



Pak-Turk Strategic Relations

Adeela Naureen and Waqar K Kauravi | 12 February 2025

“Pak-Turk relationship has transcended military cooperation, evolving into a comprehensive strategic alliance through institutionalized dialogue, economic integration, and cultural synergy. While challenges persist, shared geopolitical interests and mutual support mechanisms position the alliance as a stabilizing force in Eurasia and the Muslim world.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Feb-2025/pak-turk-strategic-relations>

Refugee Question

Arifa Noor | 04 February 2025

“The assertion that arresting Afghan refugees and charging them with serious offences has become the norm, which implies this is not limited to a particular event. Since the change of the regime in Kabul and the decision in Islamabad to send refugees back, Afghan refugees have increasingly become part of the political discourse, in a way that was not apparent earlier. For instance, recent decisions to send them back to Pakistan were linked to terrorist attacks in Pakistan.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1889647/refugee-question>

Commitment to Kashmir Cause

Abdul Basit Alvi | 13 February 2025

“The COAS emphasized that Pakistan has fought three wars for Kashmir and would be ready to fight ten more if necessary. Kashmiris deeply appreciate Pakistan’s ongoing commitment and support, urging the global community to pressure India to cease human rights violations and atrocities, and to grant them the right to self-determination.”

Read More: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/02/13/commitment-to-kashmir-cause/>

One Year On

Maleeha Lodhi | 23 December 2024

“The security situation deteriorated markedly under Sharif. The surge in terrorist and militant violence across KP and Balochistan made the past year the deadliest in a decade in casualties suffered by law-enforcement personnel. Sharif’s foreign policy endeavours have mostly focused on seeking loans and debt rollovers from close allies, reducing Pakistan to a supplicant in its key bilateral relationships.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1892478/one-year-on>

Reclaiming Progress and the Future of Pakistan

Dr Zafar Khan Safdar | 22 February 2025

“Pakistan’s position as 164th on the Human Development Index reflects the entrenched struggles that hinder its journey toward true progress and human flourishing. This low ranking places Pakistan behind several countries including Zambia, Congo, Angola, and Cambodia, which, on the surface, may seem like unlikely comparisons.”

Read More: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/02/22/reclaiming-progress-and-the-future-of-pakistan/>

Political Legitimacy

Ali Hassan Bangwar | 23 February 2025

“Democracy in Pakistan has been less a practice and more a tool to legitimise successive hybrid regimes. The democratic façade has facilitated and sustained the country’s deepening authoritarian, dynastic and despotic tendencies. Due to misplaced legitimacy, all successive hybrid political settings remained mired in controversy and institutional friction or overreach.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2530258/political-legitimacy>

Refugees in a Deadlock: From Discrimination in Afghanistan to Cruelty in Neighboring Countries

Amin Kawa | 09 February 2025

“These refugees assert that their situation in Pakistan has now become even more difficult. They claim that in their pursuit of a safer environment, they have endured discrimination, oppression, and harsh treatment by Pakistani police over the past three years. They insist that Western countries, particularly the United States, should not reject or delay their cases, as the Taliban torture, detain, and kill them for their cooperation with the West.”

Read More: <https://8am.media/eng/refugees-in-a-deadlock-from-discrimination-in-afghanistan-to-cruelty-in-neighboring-countries>

Sixth Moscow Format: Russia’s Growing Ties with the Taliban

Bantirani Patro | 21 February 2025

“The format is unique in the sense that it is Russia spearheading the consultations, a clear break from Western-led initiatives focused on Afghanistan. It is also an indication of Russia’s sustained interest in the region amid geopolitical ebbs and flows, especially in the context of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.”

Read More: https://capsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CAPS_IB_BP_21_2_25.pdf

Let Afghan Girls Learn

Pashtana Murad | 18 February 2025

“The ongoing repression of Afghan women demands urgent global attention. The international community must intensify diplomatic efforts to pressure the Taliban into restoring basic rights, particularly access to education. Without sustained pressure and engagement, Afghan women will remain trapped in a cycle of oppression, deprived of their future and their fundamental freedoms.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/18-Feb-2025/let-afghan-girls-learn>

Scary Afghanistan

Muhammad Amir Rana | 23 February 2025

“The possibility of engaging dissenters within the Taliban regime cannot be ruled out, but are they capable of launching a coup against Mullah Hibatullah and establishing order afterwards? The breakup of the Taliban would divide them along tribal and ethnic lines, reminiscent of the pre-Taliban era of the mid-1990s.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1893732/scary-afghanistan>

Trump's 'Reciprocal Tariff' and Risks for Bangladesh

Selim Raihan | 23 February 2025

“Over 80 per cent of Bangladesh’s total exports come from the readymade garment sector, and the US is one of its major markets. If new tariffs are imposed on garment exports, the cost of imports for US buyers would rise. As a result, orders could fall, and buyers might turn to alternative suppliers. By monitoring the future direction of US policies, Bangladesh must take specific steps now to protect its economic interests, ensuring that any sudden decisions do not severely affect its export sector.”

Read More: <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/op-ed/r2yentjxxc>

Commander of the Faithful

Zeeshan Khan | 19 February 2025

“Dear Tawhidi Janata, you are finally in plain sight and in the ascendant after decades of being forcibly obscured. We can see you; you have, as it were, the floor. And since you do have it, and since I am watching some of your actions with concern and dread, it behooves me to ask you: Who are your teachers? Who are you an Ummah of?”

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/longform/374134/commander-of-the-faithful>

Will Youth Political Engagement Ever Go Beyond Protesting?

Apon Zahir | 24 February 2025

“Creation of structured and effective platforms for engagement between the government and the people, particularly non-politically affiliated youth, has been long overdue in Bangladesh. As a result, instead of being actively involved in shaping policies and governance, young people often find themselves resorting to protests—and in many cases, violence—to express their concerns.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/will-youth-political-engagement-ever-go-beyond-protesting-3831541>

What would Donald Trump's Return to 19th-Century Power Politics Mean for Sri Lanka?

Ranga Jayasuriya | 12 February 2025

“The primary Indian concern in Sri Lanka is the growing Chinese geo-economic footprint. The exceeding power asymmetries between the two competing powers, China being five times India’s GDP, amplifies these anxieties, especially in a system of might is right - as Trump is remaking the world order.”

Read More: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/What-would-Donald-Trumps-return-to-19th-century-power-politics-mean-for-Sri-Lanka/172-302199>

Sri Lanka's Pursuance of a Dynamic Foreign Policy

Dinouk Colombage | 23 February 2025

“Under President Dissanayake, the country’s foreign policy is once again running the risk of falling back into the lackadaisical approach of previous administrations. Despite undertaking two significant overseas visits to India and China in the past two months, the Government has failed to take any meaningful steps forward.”

Read More: <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/rBOw1HGwv0nVMl1CvYrl>

Maldives: Treading Cautiously

Sanchita Bhattacharya | 18 February 2025

“With a string of domestic issues and economic challenges, Maldives needs to tread cautiously to sustain itself under Mohamed Muizzu’s leadership. The archipelago is in dire need of better management of regional players, of economic crises, of the challenge of radicalization, and of the increased narco-threat.”

Read More: https://www.eurasiareview.com/18022025-maldives-treading-cautiously-analysis/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Nepal's Climate Crisis: Role of Youth in Advocating for Action

Aaryan Kunwar | 07 February 2025

“As climate change advocates, they are driving youth-led movements and pushing for change. The desire to act is palpable: 96 per cent of young people in Nepal have expressed an interest in acting against climate change if they are given the resources and support. In addition to this, Sherpa youth are grappling with the loss of their cultural heritage as the Himalayas - central to their identity - increasingly face environmental degradation.”

Read More: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/nepals-climate-crisis-role-of-youth-in-advocating-for-action>

Return of the Repressed

Ajaya Bhadra Khanal | 22 February 2025

“Despite convoluted arguments to the contrary, it has now become necessary, and urgent, to accept the fact that public discontent is growing. According to a recent survey, 68 percent of the people do not think the country is moving in the right direction, despite their economic condition improving in the last five years. If you don't believe the survey's findings, look at what is happening around you. Look at how different incidents have triggered people's emotions.”

Read More: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2025/02/22/return-of-the-repressed>

Kazakhstan can Reshape Trade Routes and Resource Security Amid Supply Chain Shift

Darren Spinck | 03 February 2025

“As the U.S. and UK seek to diversify supply chains and reduce dependence on China and Russia, Kazakhstan presents an attractive alternative. Increased investment in Kazakhstan's energy sector, particularly critical minerals mining, would not only strengthen economic ties but also contribute to global efforts for cleaner and more secure rare earths sources.”

Read More: <https://astanatimes.com/2025/02/kazakhstan-can-reshape-trade-routes-and-resource-security-amid-supply-chain-shift/>

Securing Central Asia's Future: EBRD's Regional Head on the Fight for Water Sustainability

Huseyin Ozhan | 25 February 2025

“The Bank is working to improve the efficiency of regional irrigation water conveyancing systems in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. All the countries depend on irrigated agriculture and are known for relatively low levels of rainfall throughout the year. Replacing old water pumps and pipes with modern equipment will ensure better control over the flow of water and reduce losses.”

Read More: <https://timesca.com/securing-central-asias-future-eblds-regional-head-on-the-fight-for-water-sustainability/>

Iran's Deep-Seated Mistrust of U.S.

Xavier Villar | 10 February 2025

“To understand this mistrust, it is necessary, on one hand, to look back at Iran's contemporary history and analyze the relationship of subordination that the Pahlavi regime maintained with the United States. On the other hand, it is crucial to examine the ideas of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini. His speeches and writings throughout the different stages of his struggle show how, in his view, the revitalization of Islam could reduce the influence of colonial powers and foreign interventions in Iran.”

Read More: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/509631/Iran-s-deep-seated-mistrust-of-U-S>

Reinstatement of Maximum Pressure: What does that Mean for Iran?

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh | 13 February 2025

“While Iran has made some attempts to change tactics and offer diplomacy in a last-ditch effort to avoid further sanctions, the “maximum pressure” campaign has been fully reimplemented. Given Iran's weakened position due to regional losses, military strain, and global isolation, this renewed pressure is expected to have far more severe consequences than before.”

Read More: <https://english.alarabiya.net/views/2025/02/13/reinstatement-of-maximum-pressure-what-does-that-mean-for-iran>

Why Does the World Trust Riyadh?

Dr. Naif Alotaibi | 22 February 2025

“Saudi Arabia possesses immense political influence, making it a trusted mediator in resolving international disputes. However, this trust has not emerged from thin air; it is the result of decades of diplomatic efforts, during which Riyadh has demonstrated integrity, honesty, and a sincere commitment to achieving peace and stability—regionally and globally—even at great cost.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/22-Feb-2025/why-does-the-world-trust-riyadh>

Turkiye-led Alliance to End Regional Terrorist Organizations: Daesh, PKK/YPG

Sibel Düz | 25 February 2025

“By championing a regional initiative, Türkiye aims to establish an autonomous problem-solving mechanism, thereby expanding its diplomatic latitude while diminishing the reliance on external actors. This approach aligns with the broader geopolitical recalibration observed among key regional states – including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Egypt, Jordan and Türkiye – toward prioritizing endogenous stability and strategic autonomy.”

Read More: <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/turkiye-led-alliance-to-end-regional-terrorist-organizations-daesh-pkkypg>

New Political Formation and Future of Hezbollah in Lebanon

Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui | 26 February 2025

“Amid the noticeable decline of Iran’s geostrategic sway in the region and the collapse of the Assad regime in Syria in December 2024, Hezbollah has lost two of its major patrons, with the former once the most powerful actor within the Axis of Resistance.”

Read More: <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/new-political-formation-and-future-of-hezbollah-in-lebanon>

REGION IN PICTURES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets U.S. President Donald Trump in the United States on 13 February 2025.



Pic Credits: Hindustan Times

The Director General of India's Border Security Force met the Director General of Bangladesh's Border Guard Bangladesh for a four-day conference from 17-20 February 2025.



Pic Credits: Rising Kashmir

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian meets with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Tehran, Iran, 25 February 2025.



Pic Credits: Iran International

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 24 February 2025. Both the countries signed several agreements to strengthen their cooperation in areas like trade, energy, tourism, education, and more.



Pic Credits: Reuters



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