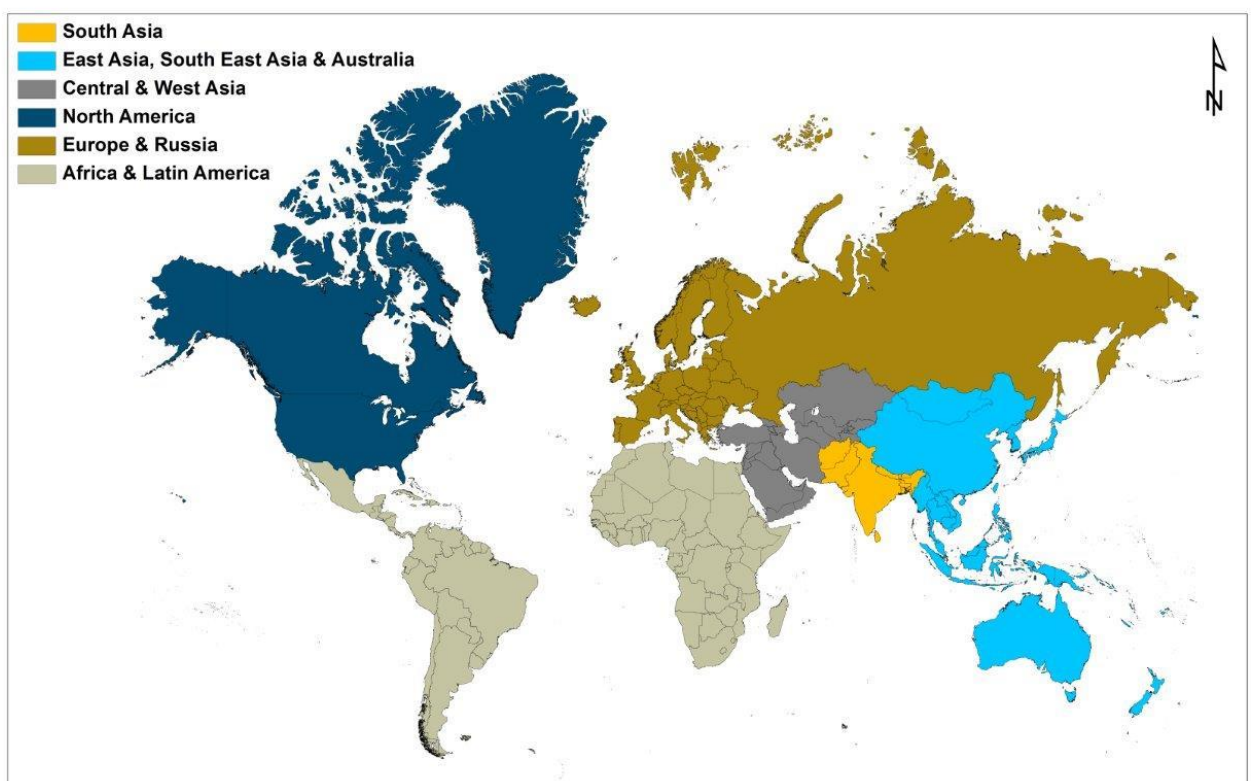




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 12

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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Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	9
Central & West Asia.....	14
United States	17
Europe & Russia.....	19
Africa & Latin America	21

South Asia

India

[US asks Pakistan to act against terrorists, says another attack on India will be 'extremely problematic'](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Indian Express

An official said America is working with its international partners to increase pressure on Pakistan "because it has been too long that these groups have been able to operate."

[India, US inch closer towards new pact to deepen defence industry cooperation](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Hindustan Times

The two sides announced their readiness to start negotiations on an Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to shore up defence cooperation during the inaugural 2+2 dialogue last September.

[US-India strategic ties broadly aligned, to thrive in future: Vijay Gokhale](#)

Mar 16, 2019, Business Standard

The strategic interests between India and the United States are "broadly aligned, structural and deep" and the ties will continue to thrive, a US official has said, as Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale concluded his successful trip to the American capital.

[India may boycott China's second Belt and Road Forum meet next month](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Business Today

India Wednesday indicated towards boycotting China's second Belt and Road Forum for a second time, voicing its concern that no country can engage in an initiative that disregards its principal concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity.

[India Concerned Over Widening Trade Deficit Of \\$58 Billion With China](#)

Mar 20, 2019, NDTV

India's Ambassador to China Vikram Misri, who assumed charge on January 8 at a time when India and China were trying to boost their bilateral ties, said India is working with the Chinese side for ensuring greater market access to the Indian agricultural products.

[Door open for India to bring serious trade proposal to table: US](#)

Mar 16, 2019, Business Today

The US in November last year revoked duty-free concessions on import of at least 50 Indian products, mostly from handloom and agriculture sectors, reflecting the Trump administration's tough stand on trade-related issues with New Delhi.

[Will support Pak's territorial integrity, no matter what: China](#)

Mar 20, 2019, The Indian Express

Speaking in Beijing at the first-ever China-Pakistan Foreign Minister-level strategic dialogue, Wang said: "No matter how things change in the world and in the region, China will firmly support Pakistan in upholding its sovereign independence and territorial integrity and dignity."

[Venezuela suspends oil exports to India - Azeri energy ministry](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Reuters

Venezuela has suspended its oil exports to India and views Russia and China as its main export destinations, the Azeri energy ministry said on Tuesday, citing Venezuela's oil minister.

[Reliance selling fuel to Venezuela from India, Europe to avoid US sanctions](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Business Standard

India's Reliance Industries, operator of the world's biggest refining complex, has turned to selling fuels to Venezuela from India and Europe to circumvent sanctions that bar U.S.-based companies from dealing with state-run PDVSA, according to trading sources and Refinitiv Eikon data.

Pakistan

[Pakistan may soon hit oil, gas jackpot: PM](#)

Mar 22, 2019, DAWN

Prime Minister Imran Khan indicated that Pakistan was on the verge of hitting a kind of jackpot in the form of discovering a huge reserve of oil and gas.

[Qatar agrees to increase LNG export to Pakistan](#)

Mar 22, The Express Tribune

Qatar has agreed to increase the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Pakistan by 200 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d).

[Samjhota Express bombing acquittals 'historic injustice': Foreign Secretary Janjua](#)

Mar 21, 2019, DAWN

Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua has termed the acquittal of four of the individuals accused in the Samjhota Express bombing case a "historic injustice", the Foreign Office (FO) said.

[Pakistan to receive loan worth \\$2.1bn from China: finance ministry](#)

Mar 21, 2019, DAWN

The Ministry of Finance has announced that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will receive a 15 billion yuan loan, equivalent to \$2.1bn, from China.

[CPEC likely to contribute 3.5% to Pakistan's GDP](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Express Tribune

China's investment of over \$60 billion in Pakistan's infrastructure and power projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is expected to increase Pakistan's economic growth by around 3.5 percentage points, said Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) CEO Shahzad Dada.

[US-Pakistan relations 'very good', says Trump](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The News International

The US-Pakistan relations have been improving since Trump administration praised Prime Minister Imran Khan's role in facilitating the Afghan peace process.

[Pakistan eyes Far East markets via Malaysia](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Express Tribune

In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Dr Muhammad Faisal said focus of Dr Mohamad's visit was on enhancing economic, trade, investment and defence. The visit, he added, would improve the brotherly and friendly relations between the two countries.

Afghanistan

[One of seven Indians kidnapped in Afghanistan returns home](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The seven Indian engineers were kidnapped by Taliban militants in the restive northern Baghlan province on May 6 last year. India has been requesting the Afghan government to secure release of the Indians.

[Second intra-Afghan dialogue set for April 14](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Afghanistan Times

After Moscow peace talks—a kind of first intra-Afghan talks, where a number of Afghan political parties and influential figures met and held comprehensive talks with Taliban negotiating team to bring an end to the prolong war, the second round of talks between them is set to be held on April 14, a source close to political parties who wished anonymous said.

[Kabul, Beijing backing interconnectedness, free trade](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan Liu Jinsong held talks with Nasir Ahmad Andisha, Afghanistan's deputy foreign minister, where he greeted Andisha Afghan New Year and congratulated him on being appointed as the head of the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN Office in Geneva.

[Afghan Refugees' Situation Improving in Turkey, Greece](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Refugee and Repatriation minister Sayed Hussain AlamiBalkhi on Monday said the situation of Afghan refugees based in Turkey and Greece was getting better.

Bangladesh

[The Rohingya are not going home to Myanmar. Can Bangladesh cope?](#)

Mar 20, 2019, The Washington Post

This is not the first time the government in Dhaka has pushed for this. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pressed Myanmar on the issue before the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017.

[India may extend anti-dumping duty on jute bags from Bangladesh](#)

Mar 20, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

The commerce ministry has recommended extension of anti-dumping duty on jute sacking bags from Bangladesh to guard domestic players from cheap imports.

[Bangladesh's Ruling Party Signs MoU with China's Communist Party](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Benar News

Representatives of Bangladesh's Awami League (AL) and the Communist Party of China (CPC) signed the first-ever memorandum of understanding (MoU) between their countries' ruling parties in an effort to boost cooperation, officials said.

[Australian ambassador for counter-terrorism explores 'effective ways' in Bangladesh](#)

Mar 21, 2019, bdnews24.com

The Australian High Commission said the visit from Mar 19 to Mar 21 “underlines the importance Australia places on its security engagement with Bangladesh, including to tackle, together, the global scourge of terrorism and violent extremism”.

[Belt and Road a win-win for Bangladesh, China](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Daily Star

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could be a boon for Bangladesh as the former is looking to use its surplus capacity and the latter needs funds to bankroll mega infrastructure projects to transform the economy, said a top banker.

Nepal

[Nepal, India agree to add waterways in transit treaty](#)

Mar 22, 2019, Setopati

Nepal and India have agreed to add waterways in the transit treaty between the two countries.

[Nepal, China to discuss rail project](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Phnom Penh Post

The Nepali government has estimated that it will take around two years and 35 billion rupees (\$317.1 million) to complete the detailed project report (DPR) of the Kathmandu-Kerung railway.

[Nepal assures continued support for Tibetans in the country](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Tibet Sun

Nepal has given assurance to US officials that it would continue to protect the rights of the Tibetans refugees living in Nepal, according to the US Secretary of State.

[Scholars from India, Nepal call for Sanskrit study centre for common benefit](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Business Standard

Various scholars from India and Nepal called for the preservation and promotion of Sanskrit language and literature for their common benefit and establishing a study centre for the language with a joint governing board.

Bhutan

[Bhutan PM to visit Dhaka mid-April](#)

Mar 20, 2019, The Independent

Bangladesh is expecting to ink a number of bilateral instruments during the visit of the Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering in mid-April. "The Bhutanese prime minister will pay a visit to Bangladesh next month at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

[Ten Years Since The Inception Of Democracy, Bhutan Has Made Steady Progress In Human Development](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Daily Bhutan

The National Human Development Report highlights positive results during ten years of democracy in Bhutan.

Sri Lanka

[UNHRC Resolution on Sri Lanka passed without vote](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Adaderana.lk

Titled "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka", the rollover resolution requests the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to assess progress on the implementation of its recommendation and other relevant processes related to reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.

[Sri Lanka welcomes adoption of consensus resolution, invites OHCHR to engage closely to verify facts](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka today welcomed the adoption of the consensus resolution by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) allowing two more years to implement the commitments and invited the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to engage with the local institutions closely to verify facts on the ground.

[India wants 13A fully implemented](#)

Mar 22, 2019, Daily News

India yesterday insisted on the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution that meets the aspirations of the Tamil people.

[China 'not narrow minded' to oppose Indian investments in Lanka: Official](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

Chinese investments over the years in Sri Lanka amounted to over \$8 billion adding pressure to Colombo's external debt burden 'not narrow minded' to oppose Indian investments in Lanka: Official.

[Sri Lanka receives \\$3.85 billion investment to build a refinery in Hambantota](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Colombo Page

Two massive development projects in Sri Lanka's investment history will commence at Mirijjawila Export Processing Zone in Hambantota, Deputy Minister of Development strategies and International Trade Nalin Bandara said.

[Oman denies it has agreed to invest in Sri Lanka oil refinery project](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Reuters

Oman's oil ministry on Wednesday denied being part of a \$3.85 billion plan to build an oil refinery in Sri Lanka, a day after the government in Colombo announced the Arab country's participation.

Maldives

[India to renew essential commodities quota for Maldives](#)

Mar 18, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India will renew the quota for essential commodities for Maldives, including river sand and stone aggregate, for a period of three years, starting April 1, 2019, Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj has said.

[Exim Bank extends \\$800 m credit line to Maldives](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Money Control

The Exim Bank has extended a USD 800 million line of credit (LoC) to the Maldives for financing developmental projects in the island nation.

[Will remain sensitive towards India's security, strategic concerns: Maldives](#)

Mar 18, 2019, The Economic Times

The Maldivian leaders also expressed commitment to support India's efforts to combat terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism, and crimes such as piracy, organised crime, narcotic drugs and human trafficking.

[Back on track: On India-Maldives ties](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Hindu

India and the Maldives appeared to return to the old days of strategic bonhomie when External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met her counterpart Abdulla Shahid in Male during a brief visit this week..

East & South East Asia

China

[China, US to hold new round of trade talks in Beijing on March 28-29](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Straits Times

A United States trade delegation headed by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will visit China on March 28-29 for the next round of negotiations, China's commerce ministry said.

[Chinese president leaves for state visits to Italy, Monaco, France](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Global Times

Xi was invited to pay the visits by Italian President Sergio Mattarella, Head of State of the Principality of Monaco Albert II and French President Emmanuel Macron.

[Italy-China partnership rests on solid foundations, says Italian president](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Xinhuanet

The partnership between Italy and China is built on solid foundations, Italian President Sergio Mattarella told Xinhua in an interview ahead of a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

[Full text of Xi's signed article on Italian newspaper](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Global Times

A signed article by Chinese President Xi Jinping titled "East Meets West -- A New Chapter of Sino-Italian Friendship" was published in leading Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera ahead of his state visit to the European country.

[Sino-French cooperation helps boost globalization](#)

Mar 22, 2019, China Daily

For more than five years, under the guidance of the golden principles of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping has been in action, becoming increasingly welcomed around the world. More than 150 countries and international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China under the BRI's general framework.

[China firmly opposes proliferation of WMDs: envoy](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Global Times

A Chinese envoy said Tuesday that China is firmly opposed to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery.

Japan

[Abe eyes U.S. trip in late April for talks with Trump on trade: sources](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to visit the United States in late April for talks with President Donald Trump, sources familiar with bilateral relations said.

[India's new ambassador to Japan sees strong potential in technology cooperation](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Japan Times

India's new ambassador to Japan believes the two countries can complement each other in terms of talent and technology, and that cooperation could lead to new innovations.

[Japan firms see long Sino-U.S. trade war, China slowdown](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Three in four Japanese companies expect U.S.-China trade frictions to last until at least late this year, a sharp contrast to market hopes that presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping might soon strike a deal to end their damaging trade war.

[Japan space venture chases world market with spring rocket launch](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

Japanese rocket startup Interstellar Technologies will launch a sounding rocket as early as the spring, which will make it the country's first private company to make it into space as Japan goes after China and the U.S. in the growing space business.

[South Korea region seeks to tag Japanese firms as 'war criminals'](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

South Korea's largest province is considering whether to stigmatize nearly 300 Japanese companies over their purported actions during World War II, by imposing an ordinance that requires schools to put alert labels on these firms' products in their schools.

[Russian envoy claims Japan's sanctions violate 1956 declaration](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Japan Times

Tokyo's sanctions against Russia violate the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration, Russian Ambassador to Japan Mikhail Galuzin claimed

Korea

[North Korea convenes ambassadors to China, Russia and UN in unusual homecoming](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Hankyoreh

At a delicate time when North Korea and the US continue to argue about who was responsible for the collapse of negotiations in the Hanoi summit, North Korea's ambassadors to China, Russia and the UN are going home at the same time.

[Foreign minister apologizes after Moon's Indonesian greetings to Malaysian PM](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Korea Times

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha has apologized in parliament over President Moon Jae-in's diplomatic gaffe during a summit with his Malaysian counterpart last week.

['Baltic, stupid!': Latvia tells Korean Foreign Ministry](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Korea Times

You may laugh at this thinking it is a prank, but it is actually the work of professionals – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[N.Korea Complains of 'Severe Hardship'](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korean state media on Thursday complained that it is suffering the "most severe hardship in its inglorious history" amid international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs.

[NK media urge Seoul to take active role in implementing inter-Korean deals](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korean propaganda outlets on Friday called on Seoul to play a more active role in implementing inter-Korean agreements amid a stalemate in its nuclear talks with the United States after the breakdown of last month's summit.

[N. Korea to hold parliament session with newly elected deputies on April 11](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea held nationwide polls earlier this month and elected 687 deputies. Held every five years, it was the second such election under the current leader Kim Jong-un following the one in March 2014.

South East Asia

[South China Sea needs peace, stability: Chinese ambassador to UK](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Global Times

The South China Sea needs peace rather than conflict, stability rather than turbulence and it serves the interests of not only countries in the region but also all the countries in the world, Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming said.

[ADB, AIIB sign agreement on co-financing arrangement for further cooperation](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Global Times

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed Thursday the Cofinancing Framework Agreement for Sovereign Operations that will guide overall cofinancing arrangements between the two institutions going forward.

[Chinese vice premier urges to strengthen South-South cooperation at UN meeting](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Global Times

Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua on Wednesday called for expanding areas of the South-South cooperation with more innovative modes when addressing the opening session of the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation.

[Indonesia sets anti-dumping duties on steel products from India, China](#)

Mar 22, 2019, CNBC

Indonesia on Friday made public a set of anti-dumping import duties of up to 20 percent for a number of flat-rolled iron and steel products from seven countries, including China and Russia.

[Fears the United States could displace Australian coal in China](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Sydney Morning Herald

Australian officials are increasingly concerned that trade negotiations between China and the United States will lead to a special deal between the two countries that displaces Australia's exports, including coal, to its biggest market.

[After mosque attacks, New Zealand bans assault weapons](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Japan Times

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced an immediate ban on semi-automatic and automatic weapons like the ones used in the attacks on two mosques in Christchurch that killed 50 worshippers.

[NZ foreign minister headed to Turkey to 'confront' Erdogan's mosque shooting comments](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Reuters

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Wednesday Foreign Minister Winston Peters will travel to Turkey to "confront" comments made by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on the killing of 50 people at mosques in Christchurch.

[Slap sanctions on Myanmar army chief](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Daily Star

Senators called for the United States to slap sanctions on Myanmar's army chief, saying more needed to be done to bring accountability over the campaign against the Rohingya.

[Vietnam protests to China over South China Sea boat sinking](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Straits Times

Vietnam has lodged an official protest with China following the sinking of a Vietnamese fishing vessel in the disputed South China Sea, Vietnam said.

[The Philippines eyes more Chinese investment, dismissing debt trap](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Global Times

A delegation of senior Philippine officials from key departments including finance, infrastructure and energy is in Beijing, in a bid to deepen cooperation with China and attract more Chinese investors.

Central & West Asia

[Central Asian region seeks to be main transit connecting East-West, North-South routes](#)

Mar 20, 2019, The Astana Times

Delegations from across the region gathered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan March 15 for the first Central Asian Economic Forum (CAEF). Government representatives discussed prospects of mutually beneficial logistics and trade.

[Can Central Asia countries pay their external debts?](#)

Mar 17, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The lower debt-to-GDP ratio, the better for a country's economy. The level of external debt is among the most important competitiveness indicators, which shows how well a country copes with debt without harm to its financial system.

[Central Asian Economic Forum held in Uzbekistan](#)

Mar 18, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The First Central Asian Economic Forum was held on March 15 in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent with the participation of the region's Government representatives. The forum's topic was "Central Asian Cooperation: Prospects for Mutually Beneficial Development". Kazakhstan's delegation was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Zhenis Kassymbek, the official website of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan reported.

[Kazakh President Nazarbaev Abruptly Resigns, But Will Retain Key Roles](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Rferl.org

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev has abruptly resigned after nearly 30 years in office, but will continue to head the ruling party and keep his lifetime post as chairman of the influential Security Council.

[New Kazakhstan Prez for renaming capital to 'Nursultan'](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Newly sworn-in President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Wednesday suggested renaming the country's capital in honour of former leader Nursultan Nazarbayev following his sudden resignation.

[Iran Hails Transition of Power in Kazakhstan](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has expressed Tehrans support for the legal transition of power in Kazakhstan.

[China has full confidence in relations with Kazakhstan](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Global Times

Responding to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's resignation, spokesperson Geng Shuang said at a daily news briefing that Nazarbayev was the founder of the country and a national leader deeply supported by the Kazakh people. China understands the decision made by President Nazarbayev.

[Trump's Golan Declaration: Blessing for Netanyahu, Message to Russia](#)

Mar 22, 2019, Haaretz

The international response is likely to be weak, and returning the Golan isn't something most Israelis support.

[Daesh fighters pinned on Syrian riverbank, warplanes fly above](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Arab News

Warplanes flew near Baghouz in eastern Syria early on Wednesday, a Reuters witness said, as the final remnants of the Daesh group held a narrow strip of land along the Euphrates in a last-ditch defense of its dwindling territory.

[OIC invites UN, EU, OSCE to Istanbul meeting on Islamophobia](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Daily Sabah

Upon Turkey's call for an emergency meeting, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will discuss Friday the terrorist attack in New Zealand and increasing violence based on Islamophobia.

[Gaza Prepares for Massive Demonstration on March 30](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Palestine Chronicle

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said that his movement is preparing for a massive demonstration on the occasion of Land Day, which marks the first anniversary of the Great March of Return and Breaking the Siege, the group's official website reported.

[Amid Temple Mount tensions, Jordan king calls Jerusalem 'a red line'](#)

Mar 20, 2019, The Times of Israel

Jordan's King Abdullah II declared Wednesday that Jerusalem was "a red line" for his kingdom amid rising tensions over a contested building at the city's Temple Mount.

[Syria silent amid muted international criticism of Trump Golan recognition](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Times of Israel

Damascus was conspicuously silent on Thursday after US President Donald Trump said that the time had come to “fully recognize” Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Six Day War.

[Turkish FM slams US decision on Golan Heights](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Turkey’s foreign minister on Thursday slammed US President Donald Trump’s tweet on the occupied Golan Heights.

United States

[US Air Force deploys B-52 bombers to Europe in message to Russia](#)

Mar 21, 2019, CNN

The US Air Force recently deployed six nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to Europe for "theater integration and flying training" exercises with regional allies and NATO partners -- a move viewed as sending a strong message to Russia, which is celebrating the five-year anniversary of its military annexation of Crimea.

[Trump Backs Israeli Sovereignty Over Golan Heights](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

President Trump endorsed Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, marking what would be a sharp U.S. policy shift over the disputed territory decades after Israel seized the land from Syria in the Six Day War.

[The US is losing the nuclear energy export race to China and Russia](#)

Mar 21, 2019, CNBC

Russian and Chinese companies are aggressively pursuing nuclear energy export deals and building more reactors overseas than U.S. firms.

[Trump says China tariffs may stay for 'a substantial period of time'](#)

Mar 21, 2019, CNN

President Donald Trump has warned that US tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese exports are unlikely to go away anytime soon — even if the two countries reach a deal to end their trade war.

[US oil prices hit \\$60 a barrel for the first time since November](#)

Mar 20, 2019, CNN

US oil prices have spiked 40% since Christmas Eve thanks to OPEC's aggressive production cuts.

[Victory over Islamic State won't be declared until Baghouz enclave is searched, cleared: U.S.-led force](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Japan Times

U.S.-backed Syrian forces were sweeping through the final enclave that had been held by Islamic State fighters, and said they would declare the group defeated once a search for hidden mines and jihadist holdouts was complete.

[U.S. barring business with Chinese shipping firms over North Korea sanctions violations](#)

Mar 22, 2019, The Japan Times

The United States imposed sanctions on two Chinese shipping companies for doing business with North Korea, vowing to keep strictly enforcing sanctions on Pyongyang even amid top-level diplomacy.

Europe & Russia

[EU offers UK Brexit extension options, initially to April 12](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Britain will have to decide if it wants to take the deal, request a longer extension, or crash out of the bloc. One option could see the UK participating in the European elections.

[Text of EU summit agreement on Brexit](#)

Mar 22, 2019, Reuters

[France questions if US support for NATO is 'perennial'](#)

Mar 18, 2019, France 24

France's defense minister questioned Monday whether the US commitment to the NATO alliance is "perennial" and said Europe needs to build defense "autonomy" as that question goes unanswered.

[Angela Merkel resists US pressure to ban Huawei as Germany launches 5G auction](#)

Mar 20, 2019, SCMP

Chancellor Angela Merkel signalled she is loath to cave in to US pressure to bar Huawei Technologies, saying she will not single out individual vendors as Germany toughens its security requirements for mobile networks.

[Italy's BRI Blunder](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Project Syndicate

Barring any sudden reversals, Italy will formally endorse China's "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Rome.

[Lithuanian PM considers China as most important trading partner in Asia](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Global Times

Lithuanian Prime Minister SauliusSkvernelis said on Wednesday that Lithuania attaches great importance to constructive relations and practical cooperation with China.

[Diplomat says NATO chief failed to show Lavrov any proof of Russia's INF 'violations'](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Tass

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg at last month's meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Munich failed to present a single shred of evidence that Russia was in breach of the Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty,

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, responding to Stoltenberg's claims that NATO was certain about Moscow's violations of the agreement

[Building bridges: Last steel beam linking Russia-China railway bridge connected](#)

Mar 21, 2019, RT

The first cross-border railway bridge between China and Russia over the Amur River has been connected from both sides. The bridge, which will be operational this year, is expected to take bilateral trade to new highs.

[Russian-Japanese trade rising, though abrupt jump is unlikely, says expert](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Tass

The expert believes that the program for acceleration of economic ties between the two countries offered by the Japanese PM can open up new cooperation areas

[Russian Defense Ministry plans to buy over 100 Il-76MD-90A planes before 2030](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Tass

The Russian Defense Ministry plans to buy more than 100 Ilyushin Il-76MD-90A military transport aircraft before 2030, as well as air tankers developed on their basis

[Karadzic trial shows bias and politicization of UN tribunal – Russian Foreign Ministry](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Tass

The court proceedings in the case of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic have shown the bias and politicization of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) in The Hague, the Russian Foreign Ministry stated.

[Crimea Marks 5 Years of Russian Annexation as Western Sanctions Bite](#)

Mar 21, 2019, VOA

Residents and officials in Crimea have been staging events this week to mark the fifth anniversary of Russia's forceful annexation of the region from Ukraine.

Africa & Latin America

[Cyclone Idai: India reaches out to Mozambique](#)

Mar 19, 2019, The Hindu

The Indian Navy had launched a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation in coordination with local officials to evacuate about 5,000 people stranded at Buzi near Port Beira in Mozambique, a Navy officer said.

[China, US and EU provide donation to stranded Zimbabweans following Cyclone Idai battering](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Xinhuanet

More organizations are coming on board to provide help to victims of Cyclone Idai which battered Zimbabwe.

[Cyclone Idai shows the deadly reality of climate change in Africa](#)

Mar 21, 2019, The Guardian

As Africa climate week unfurls in Ghana, the countries of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe count the costs of Cyclone Idai, which ripped through villages and towns, taking hundreds of lives and leaving a trail of destruction.

[Russia welcomes African leaders for upcoming \(22-24 October 2019\) historic meeting in Sochi](#)

Mar 18, 2019, African

The best of Russian statesmen are touring African capitals on an invitation drive for African leaders and Heads of States to attend upcoming Africa-Russia meeting, to be held in Moscow between 22 and 24th of October 2019.

[US affirms SA ties despite butting heads over Venezuela](#)

Mar 18, 2019, City Press

Top Trump official says the two nations can resolve differences over China, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

[Oil: Nigeria's greatest dilemma](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Africa News

And for a good reason, Abuja is still lagging behind in implementing the joint decision of OPEC members and their allies last December to reduce world oil production by 1.2 million barrels of oil per day from December 2018 to June 2019, in order to boost prices.

[Expert says Belt and Road Initiative to strengthen Sino-Africa ties](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Global Times

The upcoming Second Belt and Road Initiative Forum for International Cooperation that will take place in China will strengthen Sino-Africa ties, an expert said.

[Egypt's Suez Canal economic zone integrates with China's BRI: minister](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Global Times

Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) integrates with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that seeks to interconnect and boost global trade, said the Egyptian planning minister in a statement.

[Ethiopia PM visits UAE, meets Crown Prince for bilateral talks](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Africa News

Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopian Prime Minister, met with the Crown Prince of the United Arab Emirates, Mohamed Ibn Zayed when the former traveled to Abu Dhabi.

[Amnesty says US strikes in Somalia kill large numbers of civilians](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Al Arabiya

The US military may be guilty of war crimes for killing large numbers of civilians in a sharply stepped-up campaign of airstrikes in Somalia over the past two years, Amnesty International said.

[Sudan summons Egypt ambassador over Red Sea oil and gas exploration blocks](#)

Mar 21, 2019, Arab News

Sudan's Foreign Ministry said it has summoned Egypt's ambassador to Khartoum, Hossam Issa, over Egypt offering oil and gas exploration blocks "in Red Sea areas subject to Sudanese sovereignty."

[Russian, Iranian FM's agree to assist in settlement of Venezuelan crisis](#)

Mar 19, 2019, Global Times

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif agreed to work towards a settlement of the Venezuelan crisis.

[Talks Stall Between US, Russia on Venezuela Crisis](#)

Mar 20, 2019, VOA

U.S. Special envoy for Venezuela, Elliott Abrams says Russia and the United States have failed to come to an agreement on how to resolve the crisis in Venezuela following talks in Rome. He did not rule out a future meeting between both sides

and said the talks helped both sides gain a better understanding of each other's views.

[Trump hosts Brazil's Bolsonaro as the two populists aim to build stronger ties](#)

Mar 19, 2019, CNBC

President Trump and Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro hold their first face-to-face meeting between leaders of the two largest economies in the Americas.

[Trump administration starts 'remain in Mexico' policy in El Paso, Texas](#)

Mar 21, 2019, NBC

The Department of Homeland Security began rolling out in El Paso, Texas, Wednesday its policy of requiring asylum seekers to stay in Mexico while they await court hearings in their cases, NBC News has learned.

[Colombia's peace deal comes under strain](#)

Mar 20, 2019, Financial Times

Protests come over presidential intervention while Venezuela's meltdown fuels concerns.



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