



Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies



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Opinions and Trends

59/26

Neighbourhood Insights Series

July 2026

The Afghanistan Question

Dr. Gul-i-Ayesha Bhatti | 11 July 2026

“Sharing a long and porous border with Afghanistan, Pakistan experiences the consequences of Afghan instability directly. Cross-border militancy, refugee movements, illicit trafficking, and the activities of the TTP present immediate and tangible security concerns.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/11-Jul-2026/afghanistan-question>

Iran War Creates an Opening for Pakistan’s Maritime Industry

Muhammad Saad Ul Haque | 14 July 2026

“Karachi Port and Port Qasim have benefited from the resulting diversion of trade, while the broader realignment has created an opportunity for China and Pakistan to develop Gwadar as an alternative transshipment hub.”

Read More: <https://eastasiaforum.org/2026/07/14/iran-war-creates-an-opening-for-pakistans-maritime-industry/>

Has Pakistan Taken a Back Seat?

Kamran Yousaf | 16 July 2026

“Pakistan's relative silence has become increasingly noticeable. Unlike previous rounds of escalation, Islamabad has refrained from publicly positioning itself at the centre of mediation efforts.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2618501/has-pakistan-taken-a-back-seat>

Bodies in Pakistan. Souls in Tehran

Ishtiaq Ahmad | 18 July 2026

“When national interests and external revolutionary projects diverge, the political loyalty of every Pakistani must rest with Pakistan alone. That is not merely sound statecraft. It is the essence of national sovereignty.”

Read More: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/18-Jul-2026/bodies-pakistan-souls-tehran>

Pakistan's Afghan Repatriation is Undermining its Own Polio Fight

Sayyed Muhammad Haider Ali | 18 July 2026

“Deportations of undocumented Afghans at the border are pushing families out of the vaccination system. Health workers report fewer records, less trust, and worse polio surveillance.”

Read More: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2026/07/18/pakistans-afghan-repatriation-is-undermining-its-own-polio-fight>

\$1.5 b Deals, MoUs Inked at Pharma Conference

Irshad Ansari | 19 July 2026

“Industrial leaders from both countries had opened a new chapter in regional healthcare cooperation during the two-day event, with commercial partnerships worth more than \$850 million finalised.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2619042/15b-deals-mous-inked-at-pharma-conference>

Pakistan's Intelligence Fails to Demonstrate the Presence of Tehreek-E-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Sanctuaries in Afghanistan

Abdul Wasi Popalzay | 19 July 2026

“Pakistan possesses an objectively substantial body of multi-source intelligence documenting TTP sanctuaries inside Afghan territory, independently corroborated by the UN Security Council's own monitoring apparatus, and yet it has produced no diplomatic compliance, no verifiable Taliban action against the TTP, and no internationally recognized legal obligation on Kabul to act.”

Read More: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/19072026-pakistans-intelligence-fails-to-demonstrate-the-presence-of-tehreek-e-taliban-pakistan-ttp-sanctuaries-in-afghanistan-2021-2026-analysis/>

PPP and Gilgit-Baltistan

Sardar Faizan Haider Khan | 05 July 2026

“The bond between the Bhutto family and the people of these mountains is not merely political—it is historical, enduring, and forged through decades of reforms, representation, and democratic struggle.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Jul-2026/ppp-gilgit-baltistan>

Disarming the State's Arms Cartel

Syed Ali Shehryar | 06 July 2026

“Pakistan ranks sixth among 178 countries in private firearms ownership and is the third-largest importer globally. Roughly 43.9 million privately owned firearms circulate inside the country. Only one in ten is licensed. The state does not control guns. It controls paperwork.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Jul-2026/disarming-state-s-arms-cartel>

Growth & Government

Farooq Arby | 11 July 2026

“Pakistan still has no official estimates of provincial GDP. While we expect the federal government to explain every decimal point of national GDP growth, provincial governments are rarely held accountable for growth due to the absence of provincial GDP measurement.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/2014552/growth-government>

The Wound in Balochistan

Arifa Noor | 14 July 2026

“There is a greater tragedy. And that is the inability of those in power to approach the crisis in Balochistan with any empathy and political will to heal. It is a political problem that needs a political solution, along with counter-insurgency operations.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/2015309/the-wound-in-balochistan>

The Domestic Shield: Why Pakistan Must Rethink its Fight Against Terrorism

Saifullah Mahsud | 15 July 2026

“Success in stabilizing the region depends on a dual approach: fortifying domestic security infrastructure through better equipment and tactics and strengthening the relationship between the state and the local population.”

Read More: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/15-Jul-2026/domestic-shield-pakistan-must-rethink-fight-terrorism>

Pakistan's Ground Zero

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh | 16 July 2026

“Gilgit-Baltistan has emerged as Pakistan's climate ground zero. For decades, the country's climate emergency was narrated from its floodplains: Sindh's submerged villages, Punjab's swollen tributaries, the 2010 and 2022 disasters.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/2015802/pakistans-ground-zero>

Balochistan Government: Symbol of Pro-Violence

Gohram Aslam Baloch | 16 July 2026

“Balochistan has witnessed periods of turmoil before. One such crisis emerged during the era of General Pervez Musharraf, the consequences of which are still felt today, and second turmoil has started by this government's leadership.”

Read More: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/16-Jul-2026/balochistan-government-symbol-pro-violence>

Our Solar Transition Needs Governance, Not Just Growth

Abis Husein | 18 July 2026

“Pakistan’s solar growth has been rapid, but largely import-driven. That is not unusual in an early-stage market. The issue is not whether Pakistan can suddenly manufacture everything. It is whether it can build realistic layers of capability.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2618844/our-solar-transition-needs-governance-not-just-growth>

Destination Pakistan

Muhammad Amir Rana | 19 July 2026

“Over the decades, the sources of this self-assurance have shifted, from military might to the country’s critical geopolitical location, and now to physical resources, chief among them the critical minerals concentrated in the turbulent province of Balochistan.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/2016635/destination-pakistan>

Empowering Pakistan’s Youth

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan | 19 July 2026

“As a flagship digital initiative of PMYP, the Prime Minister’s Digital Youth Hub has become Pakistan’s first national youth platform, connecting young people with opportunities under the 4Es framework.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Jul-2026/empowering-pakistan-s-youth>

Revolution? No Thanks

Ali Hassan Bangwar | 19 July 2026

“Pakistanis have pinned their hopes on the promise of a dignified life. They have placed those hopes in successive governments and in saviours of every stripe, all of whom have won the support of a desperate and repeatedly betrayed populace.”

Read More: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2619003/revolution-no-thanks>

Kazakhstan’s Pragmatic Path in Afghanistan

Yerkin Tukumov and Eldaniz Gusseinov | 10 July 2026

“Kazakhstan’s policy toward Afghanistan is built on a simple premise: to engage with reality rather than illusion. Remaining firmly committed to international law, Astana seeks not to revive the Great Game but to make the “Great Gain” a reality in the heart of Eurasia.”

Read More: <https://astanatimes.com/2026/07/kazakhstans-pragmatic-path-in-afghanistan/>

United Kingdom's Engagements with the Afghan Taliban (2021-2026)

Abdul Wasi Popalzay | 17 July 2026

“Taliban-controlled Afghanistan is not merely a reactive improvisation in the face of policy collapse but a structurally novel diplomatic condition, one in which functional engagement and systematic legitimacy denial coexist in a relationship that is neither transitional nor self-correcting.”

Read More: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/17072026-united-kingdoms-engagements-with-the-afghan-taliban-2021-2026-analysis/>

Do Internal Rifts Threaten the Taliban's Second Regime

Sayed Abdul Karim Hashemi and Farhad Farhaad | 14 July 2026

“It is still not possible to consider Badakhshan the beginning of the end of the Taliban's second regime; however, there is no doubt that the province has now become one of the most important indicators for measuring the level of the Taliban's internal cohesion.”

Read More: <https://8am.media/eng/taliban-internal-rifts-second-regime/>

Afghanistan's Lost Peace

Asif Durrani | 18 July 2026

“The Taliban's own governance choices have significantly compounded the crisis. Their continued restrictions on girls' education and women's employment have deprived the country of half its human capital.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/2016394/afghanistans-lost-peace>

Bangladesh's Next Strategic Test isn't Choosing Sides

Zillur Rahman | 10 July 2026

“Bangladesh's foreign policy has traditionally been based on the principles of “friendship to all, malice to none.” In today's multipolar world, this philosophy requires a more nuanced interpretation. Strategic autonomy does not mean an equal distance from every player.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/bangladeshs-next-strategic-test-isnt-choosing-sides-4220256>

Bay of Bengal, New Geopolitics, and Bangladesh's Strategic Opportunities

AKM Ahsan Ullah | 17 July 2026

"The most prudent approach, therefore, is to view the corridor through four interconnected pillars: economic cooperation with China, strategic trust with India, recognition of the humanitarian and security realities in Myanmar, and the protection of Bangladesh's own national development interests."

Read More: <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/op-ed/kwg836rbi8>

When will the Budget Move Beyond the Boundary of Numbers?

Selim Jahan | 01 July 2026

"The growth target for the 2026-27 budget is set at 6.5 per cent, which is double the current growth rate. How realistic is this given the current economic slowdown in Bangladesh? Conversely, the inflation target has been set at 7.5 per cent. Are these targets achievable in the present reality?"

Read More: <https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/op-ed/98gt7dor61>

The Liberation War Burden still Weighs on Jamaat

Sabir Mustafa | 07 July 2026

"While Premadasa and Rajapaksa have the support of two established political parties, the Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) and the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) respectively, the parties of Ranawaka and Jayaweera lack a substantial following among voters and are relatively unknown."

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/longform/414502/the-liberation-war-burden-still-weighs-on-jamaat>

Starlink can Accelerate Bangladesh's Future

Mazher Mir | 07 July 2026

"The success of Starlink should not be measured by the number of subscribers. It should be measured by stronger exports, more productive farms, healthier communities, innovative start-ups, resilient infrastructure, and better opportunities for young Bangladeshis."

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/414500/starlink-can-accelerate-bangladesh-s-future>

Bangladesh Needs a New Rulebook for the Evolving Rohingya Crisis

Md Manzur Qader | 10 July 2026

“The Rohingya crisis is no longer solely humanitarian; it is a strategic, security, and diplomatic test. The ground in Rakhine has changed, and policies built on outdated assumptions will not deliver repatriation and other desirable outcomes.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/bangladesh-needs-new-rulebook-the-evolving-rohingya-crisis-4220236>

The Government or Bangladesh Bank: Who is on the Right Track?

Salahuddin Ahmaad Bablu | 14 July 2026

“High inflation prevents monetary policy from reflecting a growth-oriented outlook. The government’s political stance signals a clear mismatch between fiscal and monetary policies. With high interest rates still in place, opportunities to reduce borrowing costs remain limited.”

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/longform/415087/the-government-or-bangladesh-bank-who-is-on-the>

Why Bangladesh’s July Uprising was Obvious

Wayej Kuruni | 16 July 2026

“Bangladesh’s July uprising was obvious long before July arrived. A state cannot disappear people, narrow elections, beat students, frighten journalists, monopolize patriotism and still expect society to remain silent forever.”

Read More: <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/why-bangladeshs-july-uprising-was-obvious>

After Two Tumultuous Years, What Should the Local Government Polls Look Like?

Nawshad Ahmed | 16 July 2026

“The upcoming local government elections should be held as peacefully as possible to boost the empowerment of local leaders and rapidly transfer most of the development and service delivery functions to the local level.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/after-two-tumultuous-years-what-should-the-local-government-polls-look-4225081>

Economic Diplomacy is No Longer Optional for Bangladesh

Ashfaq Zaman | 18 July 2026

“Bangladesh has a relatively large market, strategically useful geography, a young population, and a proven track record of bouncing back from setbacks. These are real advantages, but advantages don’t convert themselves into outcomes.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/economic-diplomacy-no-longer-optional-bangladesh-4226671>

SAARC is Dying of Politics, BIMSTEC is Moving On

Sugeeswara Senadhira | 17 July 2026

“Sri Lanka should support the revival of SAARC, but should not allow SAARC’s paralysis to restrict its regional ambitions. Through SAARC, Sri Lanka should promote co-operation in health, education, culture, disaster management, food security and climate change.”

Read More: <https://dailynews.lk/2026/07/17/features/1028056/saarc-is-dying-of-politics-bimstec-is-moving-on/>

Institutional Reforms and Electoral Timing

KKS Perera | 03 July 2026

“In Sri Lanka, the issue of election postponement has repeatedly resurfaced, often accompanied by accusations, counter-accusations, and constitutional debate. Yet history reveals a persistent political paradox.”

Read More: <https://dailynews.lk/2026/07/03/features/1020104/institutional-reforms-and-electoral-timing/>

Anatomy of the Negombo Prison Riot: Government Should Fix the Prison System without Delay

Ranga Jayasuriya | 09 July 2026

“The failure in the successive governments and prison administration to address the persistent problems of Sri Lanka’s overcrowded prison system now threatens to breed a more virulent form of criminality.”

Read More: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Anatomy-of-the-Negombo-prison-riot-Government-should-fix-the-prison-system-without-delay/172-345148>

Beyond the Aragalaya: A Crisis of Thought, Not Just Politics

Lumbini Priyantha Devasirie | 16 July 2026

“The uprising revealed something profoundly important about Sri Lankan society. It demonstrated that a generation of young people had begun to sense that the existing order could no longer sustain itself morally, socially, or economically.”

Read More: <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/SDB2uTwfhsfM6Nj2VSpN>

Six Tamil-Speaking Parties Searching a Black Cat in a Dark Room

M.S.M. Ayub | 16 July 2026

“Besides, an amalgamation of the Northern and Eastern Provinces again – another demand by the Tamils of that region - by a party that was instrumental to the separation of the two provinces two decades ago, is also highly unlikely to materialise.”

Read More: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Six-Tamil-speaking-parties-searching-a-black-cat-in-a-dark-room/172-345765>

Sri Lanka Syndrome and Modern National Security

Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. Chandana Wickramasinghe | 19 July 2026

“Neutrality, is a hard security doctrine, one that enables Sri Lanka to navigate global turbulence while safeguarding sovereignty, stability, and strategic autonomy. Sri Lanka is entering a new era, shaped by global competition, rapid technological change, and unpredictable crises.”

Read More: <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/mpn8mDoQ6hXmhpOkgakp>

Beyond Handshakes: Nepal Needs Agenda-Led Diplomacy

Gyanendra Ghale | 13 July 2026

“Nepal needs to engage India with confidence, China with clarity, and both neighbours from the standpoint of national interest. What weakens Nepal is not engagement with either neighbour, but engagement without preparation.”

Read More: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/beyond-handshakes-nepal-needs-agenda-led-diplomacy>

Shah Government's 100 Days: Whither Federalism?

Khim Lal Devkota | 07 July 2026

"The government must demonstrate a strong commitment to implementing federalism. Nepal's constitutional promise will be fulfilled only when provincial and local levels are genuinely empowered as equal partners in governance."

Read More: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2026/07/07/shah-government-s-100-days-whither-federalism>

Nepal's Water Crisis Demands Regional Action

Bishwadeep Paudel | 07 July 2026

"Diplomatically, Nepal must prioritise data sharing—not as a favour, but as a shared regional responsibility. While Nepal is often affected by regional water politics, it is also an upstream country whose actions influence downstream communities."

Read More: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/nepals-water-crisis-demands-regional-action-68-38.html>

Breaking Nepal's Investor Paralysis

Sunil Pokharel | 11 July 2026

"Nepal's liquidity trap is a governance crisis that demands political courage rather than technical adjustments. The necessary assets already exist; the final challenge lies in the political will to move idle capital from vaults into the productive economy."

Read More: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2026/07/11/breaking-nepal-s-investor-paralysis>

Nepal's Gen Z Revolution Faces its First Reckoning

Brabim Karki | 17 July 2026

"Nepal's Gen Z did not march last year to install a government it would never question. It marched to install one it could question and be heard. That it is back on the streets so soon is not evidence the experiment has failed. It is evidence the experiment is still being run."

Read More: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/nepals-gen-z-revolution-faces-its-first-reckoning-14032092.html>

Turning Nepal's Sukumbasi Crisis into an Urban Opportunity

Ambika P Adhikari and Keshav Bhattarai | 17 July 2026

"Nepal must replace eviction-driven responses to the Sukumbasi issue with a permanent, rights-based urban settlement strategy that integrates affordable housing, secure tenure, livelihood support, and smart land-use planning."

Read More: <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/turning-nepals-sukumbasi-crisis-into-an-urban-opportunity-22-62.html>

More Central Asian Countries Swap Land to Settle Border Conflicts

Paul Goble | 01 July 2026

"Many of the most intractable problems facing Central Asian countries today have their roots in Moscow's policies during the Soviet Union. None has been more significant than those concerning the lack of correspondence between ethnic and state boundaries."

Read More: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/01072026-more-central-asian-countries-swap-land-to-settle-border-conflicts-analysis/>

Central Asia's Quiet Confidence: Forging a "New" Regional Identity in Turbulent Times

Tariq Saeedi | 07 July 2026

"For global supply chains and the green transition, a stable, integrated region rich in minerals and transit routes is an asset. For great powers, it signals that old spheres-of-influence models are outdated; Central Asia demands partnerships based on respect for sovereignty."

Read More: <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2026/07/07/central-asias-quiet-confidence-forging-a-new-regional-identity-in-turbulent-times/>

Kazakhstan's Demining Expertise could Provide Boost to Afghanistan

Timur Serikuly | 13 July 2026

"The expertise Kazakhstan accumulated could now evolve into a civilian-focused mission centered on protecting civilian populations and supporting Afghanistan's long-term economic recovery."

Read More: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/01072026-more-central-asian-countries-swap-land-to-settle-border-conflicts-analysis/>

Uzbekistan at Crossroads: Why WTO Should Come Before EAEU

Sobir Kurbanov | 13 July 2026

“Having largely dismantled the inward-looking economic model inherited from the early years of independence, the country is nearing the final stage of accession to the WTO while facing growing discussion about possible full membership in the Eurasian Economic Union.”

Read More: <https://astanatimes.com/2026/07/uzbekistan-at-crossroads-why-wto-should-come-before-eaeu/>

Uzbekistan Census – When the Village Reappears in the City

Zamirbek Minbaev | 13 July 2026

“Uzbekistan cannot avoid pressure. No state in the region can. The question is whether it can absorb that pressure before water stress, rural transition, migration limits, and urban expectations begin to reinforce one another.”

Read More: <https://timesca.com/uzbekistan-census-village-reappears-city/>

Understanding Russia-Iran Collaboration in Cyberspace

Nikita Shah and Justin Sherman | 14 July 2026

“There is no one-size-fits-all approach to the nature of Russia-Iran cyber cooperation, and understanding which actors are engaging—and how—is vital to accurately understanding this partnership.”

Read More: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/understanding-russia-iran-collaboration-cyberspace>

Iran’s Efforts to Impose a New Reality in the Strait of Hormuz

Hassan Al-Mustafa | 12 July 2026

“Tehran is displaying a stark contradiction in its foreign policy behavior that goes beyond what some consider a mere distribution of roles, reflecting instead conflicting policies and decision-making among competing centers of power, as well as the desire of the more hard-line faction to consolidate a fait accompli.”

Read More: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2650670>

US or Iran – Who Needs a New Truce Deal More?

Shola Lawal | 16 July 2026

“The US has focused on striking Iran with seven of its most powerful – and most expensive – munitions. At least four of those saw half of their stockpiles depleted in the first phase of the war.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/16/us-or-iran-who-needs-a-new-truce-deal>

Iran Threatens the Red Sea to Create a Second Chokepoint

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg | 15 July 2026

“Part of the escalation is due to Iran’s belief that the agreement gave it full control of the Strait of Hormuz. If Iran and the Houthis carry out their threats and close Bab Al-Mandab or attack ships in the Red Sea, they would put at risk significant amounts of international trade.”

Read More: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2651050>

The Internal Power Struggle and the Peace in the Gulf

Naqi Akbar | 19 July 2026

“Iran’s parliament reopens after its long closure, shifting opposition over the US-Iran MoU from the streets to lawmakers. Internal clashes could decide the fate of Hormuz and broader Gulf stability.”

Read More: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2026/07/19/the-internal-power-struggle-and-the-peace-in-the-gulf>

Beyond the Battlefield: Why Iran is Entering the Final Stage of Strategic Attrition

Erfan Fard | 19 July 2026

“The long-term trajectory of a politically exhausted and structurally weakened system points toward eventual collapse. Yet that collapse is unlikely to be immediate, automatic, or produced by military strikes alone.”

Read More: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-902922>

Behind the Funeral: Khamenei's Coffin Becomes Stage for Iran's Wounded Power

Naeimeh Doostdar | 04 July 2026

"Khamenei's funeral is not the end of an era. It is an attempt to control the narrative of how that era ended. The Islamic Republic knows that the way Khamenei died symbolizes weakness. It is trying to make the way he is buried symbolize power."

Read More: <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202607046084>

The End of One-Man Rule? Iran Tests Life After Khamenei

Negar Mojtahedi | 07 July 2026

"For decades, Iran's institutions competed beneath a single unquestioned authority. Today, the competition increasingly appears to be over that authority itself. Whether power ultimately settles with the Supreme National Security Council, the IRGC or another coalition of political elites remains uncertain."

Read More: <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202607062410>

In Iran, Pezeshkian will be the Scapegoat for the Failed MoU

Kayhan Valadbaygi | 13 July 2026

"For now, scapegoating Pezeshkian is doing its job. By channelling anger over the faltering MoU towards the presidency, it spares the military-bonyad complex an open confrontation between its two wings. But this is deferral, not resolution."

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2026/7/13/in-iran-pezeshkian-will-be-the-scapegoat-for-the-failed-mou>

'Safe Passage': The Fatal Ambiguity at the Heart of the Hormuz MoU

Jason Chuah | 16 July 2026

"No two-word phrase can carry that political burden. The MoU was made to stop a war, but now the ceasefire clause is being asked to serve as a permanent constitution for one of the world's most important chokepoints."

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2026/7/16/safe-passage-the-fatal-ambiguity-at-the-heart-of-the-hormuz-mou>

Ankara Summit Marks NATO's New Bargain

Sreshtha Chakraborty | 12 July 2026

“The question worth asking now isn’t whether NATO survives without an unconditional American umbrella. The harder question is whether it can absorb a genuine redistribution of responsibility without the hierarchy that has defined the alliance until now.”

Read More: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/ankara-summit-marks-natos-new-bargain-14030777.html>

How Egypt, Syria are Shaping Turkiye's Strategic Outlook

Dr. Sinem Cengiz | 17 July 2026

“Turkiye and Egypt still have differences regarding the Eastern Mediterranean, while the situation in Syria remains fragile. Both Cairo and Damascus need to carefully balance their relations with other regional actors while deepening their security ties with Ankara.”

Read More: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2651328>

Turkey and Qatar: The Face of Muslim Brotherhood's Murderous Ideology

David Ben-Basat | 18 July 2026

“No two countries illustrate this more clearly than Turkey and Qatar, close allies that have long been associated with political support for the Muslim Brotherhood and hostility toward Israel. Turkey is no longer the secular state founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.”

Read More: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-902439>

REGION IN PICTURES

External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar met King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain on 07 July 2026 to strengthen bilateral ties.



Pic Credits: All India Radio

President Asif Ali Zardari and Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Zhaparov reaffirmed their commitment to boosting bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan on 07 July 2026.



Pic Credits: Dawn

Political consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh were held in Dhaka on 08 July 2026.



Pic Credits: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

The 4th round of India-Afghanistan Joint Committee Meeting, co-chaired by Shri M. Anand Prakash, JS (PAI), MEA, and H.E. Shuaib Baryalai, DG (First Political), Afghan MoFA, was held on 09 July 2026.



Pic Credits: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



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NOTE: **Regional Opinion and Trends** aims to capture prevailing opinions in South Asia and West Asia.

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The views expressed in this brief are those of the author and not necessarily of the Centre or any other organisation.