

Weekly Update

1. Fazl-ur-Rehman Denies Claims of Attacks From Afghan Soil on Pakistan

Fazl al-Rahman said: Pakistan has provided its airspace for US attacks in areas bordering Afghanistan over the past twenty years. The incidents against security in Pakistan are not related to Afghanistan and Pakistan should look for the roots of security problems in its own region.

Source: Tolo News

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-189090>

2. Hezbollah-Israel Escalation: Prospects for War

The increase in Hezbollah's aggression in recent days is due to the understanding within the organization that Israel is going to launch a full-scale war in a matter of days, and therefore they are trying to hit high-potential Israeli targets, especially air defense targets, in order to blind Israel in time for Hezbollah's retaliatory strike against Israel, which is expected to be massive.

Source: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/hezbollah-israel-escalation-prospects-war>

3. 'An old issue': China, Iran to continue 'strong relations' despite Beijing's stance on disputed Gulf islands

The islands are claimed by the UAE and Iran, and Tehran has occupied them since 1971. China expressed support for the UAE's efforts to reach a "peaceful solution" to the issue of the Greater Tunb, Little Tunb and Abu Musa islands.

Source: South China Morning Post

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3265379/old-issue-china-iran-continue-strong-relations-despite-beijings-stance-disputed-gulf-islands>

4. Kazakh President Explains Decision to Take Taliban off Terrorist List

"Kazakhstan has removed the Taliban regime from the terrorist list based on the importance of developing trade and economic cooperation with modern Afghanistan and considering this regime a long-term factor," Kazakhstan President Tokayev said at a meeting with speakers of parliaments of the CSTO countries.

Source: THE DIPLOMAT

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/06/kazakh-president-explains-decision-to-take-taliban-off-terrorist-list/#:~:text=In%20a%20June%20meeting,on%20the%20importance%20of%20developing>

5. Venezuela To Participate in the BRICS Summit in Kazan

Caracas' ambassador to Moscow, Jesús Salazar Blasques, announced that Venezuela has received an invitation to participate in the BRICS summit to be held next October in Kazan, Russia. At the upcoming BRICS summit in Russia, Venezuela will be present as an observer country and a candidate for membership.

Source: Poland News Today

<https://www.polandnewstoday.com/venezuela-to-participate-in-the-brics-summit-in-kazan-2/>

6. Labour's emphatic NO to any Falklands sovereignty talks with Argentina

David Lammy, foreign affairs spokesman for the UK Labour Party, replied in the negative when asked if the Labour-led British government would be willing to sit down with Argentine President Javier Milei to discuss the sovereignty of the Malvinas.

Source: MercoPress

<https://en.mercopress.com/2024/07/02/labour-s-emphatic-no-to-any-falklands-sovereignty-talks-with-argentina>

7. Taiwanese fishing boat seized by China in waters near Kinmen

Taiwan said two Chinese coast guard ships boarded and detained a Taiwanese fishing vessel near Kinmen. The vessel was taken to the military port of Weitou in Fujian, China. Taiwan has demanded the fishing vessel to leave immediately and be returned.

Source: Kyodo News

<https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2024/07/1ed2e5635c7f-taiwanese-fishing-boat-seized-by-china-in-waters-near-kinmen.html#:~:text=The%20boat%2C%20named%20the%20Dajinman,nearby%20Chinese%20port%20of%20Weitou.>

8. 'Letters of last resort': deciding response to a nuclear attack among first of Starmer's tasks

Newly-elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has revealed he will continue the outgoing Conservative Party government's foreign policy, including Britain's underlying doctrine of launching an offensive "first use" nuclear strike on its enemies.

Source: The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/05/letters-of-last-resort-deciding-response-to-a-nuclear-attack-among-first-of-starmers-tasks>

9. Masoud Pezeshkian: From heart surgeon to Iran's new reformist president-elect

Iran's new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, was born on September 29, 1954, in Mehbod in northwestern Iran. He has Azerbaijani roots. After completing military service, he entered medical school and graduated with a degree in general medicine. During the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) he served as a military doctor, then continued his studies at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, specializing in general surgery.

Source: The Times of Israel

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/masoud-pezeshekian-from-heart-surgeon-to-irans-new-reformist-president-elect/>

10. Indian prime minister arrives in Russia on his first visit since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold talks on July 9 during Modi's two-day visit to Russia. Putin last hosted Modi in Russia in 2019, while the two leaders met in September 2022 at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan. They have met 16 times since Modi took office.

Source: abc News

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/indian-prime-minister-modi-makes-visit-ally-russia-111735613>