



## Pak-Afghan Thaw

*Zahid Hussain | 11 June 2025*

“China has developed far closer ties with the Taliban regime than any other country. It was the first country to elevate its diplomatic relations with Afghanistan to an ambassadorial level. More importantly, Beijing has a strong influence on both Kabul and Islamabad, which has helped it play the role of mediator. There was no known scheduled trilateral meeting when Pakistan’s foreign minister arrived in Beijing on an official visit. The Afghan foreign minister went to Beijing on a special invitation. However, the get-together produced a positive outcome of geopolitical importance. Surely, there is a need to keep up the pressure on Kabul not to let its soil be used for cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistan. Still, Islamabad must also broaden its multi-dimensional cooperation with the Kabul regime.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1916450/pak-afghan-thaw>

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## **Pakistan Reclaims Strategic Space in Washington**

*Anwar Iqbal | 22 June 2025*

“While in Washington, Field Marshal Munir addressed two select groups — one comprising Pakistani American professionals and the other of US scholars and journalists. Participants in both sessions noted the general’s confidence and clarity. His expressions and body language, they said, reflected a man focused on a long-term plan. Whether this visit marks a deeper reset or merely a tactical recalibration remains to be seen. But some trends are evident: Pakistan’s military and civilian leadership appear more coordinated in their messaging, and Washington’s tone reflects a broader shift in how it views South Asia.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1918898/pakistan-reclaims-strategic-space-in-washington>

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## **Iran–Israel Conflict: What it Means for Pakistan**

*Shahid Javed Burki | 23 June 2025*

“China is working with Pakistan to develop plans to expand CPEC, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, into Afghanistan and Iran. Eventually the road network would extend to the countries of Central Asia that were once part of the dissolved Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the USSR. This would make it possible for China to tap and transport minerals from the area to feed its rapidly expanding industrial system. With the possible participation of the United States in the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, these plans would be disrupted.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2552148/iran-israel-conflict-what-it-means-for-pakistan>

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## **A Tough Spot**

*Huma Yusuf | 23 June 2025*

“There are no good choices for Pakistan in the Iran-Israel conflict, particularly in the escalation due to US involvement. Do nothing, and the conflagration will spill over anyway, in the form of refugees or smuggled arms. Pakistan is also concerned about the influx from Iran of Baloch militants and the prospect of Israel establishing long-term air control over Iran or installing a puppet regime in Tehran, given the close links between India and Israel.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1919274/a-tough-spot>

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## **Powering the Future**

*Asad Baig | 02 June 2025*

“Pakistan’s newfound enthusiasm for crypto doesn’t have to follow the chaotic, exploitative arc seen elsewhere. This moment presents a chance to do it differently, to design systems that are transparent, inclusive, and locally rooted. Crypto can be more than just speculative trading and mining farms; it can be a way to reimagine financial access, to build tools for remittances, savings, and digital ownership for people excluded from formal banking. But that requires intent.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1914869/powering-the-future>

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## **An IMF–Mandated Balancing Act**

*Nasir Jamal | 11 June 2025*

“The budget has proved to be a major disappointment for those who thought the economic stability achieved under the IMF programme would guide the government to implement deeper reforms for a structural shift in the economy and lay the foundation for sustainable growth in future. Pakistan badly needs transformative policies to turn around the economy and out it on a sustainable path to growth. But that cannot be achieved by using the backdoors. Previous governments have tried that path and always led the country to a worse crisis than before.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1916438/analysis-an-imf-mandated-balancing-act>

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## **Pakistan on the Frontlines of Climate Disaster**

*Zaid Kamal | 17 June 2025*

“Pakistan’s international partners are investing in water-efficient farming and promoting less water-intensive crops, thereby encouraging sustainable agriculture and enhancing the country’s resilience. This means that Pakistan must change its current development model to play a role in addressing climate change and achieving shared prosperity on a livable planet. The country should work with the international community to enhance its water management and Afforestation in urban planning, educate its communities, invest in renewable energy, and establish stronger climate change policies and a framework for policy implementation.”

**Read More:** <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/06/17/pakistan-on-the-frontlines-of-climate-disaster/>

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## **Beyond Budgets**

*Arooj Waheed Dar | 24 June 2025*

“Many government departments — particularly in the social sector — struggle to utilise even the limited funds available to them due to a mix of procedural delays, selective accountability concerns, and capacity issues. Delays in budget releases and cumbersome procurement processes further hinder fund utilisation, often resulting in large-scale budgetary lapses. Hence, regardless of the allocations made at the start of the fiscal year, actual fund utilisation and development outcomes can vary significantly.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dawn.com/news/1919546/beyond-budgets>

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## **What Explains the Pakistan Military’s Growing Global Structure?**

*Umair Jamal | 26 June 2025*

“The meeting between Pakistan’s army chief and Trump demonstrated two things. First, the world views Pakistan’s military as an important player in regional stability and in managing affairs within Pakistan. Second, Pakistan’s military continues to be perceived as powerful domestically while civilian governments seem unable to offer guarantees on foreign policy matters. However, the real test will be whether Pakistan can translate this diplomatic capital into fixing its economy and politics, which can bring lasting stability at home and abroad.”

**Read More:** <https://thedi diplomat.com/2025/06/what-explains-the-pakistan-militarys-growing-global-stature/>

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## **The Current Situation in Afghanistan**

*Sayed Mohammad Ali | 27 June 2025*

“The Taliban have been in power for nearly four years now, so they have had ample time to make a transition from an insurgency movement to a more functional government. Their hardline and iron-fisted stance was initially explained as being motivated by their fear of losing the support of hardline elements who may have joined even more extreme outfits such as the ISIL-K. However, the Taliban regime now has no excuse. It must broaden its myopic approach, and make a genuine effort to deliver responsible governance, via incremental representation rather than continued repression. Otherwise, Afghanistan will remain a pariah state.”

**Read More:** <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2552840/the-current-situation-in-afghanistan>

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## **Rejecting TTP's Distortion of Jihad**

*Asad Ali | 16 June 2025*

“Religious reasoning cannot be claimed by intimidation or fake judgments. Justice, restraint and truth are the basic foundations of law. Based on all the evidence, the TTP has struggled to meet these expectations. It is time to challenge their false information, get them responsible and join efforts for a world where peace wins over fanaticism and religion supports us, but does not hurt us.”

**Read More:** <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/06/16/rejecting-ttps-distortion-of-jihad/>

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## **Strategic Implications of the First China-Pakistan-Bangladesh Summit**

*Md. Himel Rahman | 25 June 2025*

“While China and Pakistan proposed that the three countries form a joint working group to coordinate the implementation of the understandings, Bangladesh did not agree to the proposal. This indicates that Bangladesh is willing to engage in greater cooperation with Beijing and Islamabad, but in continuation of its long-standing policy of non-alignment, it is not yet ready to participate in a formal alliance.”

**Read More:** <https://thediplomat.com/2025/06/strategic-implications-of-the-first-china-pakistan-bangladesh-summit/>

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## **New Election Timeframe Lost in ‘Ifs’ and ‘Buts’**

*Rabiul Islam | 14 June 2025*

“Yunus’s new February 2026 proposal, following his meeting with Tarique Rahman, has sparked fresh controversy—particularly because the announcement, again, comes laden with too many conditions. Moreover, political reactions have been rife. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami voiced concern over the London meeting, alleging that the chief adviser’s perceived preference for one party compromises his neutrality. The party further argued that it was ethically inappropriate for an interim government to hold a joint press briefing and issue a joint statement with a single political party.”

**Read More:** <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/op-ed/ff907eagmp>

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## **Bangladesh's Search for a Balanced National Identity**

*Shafi Md Mostofa | 27 June 2025*

“Bangladesh stands at a pivotal moment in its political and ideological evolution. With the ousting of Sheikh Hasina's government and the appointment of an interim administration, the country now witnesses a debate over its national identity. At the heart of this discourse is the Constitution Reform Commission's proposal to replace secularism with pluralism. This shift has sparked confusion and contention among political factions and civil society.”

**Read More:** <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/bangladeshs-search-balanced-national-identity-3926996>

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## **Humanitarian Corridor and the Principle of Safe Passage**

*Sakhawat Sajjat Sejan | 28 June 2025*

“Bangladesh may solicit for the option of a conditional corridor, if it has to provide a corridor following international pursuance. While allowing such a corridor, Bangladesh should also be concerned about the protection of the region from arms trafficking, drug trafficking, and human trafficking. Possibilities of the military junta's further oppression towards the Rohingya in Myanmar and Arakan Army's infiltration within the territory of Bangladesh will remain a major concern for Bangladesh.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/385006/humanitarian-corridor-and-the-principle-of-safe>

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## **The Gathering Storm: Impact of US Involvement in Iran-Israel War on Sri Lanka**

*Major General Dr. Boniface Perera | 24 June 2025*

“Direct US involvement in the Israel-Iran conflict would unleash a torrent of economic devastation on Sri Lanka. The island nation, still reeling from its recent economic collapse, is acutely vulnerable to external shocks, particularly those impacting global energy markets, trade routes, and worker migration patterns. The inevitable surge in oil prices, disruptions to shipping, decline in tourism, and reduction in remittances would rapidly erode Sri Lanka's hard-won economic stability, deplete its foreign exchange reserves, exacerbate inflation, and jeopardise its IMF-backed recovery.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/The-Gathering-Storm-Impact-of-US-Involvement-in-Iran-Israel-War-on-Sri-Lanka/172-312361>

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## **Tamil Parties Resort to Politics of Compromise**

*Veeragathy Thanabalasingham | 22 June 2025*

“Interestingly, there were three similarities between the opposition political parties in southern Sri Lanka and the Tamil political parties in the north and east at last month’s Local Government Elections. The first similarity is that the ruling National People’s Power (NPP) is considered the common political enemy by both sides. The second is the inability of the parties in both regions to come together to take on the ruling party. Thirdly, more than one month after the elections were concluded, these parties are still holding talks and trying to jointly form administrations in the local bodies.”

**Read More:** <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/6hwCwf341zBNmBHNTGxW>

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## **Sri Lanka Railways Stuck in a Political Quagmire**

*Ravi Nagahawatte | 23 June 2025*

“We have a new government in place, but the railways is still in a position of peril and quickly needs to rebuild its lost image. This is because the train is a popular mode of transport for both locals and tourists. Hence, the need to have the trains running sans accidents and on time. When the NPP was campaigning prior to the presidential elections, one of the election pledges made was to prioritise public transport. These plans included uplifting the railways as well.”

**Read More:** <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Sri-Lanka-Railways-stuck-in-a-political-quagmire/172-312250>

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## **Tailoring Maritime Security in Maldives: Beyond Dependency**

*Lt Col Ahmed Jameel | 18 June 2025*

“Maldives faces multifaceted challenges in ensuring its defence, such as limited resources, manpower, and high infrastructure management costs. It is essential to have a defence force tailored to Maldives’ unique needs. With about 99 per cent of its ocean territory, Maldives can be viewed as a ‘big ocean state’. With no land borders shared with other countries, the appropriate structure for its defence must consider its unique history, geographic landscape, and the nature of specific maritime threats it faces.”

**Read More:** <https://mnu.edu.mv/tailoring-maritime-security-in-maldives-beyond-dependency/>

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## **Nepal's Supply Chain Crisis: Food, Commodity Pressures Amid**

*Vidhu Prakash Kayastha | 10 June 2025*

“The India-Pakistan tensions, while not directly involving Nepal, pose significant risks to its supply chain for food and commodities due to its heavy reliance on India. The potential for trade disruptions, coupled with Nepal's growing food import dependency, threatens economic stability and food security. However, through trade diversification, enhanced local production and diplomatic engagement, Nepal can build resilience against such geopolitical shocks.”

**Read More:** <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/nepals-supply-chain-crisis-food-commodity-pressures-amid-regional-unrest>

## **Fractured by Leaders, Not Democracy**

*Prem Sapkota, Srishti Adhikari and Tilak Pathak | 26 June 2025*

“Nepal has had its share of political upheavals. In recent years, we have witnessed the rise of new political parties and a sharp decline in trust in established parties. A nostalgic fascination with monarchy is growing alongside cautious optimism towards emerging alternative political forces.”

**Read More:** <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2025/06/26/frustrated-by-leaders-not-democracy>

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## **Bracing for the New Normal**

*Saroj Karki and Kumar Bhattarai | 27 June 2025*

“Climate-induced extremes, once considered outliers, are now the new normal. Nowadays, even normal rainfall events significantly impact communities, infrastructures, agriculture, etc. This year seems no different. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) has forecasted above-average rainfall with an early onset of the monsoon, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Authority (NDRRMA) has forecasted over 2 million people to be directly impacted by this year's monsoon.”

**Read More:** <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2025/06/27/bracing-for-the-new-normal>

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## **From Glaciers to Farms: How Regional Cooperation is Shaping Central Asia's Water Issues**

*Yasmin Siddiqi and Bahodur Sheralizoda | 10 June 2025*

“ADB’s Glaciers to Farms program supports smarter irrigation, early warning systems, open data-sharing, and real-time planning tools. Its phased approach will prioritize river basins that are at greater risk from glacier melt, while building institutional and technical capacity for long-term, region-wide resilience. With the Green Climate Fund, this regional program aims to mobilize up to \$3.5 billion for adaptation investments in nine countries.”

**Read More:** <https://astanatimes.com/2025/06/from-glaciers-to-farms-how-regional-cooperation-is-shaping-central-asias-water-issues/>

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## **Nuclear Energy's Ascent: Reshaping Central Asia's Energy Landscape**

*Dr Ngangom Dhruba Tara Singh | 17 June 2025*

“Kazakhstan’s Strategy 2050 aims to achieve a 2 GW nuclear capacity mix by 2050. Furthermore, Kazakhstan’s recent referendum on the construction of the country’s first nuclear power plant, held in October 2024, saw 71 per cent of participants vote in its favour. The outcome of the referendum was significant considering that Kazakhstan inherited the traumatic memories of Soviet nuclear tests at Semipalatinsk-21.”

**Read More:** <https://capsindia.org/nuclear-energys-ascent-reshaping-central-asias-energy-landscape/>

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## **As Kazakhstan-China Trade Booms, Tokayev and Xi Strengthens Relations**

*Javier M. Piedra | 25 June 2025*

“Kazakhstan’s emergence as the region’s principal transport and trade facilitator results from its long-term vision, sustained investments, smart diplomacy, and embrace of economic pragmatism. This integration strategy may be its most valuable export. Addressing Xi Jinping in Astana, Tokayev recalled the well-established friendship and cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, a relationship distinguished by mutual understanding and goodwill. Assuming global economic stability, Kazakhstan and China may push their trade volumes to \$75 billion per annum in the coming years.”

**Read More:** <https://timesca.com/as-kazakhstan-china-trade-booms-tokayev-and-xi-strengthen-relations/>

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## **Unintended Consequence: A Bombed Iranian Nuclear Program May Become Harder to Watch**

*Anubhav Shankar Goswami | 25 June 2025*

“Unreliable data on Tehran’s capabilities may undercut deterrence by leaving the US and Israel unsure of how to respond, perhaps leading to escalation or miscalculation. It might complicate diplomacy, given the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, intended to restrain Iran’s progress, was based on IAEA surveillance of known sites. With those potentially gone and Iran threatening departure from the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, reopening negotiations may be more difficult.”

**Read More:** <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/unintended-consequence-a-bombed-iranian-nuclear-program-may-become-harder-to-watch/>

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## **A Pause or a Prelude? The Fragile Ceasefire Between Iran and Israel**

*Dr. Majid Rafizadeh | 27 June 2025*

“While both Israel and Iran found compelling reasons to agree to this ceasefire – strategic breathing room, humanitarian concerns, and domestic stability – the truce rests on shaky foundations. It is, in many ways, a pause born of exhaustion rather than reconciliation. As history has repeatedly shown, these kinds of ceasefires in the Middle East are inherently unstable.”

**Read More:** <https://english.alarabiya.net/views/2025/06/27/a-pause-or-a-prelude-the-fragile-ceasefire-between-iran-and-israel>

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## REGION IN PICTURES

On 6 June 2025, the 4th meeting of the “Central Asia – India” Dialogue was held in New Delhi, with the participation of the foreign ministers of India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.



Pic Credits: Ministry of External Affairs, India

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On June 26, 2025, the 22nd Meeting of Ministers of Defense of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States was held in Qingdao under the chairmanship of the China.



Pic Credits: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Canada on 18 June 2025. During their discussion, PM Modi highlighted and stressed the need for zero tolerance towards terrorism.



Pic Credits: Mint

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U.S. President Donald Trump hosted Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House on 18 June 2025. This rare and unexpected diplomatic move has sparked speculations about Trump's Nobel ambitions.



Pic Credits: News18



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