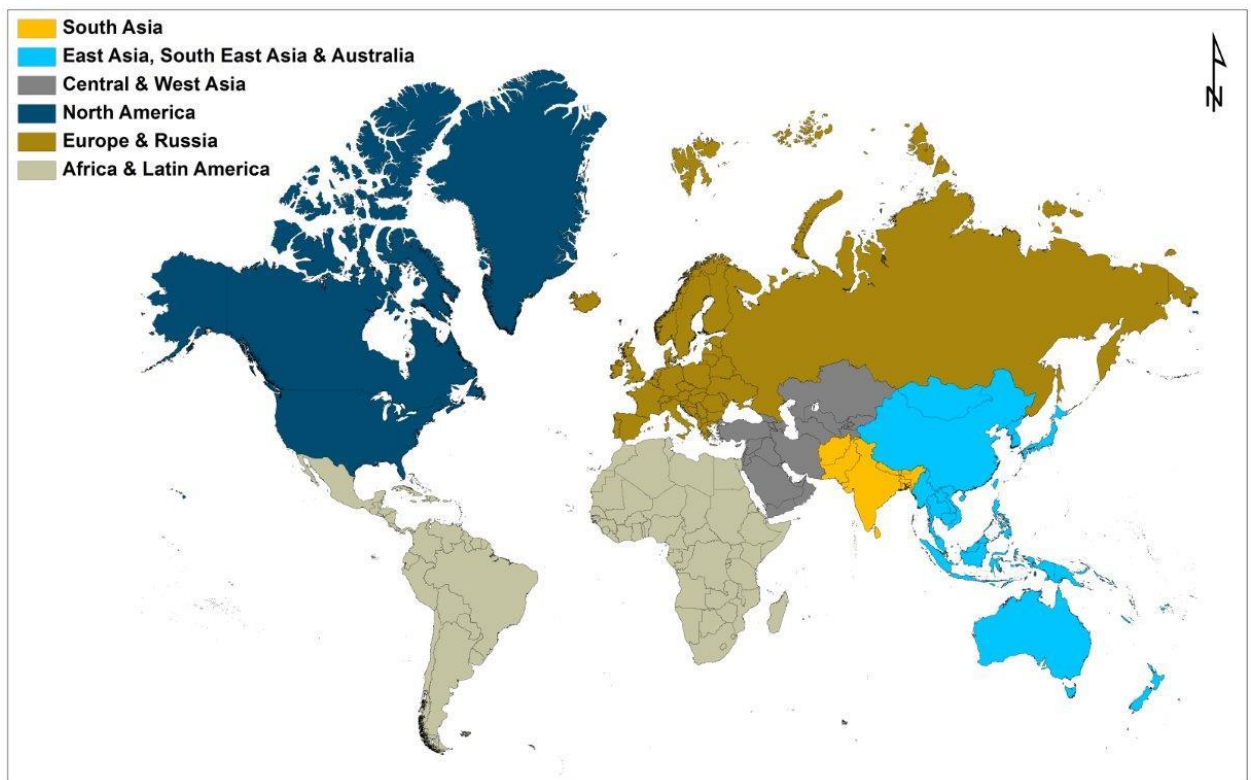




Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

## Volume 3, Issue 13

### 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.

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## South Asia

### India

#### [India successfully shoots down satellite in space: PM Modi](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Business Times

India shot down one of its satellites in space with an anti-satellite missile on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, hailing the country's first test of such technology as a major breakthrough that establishes it as a space power.

#### [India in elite club](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Business Standard

India has propelled itself into an elite club of nations which has successfully demonstrated its capabilities in anti-satellite technology, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) anti-satellite missile (ASAT) shooting down a low-orbital satellite.

#### [China has to think what signal it's sending with Masood Azhar's hold: S Jaishankar](#)

Mar 23, 2019, The Indian Express

The proposal under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council was moved by France, the UK and the US on February 27, days after a suicide bomber of the JeM killed 44 CRPF soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama, leading to a flare-up in tensions between India and Pakistan.

#### [India, US sign pact to improve tax compliance by multinational enterprises](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Business Standard

India and the United States on Wednesday signed an agreement for exchange of country-by-country (CbC) reports, a move that will enable enhanced level of risk assessment by both tax administrations.

#### [India US defense cooperation is expanding rapidly: Top State Department official](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Financial Express

Defence and co-operation between India and the US is expanding rapidly, the Trump administration, asserting that exchanges and reciprocal visits of officials was increasing at an "unprecedented" pace between the two nations.

#### [US, EU, Australia doubtful of India's easy rules pitch](#)

Mar 26, 2019, The Economic Times

The US, the EU, Australia, Canada and New Zealand have expressed apprehension at India's proposal for simpler and more transparent qualification and licensing norms for temporary entry of professionals in other countries, saying they are not convinced with India's approach.

### [India needs a measure of political consensus on regional policies](#)

Mar 26, 2019, The Indian Express

If the political classes choose to turn every problem in the neighbourhood into a domestic contestation, Delhi's adversaries will continue to gain ground in India's neighbourhood.

### [Indian naval crew has rescued more than 192 people in cyclone-hit Mozambique](#)

Mar 24, 2019, The Hindu

As part of its relief operations in cyclone-hit Mozambique, the Indian Navy has rescued more than 192 people and provided assistance to 1,381 people in medical camps set up by it, a statement said.

### [Dassault, Boeing and Saab – the front-runners for IAF's 114 fighter jet contract](#)

Mar 23, 2019, The Print

Dassault's Rafale, Boeing's F/A-18 and Saab's Gripen lead the pack, while the Lockheed Martin F-16 and the Eurofighter Typhoon are trailing.

## **Pakistan**

### [Pakistan shares preliminary findings on Pulwama dossier with Indian government](#)

Mar 27, 2019, DAWN

The government shared with the Indian government its initial findings on the dossier handed over by Delhi on the Pulwama incident, a statement issued by the Foreign Office said.

### [India shared no evidence linking Pakistan, Masood Azhar to Pulwama attack: FO](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Geo News

The Foreign Office on Thursday said the Indian Paper on the Pulwama attack did not contain any evidence regarding the involvement of Pakistan or Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar.

### [PM's comments on interim setup in Afghanistan 'misinterpreted', Foreign Office says](#)

Mar 27, 2019, DAWN

Moving to control the diplomatic fallout from a news report stating that Prime Minister Imran Khan had "suggested" the setting up of an interim setup in Afghanistan, the Foreign Office (FO) today stated that the comment in question had been reported out of context, "leading to unwarranted reaction from various quarters."

### [Shireen Mazari brands US envoy 'little pygmy' in Twitter row](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Geo News

Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari has branded the US ambassador to Kabul a "little pygmy" in a high-level diplomatic Twitter row that erupted over ongoing peace talks between Washington and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

### [Afghan ambassador to return to Pakistan after PM Khan's remarks clarified](#)

Mar 29, 2019, DAWN

Afghanistan will return its ambassador to Islamabad after Pakistan clarified Prime Minister Imran Khan's remarks that Kabul had deemed to be political interference, the Afghan foreign ministry said.

### [Pakistan, Russia agree to preserve multilateralism in international security, disarmament](#)

Mar 29, 2019, DAWN

Pakistan and Russian officials agreed on the need for preserving multilateralism in the field of international security and disarmament, and shared their concern regarding the possible erosion of "painstakingly negotiated" international arrangements in several areas, the Foreign Office said.

### [Balochistan is future of Pakistan, says COAS](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Geo News

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday said that Balochistan was the future of Pakistan and it was their duty to fully assist the government and people of the province towards a shining future, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

## **Afghanistan**

### [India to deliver 4 gunship helicopters to Afghanistan in July](#)

Mar 26, 2019, Afghanistan Times

India is expected to supply four gunship helicopters to Afghanistan by July, with the deliveries falling almost a year behind schedule, people familiar with developments told Indian media.

### ['We Will Never Bow' To Pakistan: Saleh](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Tolo News

Amrullah Saleh says Afghan authorities are ready to participate in future talks. Amrullah Saleh, a vice-presidential candidate for the next elections and former head of the NDS has said that Afghanistan can be an ally to Pakistan but it "will never bow" to it.

### [Interim government not a solution in Afghanistan: Dr. Abdullah](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Kabul Times

Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in a meeting with media officials by pointing to irresponsibly remarks of Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan said the remarks made by Pakistan prime minister were not acceptable.

### [Khalilzad Embarks On Seven-Nation Trip On Afghan Peace](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Tolo News

US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad begins another multi-nation trip on Afghan peace to Afghanistan, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Jordan and Qatar from March 25 to April 10, the US Department of State says in a statement.

### [US Trying To Convince All Parties In Afghan Peace: Pompeo](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Tolo News

Pompeo says the efforts are aimed at bringing all parties together to reduce violence in Afghanistan. Testifying before House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that the issue of troop reduction in Afghanistan is depended to the outcome of peace talks between the United States and the Taliban.

### [Afghan People, Politicians Decide on Future Govt: Russian Envoy](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

The Russian Ambassador to Kabul Alexander Mantytskiy said that it is the Afghan people and influential politicians who should decide about the future system, not the Afghan government, if an interim government is expected to come on power.

## **Nepal**

### [Nepal, India review bilateral projects, agreements](#)

mar 29, 2019, The Himalayan Times

India and Nepal today reviewed progress on the implementation of bilateral projects and agreements, besides discussing a host of issues related to bilateral relations and regional issues of mutual interest.

### [Confusion marks Nepal's domestic and foreign policies](#)

Mar 29, 2019, News In Asia

The formation of the government with the support of the Madhesh-based Federal Socialist Forum and Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal paved the way for the people at large to be optimistic about the country.

### [Nepal-Bangladesh business forum sees Bangladesh as market for hydropower](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Mashfee Binte Shams, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal, said Bangladesh is ready to work closely with Nepal on hydropower development and energy trade.

[Nepal, Japan ink labour pact](#)

Mar 26, 2019, The Himalayan Times

The government has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Japan to pave the way for Nepali workers to travel to the world's third largest economy for employment in 14 job categories.

['Business potential high in Nepal, so are challenges'](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Though Nepal has huge investment potential, the country needs to address a few challenges regarding structural reforms and adoption of technology in a bid to lure foreign investors, as per Akhil Bansal, deputy chief executive officer of KPMG, India.

## Bangladesh

[Bangladesh fire: Deadly blaze engulfs high-rise building in Dhaka](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Al Jazeera

Rescue workers warn death toll could rise as firefighters search the charred building in Bangladeshi capital.

[Ensure proper treatment of Banani fire injured: PM](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Daily Star

Expressing deep shock at the loss of lives and property in a devastating fire at FR Tower in Dhaka's Banani area, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today asked the authorities concerned to ensure the proper treatment of the injured.

[UN to raise Bangladesh's 1971 genocide in int'l forum](#)

Mar 24, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

The prime minister discussed the subject with visiting UN Under Secretary General Adama Dieng

[Bangladesh concerned over US recognition of Golan Heights as Israeli](#)

Mar 27, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh has expressed its deep concern over the recent announcement of the US recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.



### [Bangladesh-India customs intel talks begin Sunday](#)

Mar 29, 2019, New Age

Customs intelligence of Bangladesh and India are going to start their first official talks on prevention of smuggling, money laundering and check misdeclaration on prices and quantity of import and export goods in border trade between the two countries.

### [India, Bangladesh to start cruise service through Sunderbans from March 29: MEA](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Money Control

Addressing a conference on Multipolarism in Asia: Issues and Challenges, Vikram Doraiswami, joint secretary at the External Affairs Ministry, said the move was aimed to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries.

### [AIIB approves \\$120m in loans for Bangladesh power sector](#)

Mar 28, 2019, BD NEWS.24

An initiative of the Power Grid Corporation of Bangladesh, the project titled "Bangladesh Power System Upgrade and Expansion Project" will construct and upgrade more than 46 km of double-circuit transmission lines and associated substations and line bays.

### [A climate migration crisis is escalating in Bangladesh](#)

Mar 25, 2019, PRI

Climate disruption is forcing entire communities from their homes across the globe, and perhaps no population is more imperiled than the people of Bangladesh.

### [Energy Transition Index: Bangladesh 90th among 115 nations](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh has ranked 90th on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI), which has benchmarked 115 countries on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.

## Sri Lanka

### [Sri Lanka President vows to safeguard country's independence and constitution from foreign forces](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena today emphasized that he does not intend to take any action that would violate the constitution or harm the independence of the country according to the edicts of international community or anyone else.

### [U.S. seeks to rapidly enhance Sri Lanka Navy's capabilities to ensure 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Colombo Page

The United States seeks to enhance the military engagement with Sri Lanka, particularly with the country's Navy as the island nation remains a significant strategic opportunity in the Indian Ocean to ensure a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific', a top U.S. military official told Congress.

### [High Commission of India marks the day for cooperation in the field of education and skill development in Sri Lanka](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Colombo Page

High Commission of India in Colombo organized the annual celebration of International Student's Day and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day with alumni and scholars from Sri Lanka on 26 March.

### [Sri Lanka and Afghanistan considers prisoner swap agreement](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Newsfirst.lk

Sri Lanka and Afghanistan are considering entering into a prisoner swap agreement.

### [India, Sri Lanka kick off joint Mitra Shakti VI exercise](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Business Standard

The opening ceremony for the sixth edition of Mitra Shakti VI, a 14-day joint training exercise by the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, was held on Wednesday at the Diyatalawa Parade Ground here.

### [China lends \\$1bn for Sri Lankan motorway from Colombo to Kandy](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Global Construct Review

China's Export Import bank has approved a \$1bn loan to build the Central Expressway, a motorway between the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo and the central city of Kandy.

### [Netherlands to provide Euro 51 million to construct 200 bridges in rural Sri Lanka](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Colombo Page

The Government of Netherlands has agreed to provide euro 50.67 million as a loan and a grant to Sri Lanka for the construction of 200 bridges throughout the country, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

### [In Sri Lanka, the new Chinese Silk Road is a disappointment](#)

Mar 24, 2019, France 24

Chinese President Xi Jinping has launched the French leg of his European tour to try to drum up cooperation for his global infrastructure project.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China urges US to 'exercise prudence' after fresh move to blacklist Jaish chief at UN](#)

Mar 28, 2019, DAWN

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Thursday urged the United States to act cautiously on the issue of blacklisting Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and avoid bypassing the relevant committee of the UN Security Council, saying it would only complicate the issue.

#### [Anti-satellite test shouldn't stir India's nationalism](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Global Times

India announced the successful test of an anti-satellite missile. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a televised address that "our scientists have hit a live satellite 300 kilometers away in low-Earth orbit," and said the country has become the fourth country to acquire such an ability after the US, Russia and China, and "registered its name as a space power."

#### [Xi's visit sets tone for China-EU relations](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping returned to Beijing on Wednesday after his visit to Europe, bringing a fruitful outcome and the visit assures the cooperative trend of China-EU relations, analysts noted.

#### [US accusations of China's Xinjiang policies based on lies: FM](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Global Times

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said at a routine press conference on Thursday that "Xinjiang affairs are an absolute China's domestic affairs."

#### [Spokesperson urges U.S. politicians to stop slandering China](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Xinhua Net

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson refuted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's remarks alleging that China is a threat to other countries, calling the remarks "unethical and unfair."

#### [UK security report on Huawei should not be used for political purposes: analysts](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Global Times

A new UK report identifying risks in Huawei's gear does not provide any concrete evidence to show it jeopardizes network security, reflecting that technical issues could be used for political purposes, analysts said.

## Japan

### [End of an 'era': Emperor's exit resets Japan calendar](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Straits Times

The abdication of Japan's Emperor Akihito on April 30 will quite literally mark the end of an era, the Heisei era of his rule, and highly secretive talks have been going on for months on what to call the next one.

### [Russian envoy to Japan: No barter trading for disputed islands](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Mikhail Galuzin, Russia's ambassador to Japan, said disputed islands cannot be bought through investments, and that Japanese textbooks' descriptions of the isles send a "wrong signal" for peace treaty talks between the two countries.

### [Japan deploys missile batteries, troops close to Senkaku Islands](#)

Mar 26, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan deployed hundreds of troops and missile batteries on March 26 in regions near disputed East China Sea islands to contain China's maritime advances.

### [Japan's death penalty hinders defense talks with Australia](#)

Mar 25, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan's use of the death penalty has hampered negotiations with Australia on what would be an unprecedented agreement to tighten maritime defense cooperation in the face of China's aggressive behavior.

### [Ministry eyes subsidy plan for nuclear energy generation](#)

Mar 23, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The economy ministry is weighing the introduction of a subsidy system paid to electricity producers who use nuclear plants to offset massive costs to meet tougher safety standards after the 2011 disaster.

### [Japan, U.K. set to enhance security cooperation](#)

Mar 24, 2019, The Japan News

The Japanese and British governments will likely enhance bilateral security cooperation next month by reviewing their "action plan" to include the development of a new type of medium-range missile, among other things, sources said.

### [Abe pledges to take up women's cause at G20](#)

Mar 23, 2019, The Japan news

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday he will propose arranging talks on improving education for women at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka in June.

## Korea

### [Population Starts Dwindling a Decade Earlier Than Expected](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Korea's natural population will start to shrink this year, a decade earlier than originally expected, as deaths outnumber births, Statistics Korea said.

### [Moon, Trump to hold summit in April](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in will have a summit with President Donald Trump at the White House in April to discuss the denuclearization of North Korea, Cheong Wa Dae said.

### [Korea's first stealth jet fighters arrives](#)

Mar 29, 2018, The Korea Times

The first two F-35 stealth fighter jets for South Korea arrived at 2:35 p.m. at a military air base in Cheongju, North Chungcheong Province, the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) said.

### [S.Korean, U.S. Coast Guards Hold Joint Exercise](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Korea Coast Guard conducted a first-ever joint drill with its U.S. counterpart off the south coast of Jeju Island

### [N.Korea Slams Seoul Over Its Own Failed Diplomacy](#)

Mar 25, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea has been blaming South Korea for its own failed diplomacy since leader Kim Jong-un's summit with U.S. President Donald Trump collapsed.

## Southeast Asia

### [Investment, not criticism, will heal Rohingya woes](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Global Times

What's the solution to the Rohingya crisis? It's a question that affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people in temporary shelters in Bangladesh and needs to be urgently answered. For a long time since the humanitarian crisis began in 2016, Western countries have directed criticism at the Myanmar government's handling of the issue. However, criticism won't help resolve the crisis.

### [China boosts measures to open economy](#)

Mar 29, 2019, China Daily

China will further open up to foreign investors and offer them treatment equal to that of domestic companies with firm protection of their legitimate rights, Premier Li Keqiang said at the Boao Forum for Asia.

### [China urges UK to stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs](#)

Mar 28, 2019, China Daily

China urged the United Kingdom to respect China's sovereignty and stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs.

### [Southeast Asia should be aware of Iran's tactics to evade oil sanctions: US official](#)

Mar 29, 2019, CNBC

The United States is keen to see that Malaysia, Singapore and others are fully aware of illicit Iranian oil shipments and the tactics Iran uses to evade sanctions, a top U.S. sanctions official said.

### [EU risks 'trade war' with Malaysia over palm oil: PM Mahathir Mohamad](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Straits Times

The European Union risks opening up a trade war with Malaysia over its "grossly unfair" policies aimed at reducing the use of palm oil, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Thursday (March 28).

### [Text of New Zealand PM Ardern's address to national ceremony for mosque attack victims](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Straits Times

### [Australia signals urge to repair its relationship with China](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Straits Times

Australia has begun a diplomatic thrust to repair its relationship with largest trading partner China, damaged by the nation's ban of Huawei Technologies from bidding for 5G contracts and the introduction of anti-foreign interference laws aimed at Beijing.

## Central & West Asia

### [Kazakhstan power struggle emerges as longtime president steps down](#)

Mar 28, 2019, TRT World

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev voluntarily and unexpectedly stepped down on March 19, after almost 30 years in power and five victories in elections that have been widely criticised as non-free and unfair.

### [Kazakhstan grounds Mi-8 choppers after 13 troops die in crash](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Military officials in Kazakhstan have said they are grounding their fleet of Mi-8 helicopters following a crash in the southern Kyzylorda region that left 13 troops dead.

### [Chinese, Kazakh FMs hold talks on deepening bilateral cooperation](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Xinhua Net

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Kazakh Foreign Minister Beibut Atamkulov in Beijing Thursday, vowing to promote cooperation in various fields.

### [Putin Visits Kyrgyzstan To Discuss Russian Military Presence](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Rferl.org

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived for a one-day visit to Kyrgyzstan where he was expected to discuss Moscow's military presence in the Central Asian country.

### [Bishkek, Moscow Agree To Expand Russian Base In Kyrgyzstan](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Central Asia News.net

During Russian President Vladimir Putin's one-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, the sides have agreed to expand the territory of Russia's military base in the Central Asian country by 60 hectares.

### [Russia providing \\$30 million grant to Kyrgyzstan](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Russia has announced a \$30 million gift to Kyrgyzstan ahead of President Vladimir Putin's visit to the Central Asian country, one of Moscow's key military and economic allies in the region.

### [Kyrgyzstan: ADB supports modernization of Uch-Kurgan hydropower plant](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million financing package to modernize aging equipment and improve power generation capacity at the Uch-Kurgan hydropower plant (HPP), the oldest of the six HPPs installed along the Naryn River cascade in Kyrgyzstan, ADB's country office said.

### [Turkmenistan: The Trump card](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Central Asia News.net

The on-and-off TCP project is gaining some traction of late, within Turkmenistan and outside it. Last month, President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov spoke publicly about the initiative as a pressing matter.

### [U.S. Lifts Uzbek Cotton Ban](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Rferl.org

The United States has removed Uzbek cotton from a list of products that are produced with forced child labor.

### [Turkey's President Erdogan accuses the West of terrorism](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Economist

Despite the government's attempts to distract voters, the economy will weigh heavily on the minds of most Turks when they elect mayors and councillors on March 31st.

### [Netanyahu: Israel's Preparing For A Broad Campaign In Gaza](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The IDF also deployed additional snipers have also been stationed to defend troops from Gazan sniper fire and explosive devices thrown by Palestinians.

### [Hamas and Israel risk another Gaza war in deadly game of chicken](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Times of Israel

In the lead-up to this Saturday, when tens of thousands of Palestinians are expected to take part in protests along the Gaza border to commemorate both Land Day and the first anniversary of the "Great March of Return," Hamas and Israel appear to be playing a high-stakes game of chicken, with each side — in both word and deed — threatening all-out war against the other..

### [UAE minister calls for Arab openness to ties with Israel](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Relations between the Arab countries and Israel need to shift in order to make progress towards peace with the Palestinians, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Gargash.



### [UAE nuclear regulators ready for radiological emergencies](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Khaleej Times

The FANR said that it was currently in the final stages of reviewing the 'Operating License Application', which was made by Nawah Energy Company for units 1 and 2 of the UAE's Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in Al Dhafra.

### [Syria repels 'Israeli aerial aggression,' downs several targets, state media says](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Daily Sabha

The Assad regime army intercepted several missiles that were fired by Israeli jets during raids on an industrial zone in the northern city of Aleppo with damage to materials only, state television said.

### [US to Redraw Maps to Show Golan Heights as Israeli Territory](#)

Mar 27, 2019, VOA

The Trump administration says it will update U.S. government maps to reflect President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

### [UNSC members single out US decision on Golan Heights](#)

Mar 23, 2019, Daily Sabah

The U.S. stood alone in the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) meeting Thursday for recognizing Israel's sovereignty on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as all the members of the council except Washington condemned the action.

### [Golan residents unhappy, yet unsurprised by US decision](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Al Monitor

When the Israeli prime minister met with the US president earlier this week, each had a gift for the other. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister fighting for his political life amid charges of corruption and bribery, gave Donald Trump wine made by illegal Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights. Many people around the world and even in Israel itself boycott Golan wine because it is produced on stolen lands.

## United States

### [Russia needs to get out of Venezuela: Trump tells Putin to pull his troops out of strife-torn country](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Daily Mail

President Trump said Wednesday that 'Russia has to get out' of Venezuela as the U.S. accused the Kremlin of adding to unrest in the Latin American country.

### [Trump Extends Deportation Protection For Liberians In The U.S.](#)

Mar 28, 2019, NPR

President Trump is extending for one year a program that gives Liberians protected status from deportation. The president's action affects some 4,000 Liberians living in the U.S.

### [US lawsuit filed against Boeing over Ethiopian Airlines crash](#)

Mar 29, 2019, CNBC

A lawsuit against Boeing was filed in U.S. federal court on Thursday in what appeared to be the first suit over a March 10 Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX crash that killed 157 people.

### [US-Taliban talks: A road to nowhere](#)

Mar 25, 2019, Hindustan Times

Even as Afghans celebrated Navroz on March 21, their new year, there was a terrorist attack in Kabul that killed six people. This attack, like other, even more deadly attacks, comes in the background of the US and Taliban announcing that their peace talks have agreed on two of the four issues identified.

### [House fails to override Trump's veto over national emergency wall fight](#)

Mar 27, 2019, CNN

The House failed Tuesday to override President Donald Trump's veto after both chambers of Congress sought to overturn his national emergency declaration to build more border wall.

### [Despite Congress' ire, Pentagon to transfer \\$1 billion for Trump wall](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Reuters

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said on Wednesday he would push ahead with plans to transfer \$1 billion to help fund President Donald Trump's wall on the U.S. border with Mexico, even as he acknowledged a likely backlash from Congress.

[US announces new round of sanctions on Iran](#)

Mar 22, 2019, CNN

The US State and Treasury departments on Friday sanctioned 14 individuals and 17 entities linked to SPND, Iran's organization for defense, innovation and research.

## Europe & Russia

### [Brexit day is here but Britain isn't leaving the EU, at least not yet](#)

Mar 29, 2019, CNN

March 29, 2019 had been slated as a landmark moment in the country's history, to be at the same time both celebrated by pro-Brexit politicians and voters and mourned by those who wanted to remain in the EU.

### [Theresa May in final push to pass Brexit deal as MPs vote again](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Euro News

The government announced plans for a Brexit vote that – even if approved – will stop short of ratifying the country's departure from the European Union.

### ['Revolution of smiles': Paris diaspora actively supporting Algerian protest movement](#)

Mar 28, 2019, France 24

As a mass, peaceful protest movement continues in Algeria, Franco-Algerians have been gathering at the Place de la République every Sunday in Paris to demonstrate against the ailing Algerian president and those who keep him in power.

### [Germany extends ban on arms exports to Saudi Arabia by a further six months](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Defense Post

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government has extended by six months an embargo on weapons exports to Saudi Arabia.

### [Germany declines to recognize Juan Guaidó's Berlin emissary](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Deutsche Welle

As Venezuela's self-appointed interim president, Juan Guaidó has named diplomats to 10 EU countries. The German government considers Guaidó Venezuela's president, but it hasn't confirmed Otto Gebauer as ambassador.

### [Germany's new Africa policy](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Germany has for years sought to strengthen its cooperation with Africa. This has led to a flood of concepts across various government ministries and a confusion of competencies. New guidelines are now on the table.

### [Spain refuses to apologise for conquering Mexico five hundred years ago](#)

Mar 26, 2019, The Telegraph

Spain's government has refused a demand from Mexico's new president that it apologise for conquering the country five hundred years ago.

[Ship hijacked by migrants off Libya escorted to Malta](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Guardian

A merchant ship hijacked by refugees and migrants off the coast of Libya has been escorted to Malta by the country's armed forces.

[As hostility continues, Russia is watching Ukraine's presidential election closely](#)

Mar 29, 2019, CNBC

Ukrainians go to the polls this weekend to vote in a presidential election that has a result that is far from certain.

['US decision on Golan Heights is highway to war': Russian Duma speaker](#)

Mar 26, 2019, RT

The US decision to recognize the Golan Heights as Israel's territory was taken bypassing the UN Security Council and ignoring the UN dialogue on the issue, said Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of Russia's Lower House.

[Russian Navy Ships Escort NATO Warships in Black Sea - MoD](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Sputnik International

Earlier in the day, Boudewijn Boots, the commander of the Standing NATO Maritime Group Two (SNMG2), confirmed that a group of vessels had been deployed to the region in order to participate in the Sea Shield exercise with Georgian and Ukrainian forces.

[Russia offers palm oil defence offset](#)

Mar 29, 2019, New Straits Times

Russia is committed to drastically increasing its purchase of palm oil from Malaysia, said its top defence procurement official.

[Russia puts onus on US for early outer space rules after India's test](#)

Mar 29, 2019, The Economic Times

Russia while welcoming India's right to Anti-Satellite Missile Test has put onus on USA on framing rules at the earliest to prevent weaponisation of outer space.

## Africa & Latin America

### [South American Countries Create New Regional Bloc](#)

Mar 25, 2019, The Rio Times

The leaders of Latin American countries met in Santiago, Chile last week are discussing the creation of Prosur, a new regional bloc to replace the Union of South American Nations (Unasur).

### [Maduro's government bars Guaido from public office for 15 years](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Venezuelan government on Thursday said it has barred opposition leader Juan Guaido from holding public office for 15 years, though the National Assembly leader brushed off the measure and said it would not derail his campaign to remove President Nicolas Maduro.

### [U.S. bringing 'maximum pressure' on Venezuela: sanctions official](#)

Mar 29, 2019, Reuters

The United States was bringing "maximum pressure" on the Venezuelan government of President Nicolas Maduro, a top U.S. sanctions official said.

### [Visiting Brazil president likely won't announce embassy move](#)

Mar 28, 2019, The Times of Israel

Jair Bolsanoro, due in Israel Sunday for two-day trip, may open trade office in Jerusalem instead; won't visit Ramallah

### [Venezuela: EU increases emergency assistance by €50 million](#)

Mar 27, 2019, European Commission

As the social and economic crisis in Venezuela continues to worsen, the European Commission is allocating a further €50 million in emergency assistance to help Venezuelans most in need.

### [Mexican president to Trump: Don't look at us, migrants are not our problem](#)

Mar 29, 2019, RT

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador wants US President Donald Trump to stop blaming Mexico for the US' illegal immigrant problem, pointing out that fewer Mexicans than ever are crossing the border illegally.

### [US-Mexico border official says migrant crisis 'at breaking point'](#)

Mar 28, 2019, BBC News

The US-Mexico border has reached "breaking point", US officials say, amid an "unprecedented" surge in migrant numbers.

### [351,000 displaced in Anglophone Cameroon - UN wants \\$219m in aid](#)

Mar 28, 2019, Africa News

The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, is appealing for urgent funding to cater for displaced Cameroonians largely concentrated in the twin Anglophone regions.

### [Human Rights Watch Blasts Cameroon; Military Rejects 'Biased' Report](#)

Mar 28, 2019, VOA

A new report from Human Rights Watch says Cameroon's military has killed scores of people and burned down hundreds of homes in its campaign against separatists in the country's Anglophone regions. Cameroon is rejecting the report as grossly biased.

### [Tshisekedi's shuttle diplomacy heads to US after visits to 6 African nations](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Africa News

Democratic Republic of Congo's new President Felix Tshisekedi is scheduled to visit the United States of America, in what will be his first diplomatic visit outside the continent, from April 3 to 5.

### [Algeria: Opposition sees the General's call for impeachment of president as a ploy to maintain regime](#)

Mar 26, 2019, The North Africa Journal

Army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah made a stunning recommendation today (March 26) when he said impeaching the president may be the best option left to keep the country stable.

### [Southern Africa: Should Regional Leaders Shoulder Blame for Cyclone Damage?](#)

Mar 26, 2019, All Africa

As southern Africa reels from one of its most devastating natural disasters, questions are being asked about whether regional governments have done enough to prepare for the wide-scale destruction caused by Cyclone Idai, considering the history of flooding in the region and the consistent dire predictions of the impacts of changing weather, writes Legalbrief Africa.

### [UN Send Team To Investigate Mali Herdsmen Killing As Death Toll Rises To 160](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Nigerian Tribune

The United Nations has sent a team of investigators to Mali's restive Mopti region, where more than 150 people were killed this weekend, a spokeswoman said.

### [Kenya, Uganda To Continue On The Integration Path](#)

Mar 27, 2019, Kenya News Agency

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Monica Juma together with her Ugandan counterpart Tuesday held bilateral talks aimed at strengthening the cordial relationship the two countries have enjoyed over time.





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