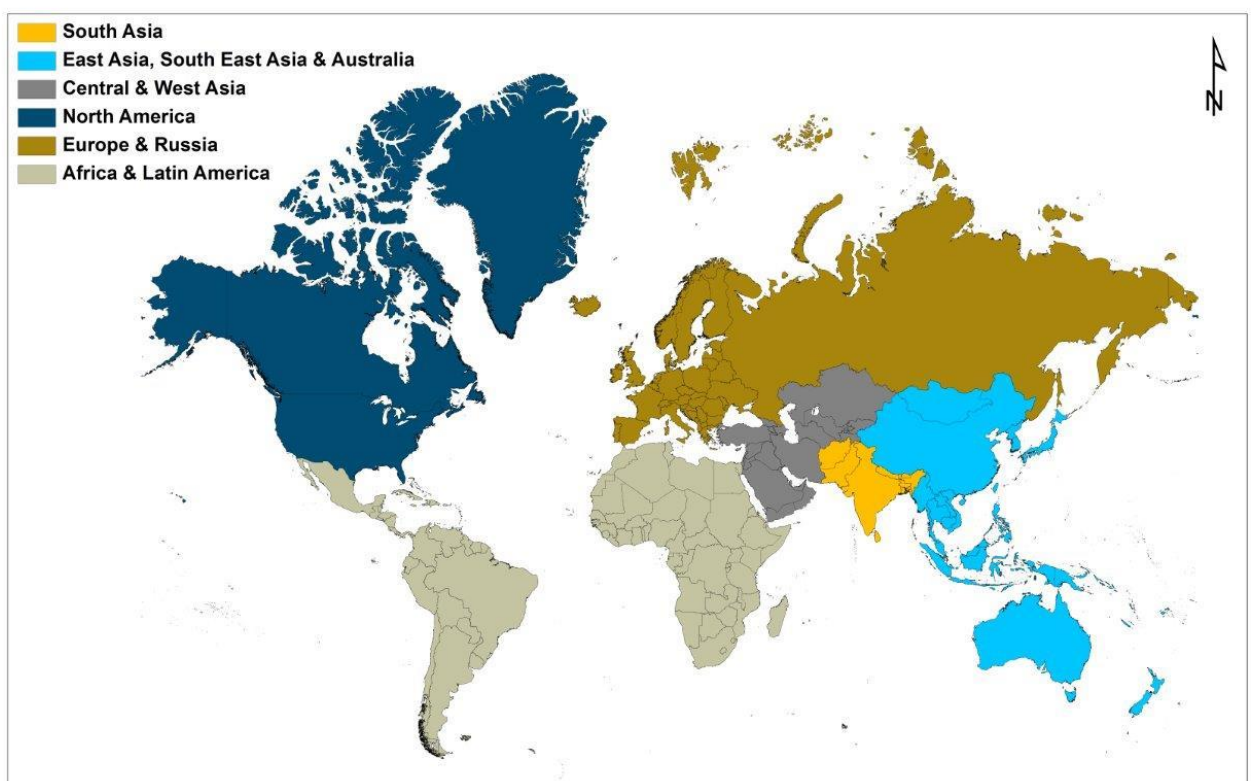




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 11

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

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South Asia

India

[Elections 2019: India gets a new government on 23 May](#)

Mar 10, 2019, Live Mint

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Sunday said Lok Sabha Elections 2019 would be held in seven phases to simultaneously elect governments at the centre and in four states on 23 May. The states are Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

[New Pakistan with 'naya soch' should show new action: India](#)

Mar 9, 2019, Business Standard

India on Saturday said if Pakistan claims to be a "naya Pakistan with naya soch", it should show "naya action" against terrorist groups and their infrastructure on its soil and end cross-border terrorism in support of its claims.

[China Draws Ire Of Other UNSC Members For Saving Azhar](#)

Mar 15, 2019, The Times of India

Virtually calling China a terrorism supporter, the US indicated that members of the UN Security Council may need to consider "other actions" if Beijing continued to prevent the sanctions committee from designating Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar a global terrorist.

[Failure to designate Masood Azhar as global terrorist against regional stability, peace: US](#)

Mar 13, 2019, The Economic Times

Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar meets the criteria to be designated as a global terrorist and not doing so is against regional stability and peace, the US said Tuesday on the eve of the UN Security Council making a crucial decision in this regard.

[India discusses Venezuelan oil purchases with U.S.](#)

Mar 12, 2019, The Hindu

Recently, U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton had warned India and other countries against purchasing oil from Venezuela.

[India says trade tension with US will not cloud decision on Boeing aircraft](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Live Mint

The move is in sharp contrast to the Chinese government's abrupt move on Monday to ground about 96 of the Boeing Co.'s 737 Max aircraft.

[Dogfight over Pakistan's 'Use And Loss Of F-16' Lands US in awkward spot](#)

Mar 10, 2019, Indian Defence News

India is asking the Trump administration to examine the possible misuse of US-made F-16s by Pakistan during its attempted air incursion across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, saying Islamabad may have violated Washington's terms and conditions of the sale.

[Strike Force: The challenges in IAF's upgrade roadmap](#)

Mar 10, 2019, The Indian Express

If the Indian Air Force's strike at Balakot drew a new red line for Pakistan, Islamabad's retaliation underscored that air deterrence is key in any escalation ladder. The Indian Express examines the IAF's upgrade roadmap to explain the new challenge.

Pakistan

[PM inaugurates new visa regime to promote tourism, investments](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Geo News

Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a new visa policy for 175 countries to promote tourism and investments in the country.

[Kartarpur corridor talks between Pakistan, India positive: FO](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Geo News

Pakistan and India held "positive talks in a conducive environment" on the draft agreement of Kartarpur corridor connecting Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Narowal district with Dera Baba Nanak in India's Gurdaspur, the Foreign Office spokesperson said.

[Pakistan successfully test-fires 'extended range smart weapon', adds to JF-17 capability](#)

Mar 12, 2019, DAWN

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Tuesday successfully test-fired an indigenously developed "extended range smart weapon" from a JF-17 Thunder aircraft, adding to the multi-role fighter jet's capabilities.

[PTI govt cannot be trusted with cracking down against banned organisations: Bilawal](#)

Mar 14, 2019, DAWN

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday said he does not trust PTI with cracking down on banned organisations while reiterating his demand that the government remove from the federal cabinet a trio of ministers who he accuses of having "long-held ties" with proscribed organisations.

[India 'disappointed' as China again blocks bid to ban Jaish chief Masood Azhar](#)

Mar 14, 2019, DAWN

India said it was “disappointed” by China again delaying a bid to declared Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) leader Masood Azhar a UN-designated global terrorist.

[CPEC – The Security Corridor](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Geo News

Just after getting an economic boost and Arab impetus in CPEC, Pakistan has found itself caught in uncalled for border tension with India. Though a number of countries are involved in quiet diplomacy to defuse the crisis, the tense situation has the potential to reignite, even explode.

[South Asia's changing calculus is frightening](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Geo News

Pakistan and India have a long history of enmity stemming from the disputed territory of Kashmir, a legacy of the British colonial rule. Since 1947 both countries have fought three major wars, and even today, in 2019, the dispute over Kashmir remains the root cause of uncertainty in South Asia.

Afghanistan

[Balkh Situation Under Control, Say Security Heads](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Tolo News

Hours after the new police chief for Balkh assumed his office, acting ministers of Defense and Interior Affairs said the situation in the province is “completely under control” and that reshuffling is a normal procedure in government institutions.

[Pakistan Wants 'Responsible' Troop Withdrawal In Afghanistan](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Tolo News

Amid reports about "agreement in draft" between the US and Taliban on the foreign forces pullout from Afghanistan, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that as an important stakeholder in the Afghan peace process, Pakistan wants a “responsible” withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

[US, Taliban Had 'Meaningful Progress' In Doha](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Tolo News

The US Department of State said the Taliban in talks with the US negotiators have agreed that peace will require both sides to fully address four core issues, including counterterrorism assurances, troop withdrawal, intra-Afghan dialogue, and a comprehensive ceasefire.

[Growth of Water Dams and its Impacts on Domestic Security](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

On Saturday, President Ghani once again emphasized on the management and control of the country's frontier waters on a visit to the Farah province.

[Herat - Delhi Air Corridor Launched](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

The first cargo of Afghan goods was sent to New Delhi from Herat Airport on Monday, making it the third air corridor between Afghanistan and India after Kabul and Kandahar.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh questions motive, spending of foreign NGOs on staff working for Rohingyas](#)

Mar 13, 2019, BD News 24. Com

These NGOs spend three-fourths of their funds allocated for the refugees to pay for expenses of their officials visiting Bangladesh, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq says.

[PM: Bangladesh-India ties a role model for the world](#)

Mar 11, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday said the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and India is a role model for the rest of the world.

[Prosperous Bangladesh, India's vital interest: Kovind](#)

Mar 12, 2019, The Daily Star

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind today said that a strong, prosperous and progressive Bangladesh is in India's fundamental national interest.

[Bangladesh-India joint military drill held in Tangail](#)

Mar 15, 2019, The Daily Star

The joint drill witnessed participation of the Company of 36 East Bengal Battalion of Bangladesh Army and a company group of 9th Battalion the Rajputana Rifles from the Indian Army, our New Delhi correspondent reports quoting a press release issued by India's Defence Ministry.

[Hasina, Modi inaugurate four projects, hope Bangladesh-India ties will continue to grow](#)

Mar 11, 2019, BD News 24. Com

Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka and her counterpart Narendra Modi in New Delhi expressed their confidence while inaugurating four major projects via videoconference on Monday.

[China may invest \\$50b in 15yrs](#)

Mar 14, 2019, The Daily Star

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said China is expected to invest more than \$50 billion in the next 10 to 15 years in Bangladesh.

Nepal

[In ruling party, leaders are questioning Oli's 'unilateral' decisions](#)

Mar 15, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

When the government signed a deal with Free Madhes campaigner CK Raut at the City Hall on Friday, most of the leaders of the ruling communist party were in the dark about the development.

[Nepali gov't endorses protocol of Nepal-China Transit Transport Agreement: official](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Xinhua

The Nepali government endorsed the protocol of Nepal-China Transit Transport Agreement (TTA) and authorized its commerce secretary to sign the protocol, a cabinet minister of Nepali government has said.

[Nepal appreciates India for its support in post-earthquake reconstruction projects](#)

Mar 12, 2019, All India Radio

Nepal has appreciated Government of India for its support in the post-earthquake reconstruction projects in the country.

[India extends USD 250 mn to Nepal for reconstruction of infrastructures post earthquake](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Business Standard

India has extended a grant assistance of up to USD 250 million to Nepal for the reconstruction of infrastructures in the areas of housing, education, health and cultural heritage that was destroyed during the devastating April 2015 earthquake which saw the death of over 9,000 people.

[India awards 200 Golden Jubilee Scholarships to Nepali students](#)

Mar 13, 2019, All India Radio

The Indian Embassy in Nepal on Wednesday awarded 200 Golden Jubilee Scholarships to meritorious Nepali students for continuing various undergraduate courses at colleges and universities.

Sri Lanka

[China to enhance cooperation with Sri Lanka in the field of agriculture](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Colombo Page

Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China Dr. Qu Dongyu met with the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Beijing Dr. Karunasena Kodituwakku last week with a view to enhancing cooperation with Sri Lanka in the field of Agriculture.

[Sri Lanka welcomes more Chinese investment - John Amaratunga](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Ada Derana

Sri Lanka looks forward to benefiting more from the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and is ready to welcome more Chinese investment into the country, Minister of Tourism Development, Wildlife and Christian Religious Affairs John Amaratunga has said.

[Sri Lanka's new 'green tax' not a hit with drivers or environmentalists](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Mongabay

Sri Lanka has introduced a revised carbon tax through the government's 2019 budget to generate about \$14 million a year in revenue for its debt-strapped economy.

[China leads loan commitments to Sri Lanka in 2018](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Economy Next

China has committed the most bilateral financing to Sri Lanka in 2018, with a billion US dollar syndicated loan for discretionary deficit financing, but other lenders are leading in project loans, official data shows.

[U.S. advised to prioritize diplomatic and military engagements with Sri Lanka for a Free and Open Indo - Pacific](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Colombo Page

The United States must prioritize diplomatic and military engagements with Sri Lanka and provide the island nation with alternatives to the BRI to keep China away for a Free and Open Indo - Pacific, an American conservative think tank says.

Maldives

[The US reinforces political and military relations with the Maldives](#)

Mar 15, 2019, WSWS.org

Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid's recent US trip underscores the strategic importance of this small Indian Ocean archipelago to Washington's foreign policy. Shahid, accompanied by senior government officials, was invited by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

[Maldives seeks duty-free fish exports to European Union](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Maldives independent

The Maldives government on Monday asked the European Union to consider granting duty free access to fisheries products, the country's chief export.

[United States pledges US\\$20m aid to Maldives](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Maldives independent

The United States will provide US\$20 million worth of grant aid to support sustainable development projects in the Maldives, US ambassador Alaina Teplitz told the local press.

[New visa agreement between Maldives & India comes into force](#)

Mar 11, 2019, All India Radio

The new visa agreement between Maldives and India has come into force from today. The agreement will provide a liberal visa policy for Maldivians seeking medical treatment as well as education and business opportunities in India.

East & South East Asia

China

[China needs solid proof in Azhar case](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Global Times

China suspended India's latest bid to list Masood Azhar, the leader of Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), as a global terrorist, to give it more time to examine the request. Why did China take this position? Will it affect future China-Pakistan-India relations? Three experts shared their views with the Global Times.

[More evaluation time needed to list Masood Azhar as a terrorist: FM](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Global Times

More time is needed to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of a proposal to the UN Security Council's listing Masood Azhar, the leader of Pakistan-based Islamist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), as a global terrorist, said the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Thursday, with China placing a technical hold on the request.

[China, US trade talks move to key text issues as the two sides continue talks amid rising speculation a deal is close](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Global Times

Chinese and US officials signaled on Tuesday that they have moved to address key issues regarding the text of a potential trade agreement to end the yearlong tariff war, as the two sides continue talks amid rising speculation a deal is close.

[China tops in foreign tourists arrivals to Nepal in 2 consecutive months](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Global Times

China topped the chart in terms of sending foreign tourists to Nepal in the second consecutive month as the Himalayan country welcomed 18,313 Chinese tourists in February, Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) said on Monday.

[China lodges solemn representations against US over envoy's 'wrong' comments on Xinjiang](#)

Mar 11, 2019, Global Times

China has lodged solemn representations against the US over its envoy's wrong comments on China's policy on Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Monday, expressing strong discontent and opposition.

[Italian PM may attend 2nd Belt and Road forum in Beijing](#)

Mar 11, 2019, Global Times

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said Friday he is willing to attend the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in late April in Beijing.

[China, India should be each other's partner, opportunity: FM](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Global Times

China and India should be each other's partner in pursuing their respective dreams and each other's important opportunity for growing respective economies, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

[China's Huawei "not a security threat to the Philippines": senior official](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Global Times

A senior Philippine official has said that China's telecommunications giant Huawei is "not a security threat to the Philippines" and that his country will not ban the use of its equipment, local media reported on Thursday.

[Sino-Russian border city to build international inland port by 2022](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Global Times

Hunchun, a border city in northeast China's Jilin Province, plans to build an international inland port by 2022, local authorities have said.

[China slams US for forcing Germany to take sides on 5G](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Global Times

The US should not feel upset about more and more countries showing fair attitude toward Chinese companies' engagement in 5G construction, instead, it should admit that each country should safeguard their legitimate interests and most countries can make policy choice independently, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said Tuesday at a press conference.

[China-ASEAN trade hits record high in 2018](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Global Times

Total volume of trade between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries hit a record high of 587.87 billion U.S. dollars in 2018, up 14.1 percent year on year, an official with the Ministry of Commerce said Wednesday.

["Two sessions" discussions a process for making people's voices heard](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Global Times

As a national legislator at the "two sessions," Ge Shuqin, Party head of a village in central China's Henan Province, has found she has advantages when speaking in group discussions.

Japan

[Japan and South Korea talks end without progress on wartime labor dispute](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Global Times

Senior Japanese and South Korean officials failed to bridge differences in talks Thursday over the thorny issue of compensation by Japanese firms for wartime labor.

[Abe rules out fourth term as head of Japan's LDP amid talk of tweaking rules to allow another run](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Global Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe suggested Thursday he has no intention of serving another four-year term as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party when his third term expires in September 2021.

[Russia begins military drill on disputed islands off Hokkaido](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Global Times

The Russian military on Tuesday launched an exercise on Etorofu and Kunashiri, two of the four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido claimed by Japan, according to the Interfax news agency.

[Finance Minister Taro Aso ponders tariffs in spat with South Korea over wartime labor](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Global Times

Finance Minister Taro Aso said tariffs were among the measures Japan could take against South Korea if a dispute over wartime labor worsens between the major trading partners.

[Japan backs off criticism of North Korea at United Nations](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Global Times

For the first time in 11 years, Japan will not sponsor a U.N. resolution criticizing Pyongyang's human rights record, a change that reflects Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's desire for a summit with North Korea.

[Kremlin says talks with Japan over territorial dispute could take years](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Global Times

The Kremlin said on March 12 that talks with Japan aimed at clinching a World War Two peace treaty between the two countries and ending a territorial dispute over a chain of islands in the Pacific could go on for years and were complex.

[Japan eyes move to up U.N. presence](#)

Global Times, Global Times

Young national civil service employees will likely be permitted to apply for the junior professional officer (JPO) system starting in fiscal 2019 so they can be sent for work at international organizations, according to government sources.

[Govt plans to use MSDF vessels as hospital ships in disasters](#)

Mar 11, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government plans to use Maritime Self-Defense Force vessels as multipurpose ships to serve as hospitals in the event of a major disaster such as a Nankai Trough earthquake.

[Saudis agree to cooperate on G20 summit](#)

Mar 9, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman agreed Thursday to work closely together for the success of the Group of 20 summits this year and in 2020.

Korea

[Moon embarks on trip to three ASEAN countries](#)

Mar 10, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday headed for Brunei, the first stop on his three-nation tour that will later take him to Malaysia and Cambodia.

[S. Korea, Japan still differ over wartime forced labor reparations](#)

Mar 14, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea and Japan had another round of working-level consultations Thursday only to confirm their contradicting views on the issue of compensation for Tokyo's wartime wrongdoing.

[Leaders of S. Korea, Brunei agree to expand economic cooperation](#)

Mar 10, 2019, The Korea Herald

The leaders of South Korea and Brunei agreed Monday to expand the countries' energy industry cooperation and expand the partnership to new technology sectors.

[S. Korea, US seal defense cost deal, saying it's 'foundation' of alliance](#)

Mar 8, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea and the United States signed a formal agreement Friday, which calls for an 8.2 percent hike in Seoul's share of the cost of stationing American troops here.

[S. Korean president vows increased cooperation with Cambodia](#)

Mar 14, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday vowed efforts to further improve his country's relationship with Cambodia and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations member countries, insisting that increased cooperation will also lead to more opportunities for South Korean businesses and people.

Southeast Asia

[Civilians trapped as Myanmar rebels squabble over expected China boom](#)

Mar 13, 2019, The Straits Times

With artillery exploding around her village in Myanmar's northeast, 70-year-old Nan Nyunt fled to a monastery, one of thousands of civilians trapped between rebel groups who are fighting for influence as a China-driven economic boom looms.

[Polls show Jokowi holds lead ahead of April election](#)

Mar 13, 2019, The Straits Times

With just over a month to go to the Indonesian elections, President Joko Widodo holds a double-digit lead over his challenger, retired general Prabowo Subianto, according to an opinion poll released this week.

[Malaysia and Singapore freeze port limit claims in bid to resolve maritime tensions, but water woes remain](#)

Mar 14, 2019, South China Morning Post

The neighbours' foreign ministers have agreed to measures including preventing government vessels from anchoring in a disputed area. Bilateral relations are at a

low point following disagreements over airspace boundaries and the price Singapore pays for fresh water from Malaysia.

[US Navy flagship visits Manila after sailing in contested South China Sea](#)

Mar 14, 2019, South China Morning Post

Captain Eric Anduze, the commander of the USS Blue Ridge, said the visit to Manila reaffirmed strong US-Philippine military ties. 'We sail, fly and operate wherever the law allows us to,' he told reporters.

Central & West Asia

[Two killed in clashes on Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan border](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Clashes in a long-standing hotspot on the border of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have reportedly left at least two people dead following days of fighting among local residents.

[New wave of Kazakh nationalism changing Astana's domestic and foreign policies](#)

Mar 15, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The recent developments show that Kazakhstan is looking away from Russia and toward its own national future, which would make Astana to change its foreign relations and look more to the other Central Asian countries and China.

[EU Lawmakers Call On Kazakhstan To 'Stop Political Repression'](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Rferl.org

European lawmakers have adopted a resolution urging Kazakhstan to "respect human rights and fundamental freedoms."

[Draft agreement on scientific research in Caspian Sea discussed in Turkmenistan](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Trend News Agency

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan is hosting the 1st meeting of authorized representatives of the Caspian states to agree on a draft intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of scientific research in the Caspian Sea, Trend reports referring to the ministry.

[No IS Kids Left Behind: Tajikistan To Repatriate Dozens Of Islamic State Children From Iraq](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Rferl.org

As Islamic State's attempt to establish a caliphate crumbles, many countries are turning their backs on children born into the extremist group. Tajikistan is not one of those countries.

[Turkmenistan's Route To The European Union](#)

Mar 11, 2019, Rferl.org

Turkmenistan has gotten involved in a trade project whose proponents are promising quick revenue and bigger returns further in the future.

[Israel Strikes 100 Targets in Gaza Overnight in Response to Rockets Fired at Tel Aviv](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Haaretz

The Israeli army attacked some 100 targets in Gaza Thursday overnight in response to two rockets being fired at Tel Aviv from the Strip the evening before, a first since the 2014 war.

[Saudi Arabia accepts 453 human rights recommendations in 10 years](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Saudi Gazette

Saudi Arabia has accepted as many as 453 human rights recommendations, either full or in part, during the past 10 years.

[Russian and Syrian airstrikes intensify on rebel-held Idlib](#)

Mar 14, 2019, The Guardian

Russia has sent in aircraft to attack the Syrian rebel-held province of Idlib in its first major assault for months, as foreign ministers gathered in Brussels to pledge as much \$5bn (£3.8bn) to support countries like Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, where many Syrians have sought refuge.

[US alters Golan Heights designation from 'Israeli-occupied' to 'Israeli-controlled'](#)

Mar 13, 2019, The Guardian

The US has dropped its description of the Golan Heights from “Israeli-occupied” to “Israeli-controlled” in a state department report, the latest sign of approval towards Israel’s disputed claim to land it captured from Syria.

[Exxon Eyes Israel Gas Bid Amid Major Shift to Middle East](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Haaretz

World's largest publicly traded oil company considering exploring for oil and gas in Israel, which is still technically at war with Gulf states.

[Idlib bombing raises doubts over future of Astana agreement](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Arab News

An escalation of heavy air and artillery strikes on Idlib in northwestern Syria has raised doubts over the future of the Astana deal between Turkey, Russia and Iran.

[Trump agrees with Turkey's S-400 purchase, says Erdoğan](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Ahval

During an interview with pro-government outlet HaberTürk on Thursday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made the revelation that his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump had endorsed Ankara's planned purchase of Russian S-400 missile defence systems.

[Israel suspects Iran of hacking election frontrunner Gantz's phone](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Israel's Shin Bet security service suspects Iran of hacking the mobile phone of Benny Gantz, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's toughest rival in the April 9 election, an Israeli television station reported.

[Will Trump's Middle East Peace Plan Really Be 'Dead On Arrival'? - Opinion](#)

Mar 11, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Soon after the April 9 elections, the White House is expected to unveil US President Donald Trump's long-anticipated plan to advance peace in the Middle East. Critics aren't waiting to read the actual text. They've already declared the effort doomed from the start. Yet such cynicism could very well prove wildly off the mark.

United States

[Senate Republicans revolt against Trump over border](#)

Mar 15, 2019, BBC News

Rebel members of President Donald Trump's party have helped pass a vote to reject his declaration of an emergency on the US-Mexico border.

[Trump threatens veto after senate rejects national emergency in sharp rebuke](#)

Mar 14, 2019, The Guardian

Twelve Republicans joined every Senate Democrat in rare move to block president's effort to divert funds for US-Mexico border wall.

[Trump: Brexit debate is 'tearing country apart'](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Al Jazeera

US president says he offered advice to Theresa May on the Brexit deal but the UK prime minister did not listen to him.

[Boeing grounds entire 737 Max crash aircraft fleet](#)

Mar 14, 2019, BBC News

Boeing has grounded its entire global fleet of 737 Max aircraft after investigators uncovered new evidence at the scene of the fatal Ethiopian Airlines crash.

[Trump: We'll know in next 3 or 4 weeks about possible China trade deal](#)

Mar 15, 2019, CNBC

President Donald Trump said Thursday the U.S. will probably know in the next three or four weeks about a possible trade deal with China.

[Senate votes to end US support of Saudi-led Yemen war](#)

Mar 14, 2019, BBC News

The US Republican-led Senate has approved a bill to end US support for the Saudi-led coalition war in Yemen.

[U.S. sees Turkey's Russian missile deal as national security problem for NATO](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Reuters

Turkey's pending purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defense system presents a national security problem for NATO, which would not be able to deploy F-35 aircraft alongside the Russian systems, senior U.S. officials said.

[Congress members, activists slam Saudi human rights record](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia's human rights record has come under intense scrutiny since the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

[Arms are for hugs': US students march to end gun violence](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Al Jazeera

Hundreds of students have staged a school walkout and marched from the White House to Capitol Hill to demand stricter gun control laws.

Europe & Russia

[British lawmakers approve Brexit delay but reject second referendum](#)

Mar 14, 2019, CNN

UK lawmakers have voted in favor of delaying the Brexit process, acknowledging that more time is needed to break the deadlock over Britain's departure from the EU. But they decisively rejected a call for a second referendum.

[Brexit: PM to bring third Brexit deal vote to Commons](#)

Mar 14, 2019, BBC News

Theresa May will make a third attempt to get her EU withdrawal deal through Parliament in the next week.

[Italian-style political instability comes to Spain](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

We are witnessing a structural reorganisation of Spanish politics that is turning the country into a 'poll-ocracy'.

[Silk Road opens a rift in Italy's government](#)

Mar 13, 2019, Politico

Italy's government has split over whether to sign onto China's landmark "One Belt, One Road" infrastructure program that runs across Asia to key European trade hubs.

[Ethiopian Airlines Flight Recorders Sent to France for Examination](#)

Mar 14, 2019, VOA

The flight recorders from an Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed Sunday have arrived in France to be studied.

[Russia preparing to be cut off from Internet, but doesn't want to disconnect – Kremlin](#)

Mar 12, 2019, RT

Russian authorities support online freedom, just like those who rallied in Moscow on weekend, and only want to protect the Russian web from foreign intrusion, Dmitry Peskov, the presidential press secretary, said.

[Russia shows off upgraded world's most powerful rocket engine meant for Soyuz-5](#)

Mar 13, 2019, RT

A Russian rocket engine producer has offered a sneak peek of its latest creation, the RD-171MV, which is slated to be part of Russia's next workhorse launch vehicle and, later, a super heavy-lift rocket.

[Opium poppy growth to become legal in Russia to counter possible Western sanctions](#)

Mar 14, 2019, RT

The Russian parliament has furthered a bill, which seeks to legalize growth of plants that can be used to produce opioids. The measure is meant to ensure that Russia has a steady supply of raw materials for producing painkillers.

[Kremlin points to US missile-testing plans as proof Washington sought INF breakdown](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Tass

The United States used systems that "de facto were in violation of the basic provisions of the INF Treaty", Peskov stressed

[US openly harms Russia's cooperation with foreign partners – Russian Foreign Ministry](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Tass

Washington openly harms Moscow's economic, energy, and military-technical cooperation with foreign partners, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a commentary

Africa & Latin America

[Brazil Seeks Nuclear Pact With U.S. During Bolsonaro's Visit](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Bloomberg

Brazil's energy minister said the country plans to sign an accord next week with President Donald J. Trump that could pave the way for U.S. companies to explore the Latin American country for uranium and invest in new nuclear-power plants.

[US to upgrade military ties with Brazil](#)

Mar 15, 2019, Channel News Asia

The United States will strengthen military ties with Brazil to a level usually reserved for NATO allies during President Jair Bolsonaro's visit to Washington next week, boosting growing cooperation between the Americas' two largest militaries, two Brazilian government officials said.

[Venezuela: Maduro and Guaidó's supporters return to the streets](#)

Mar 9, 2019, The Guardian

Supporters of Venezuela's leader, Nicolás Maduro, and his US-backed challenger, Juan Guaidó, returned to the streets on Saturday amid fears the political crisis could be entering a turbulent new phase.

[Venezuela buckles under massive power, communications outage](#)

Mar 9, 2019, Associated Press

Venezuela's worst power and communications outage on Friday deepened a sense of isolation and decay, endangering hospital patients, forcing schools and businesses to close and cutting people off from their families, friends and the outside world.

[Last remaining US diplomats leave Venezuela](#)

Mar 15, 2019, CNBC

The last remaining American diplomats in Venezuela left the country on Thursday, amid deteriorating ties between Washington and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

[India to push for strict source country norms in FTA with Peru](#)

Mar 12, 2019, The Economic Times

India will push for stricter source country criteria while offering tariff concessions to Peru at the ongoing negotiations for its proposed free-trade agreement with the South American nation.

[Nicaraguan opposition walks out of talks with Ortega government](#)

Mar 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Civil Alliance is demanding the release of all political prisoners before talks can resume.

[Closed borders and fighting words: Rwanda and Uganda's deepening rift](#)

Mar 12, 2019, African Arguments

Uganda and Rwanda's relationship hit a new and worrying low last week when Kigali closed its main border with its neighbour.

[U.S., Ethiopia Maneuver Over Crashed Plane's Black Boxes](#)

Mar 12, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

U.S. air-safety investigators on Tuesday engaged in intense behind-the-scenes discussions with their Ethiopian counterparts regarding where the black-box recorders found amid the wreckage of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 will be downloaded, according to people familiar with the matter.

[Algeria to name new government](#)

Mar 14, 2019, Africa News

The Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika will not be departing immediately, but there will be several changes.

[Deadly plague breaks out on Uganda-Congo border](#)

Mar 12, 2019, CGTN

A deadly form of plague has broken out on Uganda's border with Democratic Republic of Congo and several people are thought to have died of the disease according to the World Health Organization.



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