



“Afghanistan’s fate will be largely defined by impersonal geo economic forces and realities – associated with minerals, narcotics and regional spheres of influence – but only the power of human agency can determine how the key players will move their pieces in the game that is unfolding on the Eurasian geo economic chessboard.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/afghanistans-fate-will-be-shaped-by-geoconomics/](https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/afghanistans-fate-will-be-shaped-by-geoconomics/)

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“The military objectives have been too absolute and unattainable and the political ones too abstract and elusive. The failure to link them to each other has involved America in conflicts without definable terminal points.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2021/08/25/henry-kissinger-on-why-america-failed-in-afghanistan](https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2021/08/25/henry-kissinger-on-why-america-failed-in-afghanistan)

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“Even though PM Imran Khan faces a fractured and somewhat discredited opposition, an uncertain economy and turmoil in Afghanistan will affect his ability to manage Pakistan and prepare for a fresh election.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2021/09/06/reality-bites-for-imran-khans-new-pakistan/](https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2021/09/06/reality-bites-for-imran-khans-new-pakistan/)

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“The Indian view now seems to be that Pakistan seeks dialogue whenever it is in a weak position, only to reinstate conflict once its hand becomes stronger. History supports that view.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://orfamerica.org/newresearch/how-911-changed-indiapakistan-competition](https://orfamerica.org/newresearch/how-911-changed-indiapakistan-competition)

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“A split in the Tatmadaw has been unlikely since its founding in 1962, but a steady increase in defections and desertions since the coup amid plunging morale has some questioning whether unity can be maintained within the nation’s most powerful institution.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/finding-fault-lines-within-the-tatmadaw/](https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/finding-fault-lines-within-the-tatmadaw/)

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“After Bangladesh’s graduation from the status as a Least Developed Country to a developing nation, it will lose preferential market access and so it needs to get export benefits by signing up regional trade agreements, such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).”

**Read More:** [Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/interviews/joining-trade-agreement-rational-move-299353](https://www.tbsnews.net/interviews/joining-trade-agreement-rational-move-299353)

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“After signing a multidimensional 25-year strategic treaty with China and preparing to make a similar deal with Russia in the near term, Iran’s accession to the SCO could be seen as the third decisive move in Tehran’s deep inclination toward the East.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://thediplomat.com/2021/09/why-is-iran-so-keen-on-joining-the-sco/](https://thediplomat.com/2021/09/why-is-iran-so-keen-on-joining-the-sco/)

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“A truce between bitter regional rivals Turkey and the United Arab Emirates has calmed tensions that fuelled conflicts including Libya’s war, officials and diplomats say, after years of animosity and insults.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkey-uae-rein-dispute-that-fuelled-conflict-hurt-economy-2021-09-06/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkey-uae-rein-dispute-that-fuelled-conflict-hurt-economy-2021-09-06/)

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“Maritime security experts should be alert to the risk that technologies currently deployed by the Houthis will spread to other seas. Iran may be deliberately using the Red Sea as a testing area for new naval technologies, or the Houthis may be pioneering these technologies on their own.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://warontherocks.com/2021/09/red-sea-drones-how-to-counter-houthi-maritime-tactics/](https://warontherocks.com/2021/09/red-sea-drones-how-to-counter-houthi-maritime-tactics/)

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“Afghanistan, Myanmar, and North Korea are all tests for China as a rising superpower: of whether Beijing, at a time of American withdrawal, can fill the vacuum in a skilful way.”

**Read More:** [Source: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/08/like-game-of-thrones-how-triple-crisis-on-chinas-borders-will-shape-its-global-identity?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/08/like-game-of-thrones-how-triple-crisis-on-chinas-borders-will-shape-its-global-identity?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

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## REGION IN PICTURES

Iran has been accepted as the eighth full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization SCO in its annual summit which was held on 17 Sept 2021, in Dushanbe (Tajikistan).



Pic credits: Didor Sadulloev/Reuters

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A series of bomb blasts have created the fears of a rise in violence amidst a serious humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.



Pic credits: AFP

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The United States announces nearly \$180 million in additional humanitarian assistance for those affected by Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar, Bangladesh, and elsewhere in the region.



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A meeting of foreign ministers of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, slated to be held on 25 September on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, has been cancelled.



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Centre for Air Power Studies

The Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) is an independent, non-profit think tank that undertakes and promotes policy related research, study and discussion on defence and military issues, trends, and development in air power and space for civil and military purposes, as also related issues of national security. The Centre is headed by Air Marshal Anil Chopra PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd).

Centre for Air Power Studies  
 P-284, Arjan Path, Subroto Park, New Delhi 110010  
 Tel: +91 11 25699130/32, Fax: +91 11 25682533

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

Editor: Dr Shalini Chawla e-mail: shaluchawla@yahoo.com

Formatting and Assistance: Col S K Tanwar VSM, Ms Anu Sharma, Mr Shantanu Roy Chaudhary, Mr Mohit Sharma, Mr Rohit Singh

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