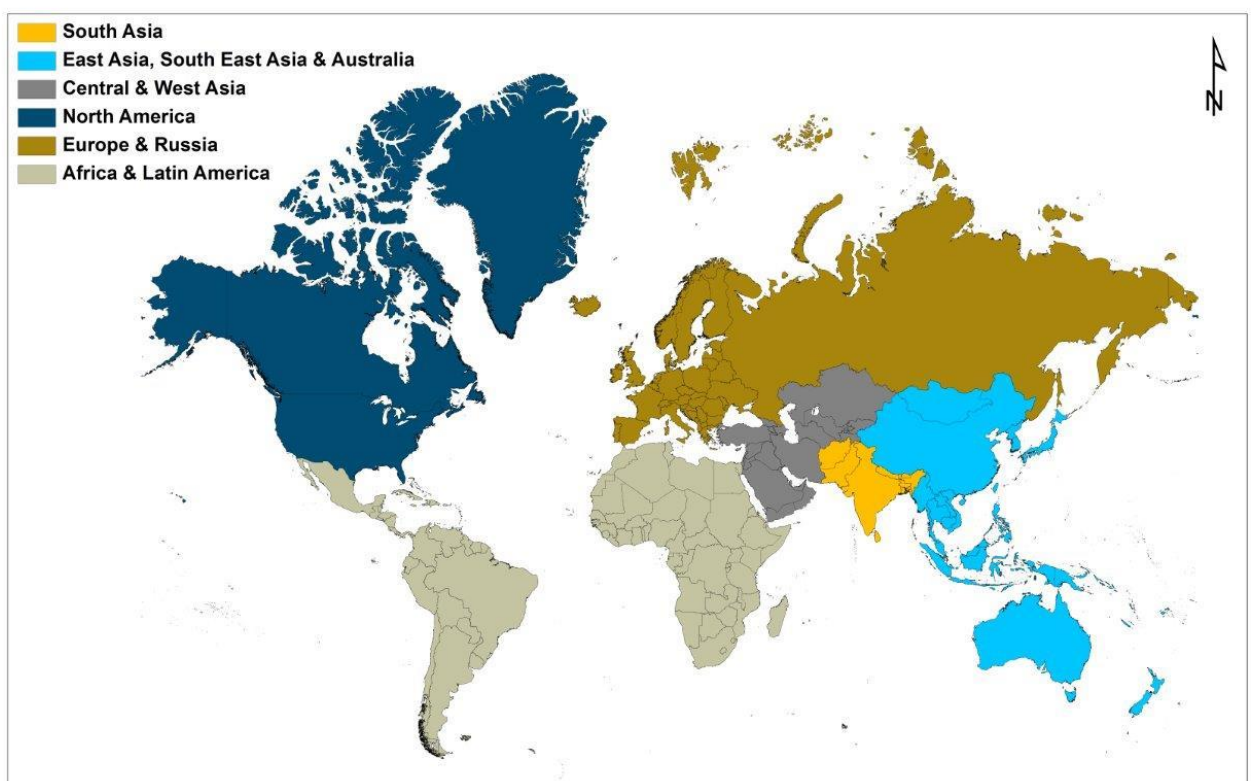




Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 18 | May 3, 2019



## **DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH**

### **Volume 3, Issue 18**

#### **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

[MEA: Pulwama attack played a key role in UN listing Masood Azhar a global terrorist](#)

May 2, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

The terror attack in Pulwama that killed 40 CRPF officials earlier this year did play a role in the UN Security Council's decision to designate Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist though it was not mentioned in the resolution, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

[UNSC listing: India silence on China's BRI helped seal Azhar deal](#)

May 3, 2019, The Indian Express

New Delhi had circulated its dossier on Azhar with all UN members, in Delhi and foreign capitals, to make its case — that he was accused in multiple terror crimes in India, from the Parliament attack in 2001 to the Pulwama terror strike in 2019.

[India rejected China's terms for ban on JeM chief Masood](#)

May 3, 2019, The Times of India

In the course of the high-level exchanges between India and China, Beijing offered to lift its technical hold on JeM chief Masood Azhar's terror listing if India committed to not attacking Pakistan and deescalating tensions after the Pulwama terror attack. India refused.

[India eyes Guyana as Iran oil supplies end](#)

May 3, 2019, Live Mint

Faced with US sanctions on one of its top suppliers Iran, India is charting new geographies to meet its energy needs. The world's third-largest oil importer is looking to secure an interest in Guyana's oilfields that are being hailed as one of the world's largest oil finds in recent times.

[India repeats stance that it is ready to deal with impact of US sanctions on buying Iranian oil](#)

May 3, 2019, Scroll.in

The Centre said that New Delhi's decision will be based on the country's energy security, commercial consideration and economic interests.

### [Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar \(BCIM\) Economic Corridor no longer listed under BRI umbrella](#)

April 28, 2019, The Hindu

South Asia is covered by three major undertakings—the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), the Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network, including Nepal-China cross-border railway, as well as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

### [ISIS threatens to carry out attacks in India, Bangladesh; names new 'emir'](#)

May 1, 2019, Business Standard

Days after a spate of suicide attacks on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka that killed over 250 people, the Islamic State affiliate group has issued a direct threat to carry out attacks in India and Bangladesh. According to a report by The Times of India, the ISIS has appointed Abu Muhammed al-Bengali as a new 'emir' (chief) in Bangladesh.

### [Here's what frequent flier PM Modi achieved on his foreign visits](#)

April 30, 2019, The Print

With 92 trips to 57 countries, Modi has flown abroad nearly twice as much as his predecessor Manmohan Singh in five years.

### [China spends four times more than India on defence: SIPRI](#)

April 30, 2019, The Times of India

China's military expenditure is almost four times that of India, with the latter's armed forces also getting hobbled by a ballooning revenue expenditure and pension bill. The US, of course, is the world's largest spender on defence, with a military expenditure almost equal to the next eight countries combined.

### [COMCASA to grow India-US military ties: Indo-Pacific US Air Force chief](#)

April 30, 2019, The Economic Times

"When I talk about interoperabilities, it is not just the equipment we buy, it is our tactics techniques and procedures - how we operate -- even if it is a different piece of (equipment) coming from a different country", he said.

### [How India prepared for Cyclone Fani](#)

May 3, 2019, CNN

As forecasters warned of the strongest storm to hit India in 20 years, the country's officials launched into action. They quickly evacuated residents at risk away from

the coast -- a stark contrast to preparations ahead of the devastating storm in 1999, when thousands of people lost their lives.

## **Pakistan**

### [UNSC lists Masood Azhar as terrorist, places immediate sanctions](#)

May 1, 2019, Geo News

The United Nations listed on Wednesday proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammed's Chief Masood Azhar among banned individuals on its global terror list, placing a restriction on foreign travel, arms embargo and freezing of assets.

### [Masood Azhar ban](#)

May 3, 2019, DAWN

AFTER an over two-decade-long career piloting Jaish-e-Mohammad, one of the most lethal jihadi outfits in South Asia, the noose around Masood Azhar appears to be tightening, as the militant mastermind has been designated a global terrorist by the UN Security Council.

### [Pakistan has taken steps to eliminate terrorism: US](#)

May 3, 2019, DAWN

The United States has acknowledged that recently both civil and military leaders in Pakistan have taken steps to eliminate terrorism.

### [Pakistan PM Khan meets IMF chief, WB CEO in Beijing; seeks backing for bailout package for Pak](#)

April 26, 2019, The Times of India

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday held separate meetings with IMF chief Christine Lagarde and World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva here and discussed the cash trapped country's efforts to tie over the financial woes.

### [PM Imran's visit to China ushers CPEC into a new stage](#)

May 3, 2019, Pakistan Observer

The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) was successfully held in Beijing last week. At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, 40 national leaders and heads of international organizations including Prime Minister Imran Khan attended the forum.

### [Pakistan urges UNSC to address Kashmir, Palestine disputes for world peace](#)

May 2, 2019, Geo News

Pakistan has again called for a just and lasting resolution of the Kashmir dispute, which along with the Palestine issue needs to be addressed by the UN Security Council (UNSC), to promote international peace and security.

### [PTM itself 'not an issue' but few individuals exploiting sentiments of terrorism victims: COAS](#)

May 2, 2019, DAWN

Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said that while the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) is itself "not an issue", certain individuals "playing in foreign hands" are exploiting the sentiments of people who have suffered hardships because of terrorism.

### [Khalilzad receives Pakistan's support to accelerate intra-Afghan dialogue](#)

April 30, 2019, Geo News

US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad concluded his two-day visit to Pakistan where he held discussions with the country's leadership on developments in the Afghan peace process.

### [Pakistan making sincere efforts for success of Afghan peace process: Qureshi](#)

April 30, 2019, Geo News

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan is making sincere efforts for the success of the ongoing Afghan peace process, and has played its due role in the development of the country.

## **Afghanistan**

### [Pakistan airspace re-opened to Afghan flights between Kabul and New Delhi](#)

May 1, 2019, Khaama Press

Pakistan's airspace of Pakistan was re-opened to Afghan flights between Kabul and New Delhi more than months after Pakistan closed its airspace following a dog-fight between the Indian and Pakistani air forces late in February that ensued after the alleged bombing of Jaish-e-Mohammad sanctuaries by Indian air force.

### [Pakistani agencies hiding Masood Azhar in a safe house in Islamabad](#)

May 2, 2019, Afghanistan News.net

Designated as a global terrorist by the United Nations, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief and Pulwama terror attack mastermind Masood Azhar has been shifted to a safe house in Islamabad from his residence in Bahawalpur by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), sources have said.

### [Afghans call for ceasefire as peace summit wraps up](#)

May 3, 2019, DAWN

Afghan officials called for a ceasefire on Thursday as a huge peace summit wound down in Kabul after thousands of delegates spent days discussing possible conditions for a peace deal with the Taliban.

### [US military stops releasing Afghanistan war information](#)

May 1, 2019, AP News

Amid a battlefield stalemate in Afghanistan, the U.S. military has stopped releasing information often cited to measure progress in America's longest war, calling it of little value in fighting the Taliban insurgency.

### ['International community to support holding timely presidential elections'](#)

April 25, 2019, The Kabul Times

Second Vice President Sarwar Danesh and Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah met with foreign ambassadors to Kabul and representatives of UNAMA, Resolute Support mission and EU at Sapidar palace. In the meeting, representatives of UNAMA and foreign countries supporting the country's elections process shared their visions, suggestions and concerns over Afghanistan presidential elections.

### ["Let's sacrifice small interests for the sake of big interests," President Ghani tells Jirga participants](#)

April 29, 2019, The Kabul Times

The Grand Consultative Jirga on Peace in Afghanistan was started with participation of 3200 delegates from across the country. Thousands of tribal and community elders are taking part in the mammoth gathering that was kicked off amid tight security measures to discuss ways of reaching a lasting peace and end the country's decades-old war.



### [Journalists face restrictions in covering Loya Jirga](#)

May 1, 2019, Afghanistan Times

A number of journalists who are covering the ongoing Consultative Peace Loya Jirga, claim that they face restrictions by the government.

### [Ghani bans foreign minister from Qatar trip](#)

May 1, 2019, Afghanistan Times

President Ashraf Ghani has reportedly banned foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani from traveling to Doha to attend the Asian Cooperation Dialogue meeting held in the Persian Gulf state of Qatar.

## **Bangladesh**

### [Bangladesh braces for cyclone Fani](#)

May 2, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh is preparing shelters and making post-disaster preparation for the severe cyclonic storm Fani which is likely to hit by tomorrow evening.

### [Bangladesh Navy receives final two Chinese-made Type C13B corvettes](#)

April 29, 2019, Jane's Defence Weekly

The Bangladesh Navy (BN) has received the two Shadhinota (Type C13B)-class corvettes it ordered from China in late 2015, according to a statement by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Bangladeshi military.

### [Bangladesh police: Two 'militants' blow themselves up during raid](#)

April 29, 2019, Al Jazeera

Bangladesh police say they have recovered a large amount of improvised explosive device from the hideout in Dhaka.

### [Should Bangladesh worry about the Indian elections?](#)

May 1, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

A news report of a well-known Bangladeshi film actor having his visa revoked for India for his alleged participation in a voting campaign for a West Bengal candidate in the ongoing parliamentary elections is both amusing and instructive.

[Bangladesh's Foreign Minister tells ITV News Shamima Begum is 'not our problem'](#)

May 2, 2019, ITV News

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister has told ITV News that Shamima Begum is not his country's problem.

**Nepal**

[China and Nepal sign off on ports deal to ease Kathmandu's dependence on India for trade](#)

May 2, 2019, SCMP

Nepal must wait until infrastructure is improved to begin trade through China. Kathmandu turned to Beijing after 2015 Indian blockade led to economic crisis.

[Three agreements struck between Nepal, China](#)

April 28, 2019, The Himalayan

Two agreements and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) have been reached between Nepal and China at the Nepal-China Economic and Trade Forum here.

[Inclusion of railway in China's Belt and Road renews optimism in Nepal](#)

April 29, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

The incorporation of the Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network, including cross-border railway, in the joint communiqué of the second conference of the Belt and Road Initiative has renewed optimism in Nepal but the question remains: When will the Chinese rail arrive in Nepal and what are the preparations from both sides?

[Xi to visit Nepal 'at a convenient time'](#)

April 30, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping today said he attached great importance to visiting Nepal and would pay the visit at a convenient time.

### [Nepal's human rights act](#)

May 2, 2019, Nepali Times

While the Government of Nepal is taking pains to polish its human rights image internationally, its actions at home belie the perception of a global rights champion.

### **Sri Lanka**

#### [Sri Lanka Civil Security Department to deploy 20000 personnel to strengthen security](#)

May 3, 2019, Colombo Page

The Civil Security Department says the department plans to deploy 20,000 personnel to safeguard the country in the future.

#### [UNCTAD assures support for Sri Lanka's efforts to reestablish trade and economic sectors](#)

May 3, 2019, Colombo Page

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) expressing solidarity with Sri Lanka has assured to support the island nation to reestablish its trade and economic sectors impacted by the devastating Easter Sunday terrorist attacks on churches and high-end hotels in the country.

#### [Sri Lanka seeks support of SAARC countries to eliminate global terrorism](#)

May 2, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance Mangala Samaraweera today called on the South Asian region's countries to support Sri Lanka's efforts to eradicate global terrorism.

#### [Sri Lanka mistook Indian alert as bid to create rift with Islamabad](#)

May 1, 2019, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka had refused to pay heed to India's alert on possible suicide attacks and the involvement of extremists based on its belief that New Delhi is trying to pit Colombo against Pakistan by pointing fingers at the island's Muslim community.

### [Sri Lankan national held for illegally entering India](#)

May 1, 2019, The Indian Express

With the state police on high alert following the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka that killed 253 persons, the NIA and 'Q' branch sleuths acted on a tip-off and detained Roshan and held enquiries with him.

### **Maldives**

### [US Issues Advisory for Maldives, Warns Terrorist Groups Can Target Tourist Locations 'Without Warning'](#)

May 2, 2019, News 18

The State Department last week had said in a revised travel advisory that 'terrorist groups' were continuing to plot possible attacks in Sri Lanka after more than 250 people were killed and about 500 wounded in blasts in churches and luxury hotels on April 21.

### [India restarts work on coastal radars in Maldives](#)

April 30, 2019, Jane's 360

India has resumed the installation of coastal surveillance radar stations across the Maldives to enhance the Indian Navy's (IN's) maritime domain awareness (MDA) in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China's BRI begins to faces resistance from Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Nepal](#)

April 30, 2019, The Print

Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal had initially signed on for China's Belt and Road Initiative, but now, seem to be rethinking their commitment to the project.

#### [Behind China's subdued BRI rhetoric](#)

April 30, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

At the recent Belt and Road meet, it needed to allay fears that its mega-projects are an exercise in global domination

#### [Transparency road: on India-China relations](#)

May 1, 2019, The Hindu

Two years after the Belt and Road Initiative forum was unveiled with fanfare, Chinese President Xi Jinping's address to the second BRI forum was a clear indication that Beijing is coming to terms with the pushback his ambitious project has received.

#### [Xi-Imran meeting: China hopes Pakistan, India can meet halfway](#)

April 29, 2019, The Indian Express

Addressing the Pakistan and China Investment Forum in Beijing Sunday, Khan expressed hope that relations between the two neighbours will improve after the Indian general elections.

#### [Beijing city to open "green channel" to B&R participants](#)

May 2, 2019, Global Times

The immigration office of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau have said that people contributing to the Belt and Road Initiative will be given favorable treatment.

#### [Belt and Road Initiative will reshape global economic ties, say experts](#)

May 1, 2019, Global Times

The second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), which was wrapped up in Beijing last week, has been in the spotlight in Azerbaijan.

### [China plans to launch carrier rocket at sea](#)

May 1, 2019, Global Times

China plans to launch a Long March-11 carrier rocket at sea this year, which is expected to lower the cost of entering space. The rocket has been named "CZ-11 WEY" under an agreement between the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, China Space Foundation and a Chinese automobile producer.

### [SCO important to world peace, development: Chinese official](#)

May 1, 2019, Global Times

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has made important contributions to promoting world peace and development as well as safeguarding international fairness and justice, a senior Chinese official said here.

### [China-Russia joint exercise holds marines contests](#)

May 1, 2019, Global Times

The China-Russia "Joint Sea-2019" military exercise held contests between the two countries' naval marine contingents.

### [Chinese Foreign Ministry comments on US announcement to withdrawl from ATT](#)

May 1, 2019, Global Times

China said it hopes that relevant country can do more things conducive to strengthening the mechanism of international arms control and safeguarding international and regional peace and stability.

### [U.S. experts positive on China's pledge to expand imports](#)

May 3, 2019, Xinhua Net

U.S. experts in law and international business on Thursday expressed positive views on China's pledge to lower tariffs and import more goods and services from other parts of the world.

### [Xinjiang crackdown at the heart of China's Belt and Road](#)

April 28, 2019, The Times of India

Traders travel freely through the bustling Khorgos special economic zone that straddles the Kazakhstan- China border, but signs on the Chinese side bear a blunt warning- no veils or beards allowed.

## Japan

### [Abe ready to meet N Korea's Kim unconditionally: media](#)

May 3, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has offered to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "unconditionally" in a bid to restore diplomatic ties between the two historic foes, a daily said.

### [Suspected drones found flying in Tokyo](#)

May 2, 2019, NHK World

Japanese investigative sources say unidentified objects suspected to be drones have been spotted above several places in Tokyo, including an area near the Imperial Palace.

### [Prospects for Constitutional amendments unclear](#)

May 2, 2019, NHK World

Friday marks 72 years since the Japanese Constitution came into effect. The main ruling Liberal Democratic Party is willing to initiate Diet debates on Constitutional amendments. But opposition parties may try to block the move.

### [Japan's new emperor wishes for world peace upon taking throne](#)

May 1, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

Crown Prince Naruhito ascended to Japan's Chrysanthemum Throne at midnight Wednesday, marking the beginning of the new Reiwa era.

### [Suga: Japan will protect firms over S.Korea suits](#)

May 2, 2019, NHK World

Japan's chief cabinet secretary says the government will protect the interests of Japanese firms in connection with wartime labor suits in South Korea.

### [Trump versus Abe -- the trade end game](#)

May 1, 2019, Nikkei Asian review

Amid all the bluster and distraction, there has always been one claim at the heart of President Donald Trump's trade policy -- he could bring home deals that were better for the United States than those negotiated by his predecessors. He would use America's strength, in one on one negotiations with the country's largest trading partners, to extract concessions that other presidents had been too feckless to demand.

## Korea

### [Moon orders military to fully implement inter-Korean deal on easing tensions](#)

May 3, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in instructed the military Friday to keep trying to reduce tensions and build confidence on the Korean Peninsula by faithfully implementing related defense agreements with North Korea.

### [Korea, Kuwait to cooperate on renewable energy](#)

May 3, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea and Kuwait are expected to expand cooperation on renewable energy, the government said Friday.

### [Korean military embraces latest tech to train soldiers](#)

May 3, 2019, The Korea Times

Technology plays an integral part in modern warfare, and its role is even more important for countries like South Korea, which faces constant threats from North Korea.

### [North Korea condemns USFK's THAAD drill](#)

May 3, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea has condemned a recent anti-ballistic missile defense drill by the United States Forces Korea (USFK), calling it a rash act of military provocation, the North's propaganda media outlets said.

### [N.Korea Warns U.S. to Soften Approach](#)

May 2, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

A senior North Korean official has warned the U.S. of "unwanted consequences" unless it shifts its position on denuclearization. Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui issued the warning on Tuesday without elaborating on what those consequences would be.

### [UN Officials Check Food Shortage in N.Korea](#)

May 3, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Officials from the UN's World Food Programme and other agencies visited North Korea last month to inspect the food situation there, VOA reported Thursday. They are expected to make a recommendation on food aid this month.



## Southeast Asia

### [China, Thailand launch joint naval training](#)

May 2, 2019, Global Times

During the week-long program, Chinese and Thai forces will exercise shooting, grappling, helicopter rappelling and combat tactics at the port area during the first four days, while the follow-up maritime exercise will focus on more than 10 subjects including communication, replenishment-at-sea, joint rescue and amphibious landing.

### [Japan, Vietnam ministers discuss South China Sea](#)

May 2, 2019, NHK World

The defense ministers of Japan and Vietnam have agreed that the international community should work together to peacefully resolve the issue of the South China Sea. China's military presence is growing in the waters.

### [Malaysia keen to be commodities gateway between China and ASEAN](#)

May 3, 2019, Global Times

Malaysia is ideally placed to be the trade gateway for commodities trade between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said.

### [China appreciates joint efforts to promote peace process in northern Myanmar](#)

May 2, 2019, Global Times

The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar welcomed the positive results achieved by Myanmar's Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services and the meeting with four ethnic armed groups in Muse, Myanmar. It also appreciated the unremitting efforts to promote the peace process of northern Myanmar by all sides, noting progress has been made.

### ["China is vital to the future of Australia": Australian shadow foreign minister](#)

May 1, 2019, Global Times

Leader of the opposition in the Australian senate Penny Wong said on Wednesday that China is vital to the future of Australia.

## Central & West Asia

### [Russia regards relations with Uzbekistan as strategic partnership – Lavrov](#)

May 3, 2019, TASS

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said last year's meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Uzbekistani counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev was especially important

### [Uzbekistan, Russia agree on site for nuclear plant](#)

May 3, 2019, Afghanistan News.net

A site has been chosen for construction of Uzbekistans first nuclear power plant, Russias Foreign Minister said on May 2 during a visit to the Central Asian nation. The plant may become the first of its kind in Central Asia.

### [Kazakhstan: Election candidate dropped for poor Kazakh skills](#)

May 3, 2019, Afghanistan News.net

An obscure outsider who had planned a run in Kazakhstans June 9 presidential election has been disqualified after flunking a Kazakh language admission test.

### [Georgia, Azerbaijan feud over border monastery](#)

May 3, 2019, Afghanistan News.net

In the Caucasus, where each country believes it was allotted an unfairly small piece of land by the whims of history, the border between Georgia and Azerbaijan has stood out as the least problematic of the frontiers.

### [Tensions Rising Among Morocco, Saudi Arabia, And The UAE](#)

May 2, 2019, Lobelog

Despite recurring indications that King Mohammed VI of Morocco was due to visit King Salman of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh at the end of April, no such visit has yet materialized—a new sign of rising tensions between the two monarchies. The possible cancelation of this trip takes place amid a deterioration of bilateral relations that began in 2017.

### [Iran oil tanker forced to seek repairs in Saudi port](#)

May 2, 2019, The Times of Israel

An Iranian tanker was forced to seek repairs at a Saudi port after suffering “engine failure and loss of control”, the Iranian oil ministry’s SHANA news agency reported.

### [Iran Says Ready To Swap Oil For Goods, Investments](#)

May 2, 2019, Rferl.org

Foreign companies can choose to receive crude oil instead of hard currencies for the goods they sell to Iran, the CEO of Iranian National Oil Company said on Wednesday, May 1.

### [Saudi Arabia, UAE "Draw The Death And Collapse Of OPEC"](#)

May 1, 2019, Oil Price.com

In among the multitude of threats that Iran has made public since the US sanctions on Iran were levied, Iran has now heralded the collapse of OPEC, if OPEC members fill the void by snagging market share left unfilled by Iran and Venezuela, according to S&P Global Platts.

### [India likely to import more oil from Saudi Arabia](#)

May 3, 2019, The Asian

Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan in a tweet in April had said "a robust plan for an adequate supply of crude oil to Indian refineries" is in place.

### [After Victory, Putin Steps Into Syrian Minefield](#)

May 1, 2019, Haaretz

Caught between a stalling U.S. pullout, Israeli 'alliance' and Idlib militias, Russian president finds his monopoly over Assad's resurgence may require some flexibility.

### [Israeli Air Force Strikes Gaza In Response To Incendiary Balloons, Rockets](#)

May 2, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The Israeli Air Force carried out a series of strikes north of the Gaza Strip on Wednesday night, according to the IDF. The strikes were in response to hundreds of incendiary balloons that Hamas launched at Israel on Wednesday.

## United States

### [US launches plan to choke off Iran's energy exports, casting uncertainty over oil prices](#)

May 2, 2019, CNBC

President Donald Trump restored Obama-era sanctions against Iran last year but granted waivers to eight nations, allowing them to import limited quantities of Iranian crude. Last week, his administration surprised the market by announcing it would not extend the waivers.

### [China's Xinjiang an 'enormous risk' for US business, Pompeo warns](#)

May 1, 2019, SCMP

US secretary of state cautions American companies to think twice before doing business in the Chinese region.

### ['Productive' end to latest round of US-China trade talks](#)

May 1, 2019, SCMP

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says 'it's good to be back here'. Outlook for a May deal looks positive, as US drops a key demand.

### [No evidence to suggest India using Afghan soil to create trouble in Pakistan: US](#)

May 1, 2019, The Indian Express

Commenting on Pakistan's allegations regarding India's role in creating trouble in Balochistan, Alice Wells urged regional countries to respect each other's sovereignty, without naming India, the Express Tribune reported.

### [Trump Sues 2 Banks To Block Democrats From Investigating His Finances](#)

April 30, 2019, NPR

President Trump has filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to keep two banks from responding to congressional subpoenas, setting up a legal showdown with Democrats eager to investigate his finances.

### [U.S. House backs Paris agreement in first climate bill in a decade](#)

May 2, 2019, CNBC

The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed its first climate change bill in a decade, voting 231-190 to require the Trump administration to keep the United States as a party to the Paris Climate Agreement.

## Europe & Russia

### [Brexit Party Soars in European Parliament Polls, 9 Points Ahead of Labour](#)

May 3, 2019, Mish Talk

Nigel Farage is continuing to smile after the latest polls for the EU elections continue to show the Brexit Party leading the way.

### [UK's May fires Defence Secretary Williamson over Huawei leak](#)

May 2, 2019, Al Jazeera

Dismissal is another blow to the PM who has been badly damaged by her failure to usher Britain smoothly out of the EU.

### [German conference on Islamic veil sparks controversy](#)

May 2, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Islamic veils are a hot topic in Germany, particularly due to a growing Muslim population. Now, outcry over an academic conference on the issue has surprised even its organizer, who says freedom of speech is at stake.

### [Merkel Partners Reject Trump's 'Weapon Fetishism' and NATO Goal](#)

May 3, 2019, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump has been blunt with his demands on German defense spending, accusing Berlin of owing "billions." Germany's Social Democrats, have just as clear a message: It's not going to happen.

### [Post-Spain elections, Catalan leaders urge talks with PM](#)

April 30, 2019, Al Jazeera

Moderate Catalan separatist parties boost their standing in Spain's national parliament in Sunday's general elections.

### [Ukraine's Zelenskiy: Border 'Only Thing Left in Common' With Russia](#)

May 3, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Russian-Ukrainian border is the only thing left in common between the peoples of the neighboring countries, Ukraine's President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy has said in response to remarks from President Vladimir Putin.

### [Russia's Oil Flows to Europe Drop Amid Contamination](#)

May 3, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia halted oil flows along the Druzhba pipeline to Eastern Europe and Germany last week because of contaminated crude, a move that helped lift global oil prices to a six-month high and left refiners in Europe scrambling to find supplies.

### [Decision to replace ambassador does not mean crisis in Russia-Belarus relations - Karasin](#)

May 3, 2019, TASS

The appointment of Russia's new ambassador to Belarus does not indicate any crisis in relations between the two countries, which continue to be partners and allies, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin said.

### [Pure Russian oil arrives in Belarus via Druzhba pipeline](#)

May 2, 2019, TASS

Good quality Russian oil reached the Belarusian border on May 2 via the Druzhba pipeline and is being supplied to the Mozyrsky oil refinery, Belarusian petrochemical company Belneftekhim said

## Africa & Latin America

### [UN Awards Peace Prize To Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy](#)

May 2, 2019, New Business Ethiopia

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) today announced awarding the 2019 Félix Houphouët-Boigny UNESCO Peace Prize to Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali.

### [Ethiopian Jews denied migration to Israel](#)

May 2, 2019, TRT World

Israel's government last year cancelled plans to allow more than 8,000 Jews of Ethiopian descent to move to the country.

### [African Union gives Sudan army 60 days to hand over power](#)

May 2, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The African Union (AU) yesterday gave the Sudanese Transitional Military Council another 60 days to hand over power to a civilian transitional authority or face the country's membership being suspended.

### [Sudanese military are not serious about power transfer: opposition](#)

May 1, 2019, Sudan Tribune

The Freedom and Change forces Tuesday said the Transitional Military Council (TMC) was not serious about handing over power to a civilian authority.

### [146 refugees evacuated from Libya to Italy as fighting continues](#)

May 5, 2019, CGTN

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says 146 refugees have been evacuated from Libya to Italy in a joint operation between itself and Italian and Libyan authorities.

### [Haftar ally UAE says 'extremist militias' control Libyan capital](#)

May 3, 2019, Al Jazeera

UAE and Egypt support renegade commander Khalifa Haftar who they see as a bulwark against armed groups in North Africa.

### [Uganda: Profiling US Meddling Across Africa](#)

May 2, 2019, Kampala Post

While China builds roads, rail, pipelines, airports, seaports, and factories across Africa, the United States finds itself resigned to selling weapons and stirring up

conflicts between and within African states to disrupt the rise of the continent independent of Western hegemony.

#### [Mexico warns of North American trade deal ratification delay](#)

May 3, 2019, Financial times

Mexico will be unable to ratify a new North American trade deal unless the US scraps the steel and aluminium tariffs it imposed last year, the country's top North American trade official has said.

#### [Homeland Security Plans to Pilot DNA Testing at the U.S.-Mexico Border](#)

May 2, 2019, TIME

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials will soon pilot a DNA testing program at the U.S.-Mexico border in an attempt to catch migrants traveling with children who are not their own.

#### [Clashes rock Venezuela as Guaido, Maduro vie for power](#)

May 1, 2019, AP

Opposition leader Juan Guaidó took a bold step to revive his movement to seize power in Venezuela, taking to the streets Tuesday to call for a military uprising that drew quick support from the Trump administration and fierce resistance from forces loyal to socialist Nicolas Maduro.

#### [Tension Grows Between U.S. and Russia Over Venezuela Standoff](#)

May 2, 2019, The Moscow Times

Lavrov and Pompeo trade warnings against interference as crisis continues.

#### [Argentina's problems don't end with its election](#)

May 3, 2019, Financial Times

If you were to ask investors what the biggest risk facing Argentina is today, they would probably point to the return of former president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner.

#### [Peru deports first large group of Venezuelan migrants](#)

May 3, 2019, Reuters

Peru deported more than 40 Venezuelan migrants for concealing they had criminal records or for residing illegally in the country, the interior minister said on Monday, in the first large expulsion since hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans fled to Peru to escape their country's economic crisis.



### [Cuban official highlights key areas for BRI cooperation](#)

May 1, 2019, Global Times

Cuba and China have identified three areas to enhance bilateral ties within the framework of the Belt and Road cooperation, a senior Cuban official said.



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