abroad often find themselves naturally associating with South Asians despite political tensions. Shared cultural elements, such as movies, dramas, music, and cricket, continue to forge bonds that are difficult to break.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1872892/connecting-with-south-asia>

Pakistan’s Climate Crisis Clearing the Air

Shabnam Baloch | 19 November 2024

“One of the most severely impacted sectors is agriculture, the backbone of Pakistan’s economy and food security. Rising temperatures, projected to increase by 1.4°C to 3.7°C by 2060, threaten to significantly reduce crop yields. For example, wheat production—a critical staple—could decline by up to 2.5% by 2050 under severe climate scenarios, imperiling millions of livelihoods.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Nov-2024/pakistan-s-climate-crisis>

Shaping Pakistan's Future: Vision for a National AI Policy

Shireen Fayyaz | 20 November 2024

“To navigate this technological revolution effectively, Pakistan requires a comprehensive National AI policy. Such a policy would aim not only to raise awareness about AI technologies but also to address privacy concerns, up-skill the workforce, foster AI research and development and ensure ethical, responsible AI use.”

Read More: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2024/11/20/shaping-pakistans-future/>

Is the Economy Improving?

Khurram Husain | 21 November 2024

“Pakistan dodged a bullet in the summer of 2022, when foreign exchange reserves ran so low that they brought the country to the very edge of a disorderly and potentially catastrophic default. Then it dodged the same bullet again, in the summer of 2023, when it returned to the same position one more time.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1873803/is-the-economy-improving>

The War Within

Shahzad Chaudhry | 22 November 2024

“What followed was suicidal when numerous, anywhere up to five thousand, terrorists/militants were released from Pakistani jails and enabled free movement, interaction and residence in territories which were previously threatened by their presence. The political and military leadership blundered into this decision. The notion of strategic depth continues to haunt our judgment.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2511067/the-war-within-1>

Ties That Bind

Waseem Abbas Sial | 22 November 2024

“Cultural collaboration is another cornerstone of the Pakistan-China partnership, with frequent cultural exchange initiatives, festivals, and exhibitions that celebrate the rich heritage of both nations. These events feature traditional music, dance performances, art exhibitions, and culinary displays, offering an immersive experience of each other's cultures.”

Read More: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1253614-ties-that-bind>

How the Taliban are Seeking to Reshape Afghanistan's Schools to Push their Ideology

Enayat Nasir | 11 November 2024

“The Taliban have also banned women from studying abroad. In addition, they have prohibited the sale, purchase and reprinting of more than 400 science and philosophy books and confiscated at least 50,000 books on democracy, social and civil rights, art, literature and poetry from publishing houses, bookstores and public libraries.”

Read More: <https://theconversation.com/how-the-taliban-are-seeking-to-reshape-afghanistans-schools-to-push-their-ideology-241087>

Afghanistan: ‘How to Conceive Relations with a Regime that Locks up Women?’

Alain Frachon | 17 October 2024

“Under the Taliban regime, once again in power in Kabul, Afghan women are taken hostage. But little was said about this collective kidnapping during the autumn session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York at the end of September. This form of terrorism did not make the news.”

Read More: https://www.lemonde.fr/en/opinion/article/2024/10/17/afghanistan-how-to-conceive-relations-with-a-regime-that-locks-up-women_6729673_23.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Exclusive: UN Moves to Unlock Stuck Climate Financing for Afghanistan

Charlotte Greenfield & Gloria Dickie | 20 November 2024

“Flash floods have killed hundreds in Afghanistan this year, and the heavily agriculture-dependent country suffered through one of the worst droughts in decades that ended last year. Many subsistence farmers, who make up much of the population, face deepening food insecurity in one of the world’s poorest countries.”

Read More: https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/sustainable-finance-reporting/un-moves-unlock-stuck-climate-financing-afghanistan-agencies-say-2024-11-20/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Will Trump's Return Change Bangladesh-US Ties?

Ramisa Rob & Michael Kugelman | 08 November 2024

“One, the relationship between Bangladesh and the US, during the first Trump administration, saw many strategic partnerships. It was during that period that the Trump administration launched the Indo-Pacific policy, and considered Bangladesh to be a big part of that. Trade between the US and Bangladesh also went up as well.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/geopolitical-insights/news/will-trumps-return-change-bangladesh-us-ties-3747491>

BNP's Battle for Credibility

Makshudul Alom Mokul Mondal | 10 November 2024

“The situation deteriorated further after the BNP's mandate expired in 2006, when a military-backed caretaker government took office. During this time, popular sentiment swung against the BNP, spurred by new corruption claims and the consequences of its previous administration. Awami League, which took administration in 2008, capitalized on all these issues.”

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/364716/bnp's-battle-for-credibility>

From Iron Fists to Open Arms

Del H Khan | 16 November 2024

“Since the transition in August, their goal has been to set Bangladesh on a democratic course and draft an inclusive, forward-thinking constitution. However, inheriting a nation facing skyrocketing inflation, an unstable forex market, and political turbulence isn't for the faint-hearted. Yunus and co are not only trying to balance the economy but are also pushing for reforms to restore public trust, aiming to clean the stain left by the previous regime.”

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/365297/from-iron-fists-to-open-arms>

A New Dawn for Sri Lanka

Ayampillai Dharmakulasingham | 07 November 2024

“In Sri Lanka, JVP/NPP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s rise to the presidency marks a new chapter in the country’s history. The upcoming general election, on 14 Nov. holds significant importance and has raised hopes that Sri Lanka is undergoing a transitional period for good. It may mark the first time a left-wing party comes to power in Sri Lanka.”

Read More: <https://island.lk/a-new-dawn-for-sri-lanka/>

Promise and Caution: What the NPP Epic Victory Augurs for Sri Lanka

Ranga Jayasuriya | 20 November 2024

“The NPP government has a historical opportunity to solve the minority concerns on a more level playing field. Considering that it had won the North and the Central hills and fared well in the East, no one can dismiss it as a party that only represents the South. That should not be an incentive to force upon a solution – a primary drawback in the first autochthonous Constitution, the Republic Constitution of 1972.”

Read More: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Promise-and-caution-What-the-NPP-epic-victory-augurs-for-Sri-Lanka/172-296335#>

Preserving the Maldives National Identity

Shazleen Ahmed | 21 November 2024

“The Maldives’ national identity is rooted in a rich blend of indigenous traditions, Islamic influence, and cultural exchanges with neighboring regions. Its history is marked by maritime trade, Islamic conversion in the 12th century, and the resilience of its people in the face of environmental and geopolitical challenges. The Maldivian culture is reflected in its language (Dhivehi), traditional arts and crafts, unique music, dance, and cuisine.”

Read More: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/preserving-maldives-national-identity-shazleen-ahmed--ymabc/?trackingId=fqcNyO0xQeWA6Z9bES8apQ%3D%3D>

Why is Nepal's Climate Concern not being Heard on the Global Stage?

Dr Narayan Gyawali | 16 November 2024

“Nepal’s struggle with water scarcity, combined with increasing temperatures and disrupted crop patterns, is also contributing to rising climate-induced migration. Additionally, climate-related disasters have significantly harmed livelihoods, further prompting migration both within Nepal and abroad. The Department of Foreign Employment reports that 700,000 Nepalis migrate annually for work, with many heading to the Gulf countries and Europe, while 150,000 go abroad for education.”

Read More: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/why-is-nepals-climate-concern-not-being-heard-on-the-global-stage-6737f8b7b259d.html>

Foreign Policy Embarrassment

Ajaya Bhadra Khanal | 17 November 2024

“The series of events in the last two months shows that Oli’s focus is personal rather than national. According to a former senior diplomat, who has overseen several state visits, Nepali leaders often emphasise one-on-one meetings with Chinese and Indian political leaders. Such meetings, according to him, are often harmful for Nepal’s national interest because they focus on personal transactional relations rather than on overall bilateral relations.”

Read More: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2024/11/17/foreign-policy-embarrassment>

Bhutan, After Prioritizing Happiness, Now Faces an Existential Crisis

Lesley Stahl, Aliza Chasan, Shari Finkelstein & Collette Richards | 17 November 2024

“But tourism can only do so much and Bhutan’s king knows it, so he has decided to create a new city in southern Bhutan with different rules from the rest of the country. It will be an attempt at a new model of robust economic development, while still holding true to Bhutanese values.”

Read More: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bhutan-emigration-crisis-60-minutes/>

How can Central Asian Countries Advance Democratization Efforts Amid Geopolitical Uncertainty?

Eldaniz Gusseinov | 01 November 2024

“Escalating geopolitical conflicts on the global stage may further hinder the realization of major political reforms. The global environment plays a crucial role. The most democratically developed states have evolved in stable and peaceful conditions. Central Asian countries now face several challenges, such as combating the potential rise of terrorist organizations or fighting criminal groups.”

Read More: <https://timesca.com/how-can-central-asian-countries-advance-democratization-efforts-amid-geopolitical-uncertainty/>

Role of Islamic Trade Finance in Empowering SMEs in Central Asia

Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol | 15 November 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://astanatimes.com/2024/11/role-of-islamic-trade-finance-in-empowering-smes-in-central-asia/>

What Iranians Hope for From a New US President

Behrouz Turani | 05 November 2024

“However, many Iranians completely opposed to the Islamic Republic, prefer the presidency of Donald Trump, hoping that his tough stance toward Tehran can fatally weaken the political and military establishment and lead to its downfall.”

Read More: <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202411053302>

Iran is Much Weaker Than the Last Time it Faced Trump

Hal Brands | 19 November 2024

“The U.S. could also make clear that, along with Israel, it will hold Iran directly responsible for proxy attacks — a precedent Trump set by killing Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani in 2020 — rather than giving Tehran strategic immunity by responding only against the proxies themselves.”

Read More: https://www.stripes.com/opinion/2024-11-19/iran-is-weaker-now-trump-15899498.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Is Annexation a Realistic Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Stalemate? - Opinion

Amine Ayoub | 17 November 2024

“Even if Hamas were dismantled, other extremist groups would likely emerge, driven by the same grievances that have perpetuated decades of violence. The cycle of terror would continue, and a new extremist group could easily fill the vacuum left by Hamas, ensuring that violence remains an ongoing threat.”

Read More: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-829382>

The Absurd ICC Indictments Could Have Been Avoided

Alon Tal | 24 November 2024

“Reading the ICC’s ruling and the prosecution’s submissions, one doesn’t need to be an expert in international law to realize that with even a thimbleful of prudence and humility, the present outcome could have been prevented. Instead, the government’s obstinacy and folly have resulted in grave consequences: alongside the worst military disaster in Israel’s history, we now have the country’s worst diplomatic fiasco.”

Read More: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/how-the-absurd-icc-indictments-might-have-been-avoided/>

REGION IN PICTURES

World leaders gathered in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the world leaders climate action summit kicking off the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29).



Pic Credits: Council of the European Union and the European Council

Iran's foreign minister arrived in Pakistan's capital for a two-day official visit to discuss a range of issues, including tensions in the Middle East and further improving bilateral ties.



Pic Credits: Business Standard

Indian Defence minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in Laos's Vientiane on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus).



Pic Credits: The Times of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with other G20 leaders for the 'Family Photo' during the Leaders' Summit in Rio De Janeiro.



Pic Credits: Business Standard



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