



Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group  
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# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

## Volume 3, Issue 21

### 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 election results 2019: Narendra Modi secures landslide win](#)

May 23, 2019, BBC News

Indian PM Narendra Modi has secured another five-year term after winning a landslide general election victory.

#### [Lok Sabha Election results 2019: Vote surge from 17 to 22 crore scripts BJP's historic victory](#)

May 24, 2019, The Indian Express

Lok Sabha Election Results 2019: Now there are only two castes – one poor, another who wants to eradicate poverty, says PM Narendra Modi in victory speech.

#### [Election result 2019: Nationalism, Hindutva, welfare power BJP to an even bigger victory](#)

May 24, 2019, The Times of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led BJP to an emphatic win in the Lok Sabha election, crushing challenger Congress and other regional rivals under a saffron juggernaut powered by a highvoltage campaign that ran on the themes of nationalism, Hindutva and welfare schemes for the poor.

#### [High-fives for Mr Modi](#)

May 23, 2019, Business Standard

The question is what Mr Modi has learnt from his first term, and whether that will make him more reformist in the second

#### [PM Modi's big win signals strong Indian GDP growth will continue](#)

May 24, 2019, The Economic Times

Despite hiccups, economic outlook looks positive for Modi, with GDP forecast to average around 7% per year.

#### [Japan, India, Sri Lanka to sign MoU for container terminal at Colombo Port : Reports](#)

May 21, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

This is part of China's Belt and Road initiative, an ambitious plan announced in 2013 by President Xi Jinping.

[New Delhi signals shift: From Afghan-led process to any process for peace](#)

May 23, 2019, The Indian Express

China and Russia have also hosted peace talks with Taliban representatives. Khalilzad recently briefed India – the third time in five months – and Chinese and Russian interlocutors have also engaged with Delhi on this issue.

[US-China trade war may lead to dumping of Chinese steel into India](#)

May 22, 2019, PV Magazine

The contraction in Chinese trade flows to the U.S. is likely to result in the dumping in India of Far Eastern electronic and electrical components as well as steel, iron, chemicals and plastic products.

[PSLV-C46 takes off successfully with India's earth observation satellite](#)

May 22, 2019, Business Standard

Satellite 'RISAT-2B' will beef up India's surveillance capabilities in the sky and help track and tackle hostile activity, such as infiltration or gathering of militants

## Pakistan

[PM Imran congratulates Modi, 'looks forward to working for peace' in the region](#)

May 23, 2019, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday congratulated India's premier Narendra Modi on his victory in the country's national elections.

[Pakistan conducts missile test but says it wants peace with India](#)

May 23, 2019, NBC News

Pakistan announced that it has conducted a test of a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, which it claims has a range of up to 1,500 miles.

[Pakistan steps up efforts as blacklist bid for terror financing looms](#)

May 21, 2019, The Economic Times

Pakistan has stepped up diplomatic efforts amid fears of being blacklisted by the global anti-terror watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at its next plenary and working group meet in Orlando on June 16-21.

### [Pakistan's Army to Deploy Division to Protect Economic Corridor with China](#)

May 20, 2019, Tasnim News Agency

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is set to become a crucial leg of the broader Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing's mega-project aiming to enhance "all-around connectivity through infrastructure construction".

### [\\$3.2bn Saudi oil facility to begin on July 1](#)

May 23, 2019, DAWN

The Saudi oil facility promised to Pakistan in October last year for supply of crude oil and its products on credit is set to begin from July 1, which will help partially offset increasing pressure on the exchange rate.

## Afghanistan

### [Deadly air raids kill civilians in Afghanistan: UN](#)

May 23, 2019, AL Jazeera

Air raids in Afghanistan's southern Helmand and eastern Kunar provinces have killed at least 14 civilians, the UN said.

### [India stands beside Afghanistan to emerge as peaceful, economically vibrant nation: Swaraj](#)

May 23, 2019, The Kabul Times

Terror, connectivity & Afghanistan were the main focus areas for India when External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj delivered speech at the Shanghai cooperation organization Foreign Ministers meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan yesterday.

### [Khalilzad to brief US Senate on Afghan peace efforts](#)

May 22, 2019, Afghanistan Times

US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad is appearing before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday for a closed hearing on the Afghan reconciliation process, said US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

### [Fall in Afghani Value Against Dollar 'Unprecedented'](#)

May 23, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

The value of Afghani against dollar has dropped by three percent in the local foreign exchange market over the past three months despite that the Central Bank has injected at least \$850 million into the currency market since the beginning of this year.

### [The security challenges of Afghanistan's reconstruction and development](#)

May 19, 2019, The Kabul Times

The current talks between the representatives of the Taliban and the US Government in Qatar are an important step but peace and stability are still beyond reach. Afghanistan's reconstruction and durable development requires a satisfactory level of security and tackling issues such as unemployment, corruption, and armed violence.

### [FM Rabbani praises Chinese development projects in Afghanistan](#)

May 23, 2019, The Kabul Times

Minister of Foreign Affairs Salahuddin Rabbani met deputy to International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China, Wang Yajuan, here in his office yesterday, BNA reported.

## **Bangladesh**

### [Bangladesh halts visas for Pakistani nationals amid diplomatic impasse](#)

May 21, 2019, The Economic Times

The diplomatic row between Bangladesh and Pakistan is on the rise since last year when Dhaka denied a visa to the Pakistan high commissioner.

### [Bangladesh blocks news websites in press freedom gag](#)

May 23, 2019, AL Jazeera

Authorities in Bangladesh have blocked at least two popular vernacular news websites in the past month.

### [Bangladesh: Scores of Rohingya children expelled from schools](#)

May 22, 2019, AL Jazeera

For years, government-run schools have quietly welcomed Rohingya refugee children. But recently, scores of children have been expelled.

### [Bangladesh supports Gambia's lead role in taking Rohingya issue to ICJ](#)

May 22, 2019, The Point

Bangladesh will extend its all-out support to Gambia as it is playing the lead role in taking the Rohingya issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for establishing the legal rights of Rohingyas and addressing the question of accountability and justice.

### [Bangladesh gets \\$400m in loans from ADB to build rail line](#)

May 23, 2019, BD News 24

The Asian Development Bank has signed an agreement with the government to provide \$400 million in loans to help build a dual-gauge railway connecting Chattogram and Cox's Bazar to promote trade, investment and tourism in Bangladesh.

### [China's BRI to boost economy: Gowher Rizvi](#)

May 19, 2019, Prothom Alo

Prime minister's international affairs adviser Gowher Rizvi on Saturday said the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched by Chinese president Xi Jinping, would help Bangladesh achieve its development goals showing the path where Bangladesh wants to go, reports UNB.

## Nepal

### [Nepal government proposes bills that endanger press freedom](#)

May 23, 2019, CPJ

The Committee to Protect Journalists today expressed concern about measures proposed by Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli's government in the Federal Parliament of Nepal that threaten press freedom, and urged legislators and the government to amend the proposals in accordance with civil society and media recommendations.

### [China-Nepal love affair](#)

May 24, 2019, The Pioneer

The deepening of ties between Kathmandu and Beijing is a serious setback for New Delhi. China scored one more goal but it's difficult to say how far this story will continue.

### [Nepal-China railway project will be executed: Envoy Hou](#)

May 24, 2015, The Himalayan Times

Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Hou Yanqi today said although building Nepal-China cross-border railway was not an easy job given the tough terrain, the Chinese side was determined to execute the construction work.



### [BRI boosts Nepal's infrastructure development](#)

May 24, 2019, China.org.cn

China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is becoming a viable instrument to enhance Nepal's infrastructure development essential to realize its national goal of Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali.

### [Democracy and Development in Nepal: Gagan Thapa](#)

May 21, 2019, Harvard Political Review

It is undeniable that Nepal has had a level of proximity with New Delhi historically. For example, New Delhi was overtly involved in the 1951, 1990, and 2006 pro-democracy movements in Nepal. The presence of China in Nepal, however, has been widely misunderstood as a new phenomenon. During the decades of 1960s through 1990s, India and China actually competed in providing economic and technical support for infrastructure development in Nepal. Of course, with the rise in China's ability and ambition, we should not be surprised that the scope and level of Chinese engagements in Nepal are increasing.

## Sri Lanka

### [SL renounces legal immunity to US military](#)

May 24, 2019, Daily Mirror

Foreign Affairs Minister Tilak Marapana had informed the US Government that Sri Lanka was no longer agreeable to grant legal immunity to American military personnel under the new Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), Leader of the House Lakshman Kiriella told Parliament

### [US only sought to amend 1995 agreement with SL - Official](#)

May 24, 2019, Daily Mirror

The United States has sought to amend the 1995 agreement with Sri Lanka on the status of Department of Defence (DoD) military personnel and civilian employees, only to include some additional privileges, such as the mutual recognition of professional licenses, fees for support services rendered, and regulations for hiring foreign and local contractors, a spokesman said.

### [No agreement to set up a US base in Sri Lanka - envoy](#)

May 23, 2019, Colombo Page

The United States has not reached any agreement to establish a permanent US military base in Sri Lanka, U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Alaina B. Teplitz said.

[Sri Lanka PM hopes bilateral ties with Australia continue to be strengthened under newly elected Australian PM](#)

May 23, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe congratulating the Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison who has secured a majority government on a shocking election victory in Saturday's election.

[Sri Lanka's HC in Pakistan refutes news report on halting Pakistan- Sri Lanka trade](#)

May 23, 2019, Colombo Page

The High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan has dismissed a Pakistani newspaper report titled "Pakistan's trade with Sri Lanka Comes to a halt", which appeared on May 20 as fake news.

[U.S., Sri Lanka express commitment to further strengthen partnership for mutual benefit](#)

Sat, May 18, 2019, ColomboPage

May 18, Washington, DC: The United States and Sri Lanka at their third Partnership Dialogue emphasized the importance of their bilateral relationship and expressed commitment to further strengthen the U.S.-Sri Lanka partnership for mutual benefit.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Xi congratulates Indian PM on party's election victory](#)

May 24, 2019, Xinhua Net

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday sent congratulations to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the victory of his Bharatiya Janata Party in the general elections.

#### [China-India ties to stay healthy](#)

May 20, 2019, Global Times

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be re-elected based on exit polls released on Sunday at the end of the 2019 Indian general election, and China-India relations will continue to develop in a healthy way no matter who wins, analysts said.

#### [China, EU sign milestone agreements on civil aviation cooperation](#)

May 21, 2019, Global Times

China and the European Commission on Monday signed two milestone agreements on civil aviation, marking an important step to implement the consensus reached by leaders from both sides during the China-EU Summit held last month.

#### [China slams US maritime provocations](#)

May 23, 2019, Global Times

Provocations from the US around China's territorial waters have grown, and Chinese experts warned on Thursday that such actions will only increase the risk of military conflict and do nothing for regional stability and peace.

#### [Chinese studying in US become 'political cannon fodder' as visa process tightens amid feud](#)

May 24, 2019, SCMP

Some university students have been stuck in limbo as the waiting time for visas grows longer and the US government demands more information. New Chinese student enrolment at US colleges and universities declines as the political climate sours.

## [How China Uses High-Tech Surveillance to Subdue Minorities](#)

May 22, 2019, The New York Times

The system sifted through billions of records, then displayed details of her education, family ties, links to an earlier case and recent visits to a hotel and an internet cafe.

## Japan

### [Can Japan stand up to US request to contain China?](#)

Global Times, May 23, 2019

China is not the only victim of the US-launched trade war. Japan is too. Setting aside US-Japan controversies in tariff cuts on automobiles, agricultural products and the fact that Washington failed to award immediate exemptions for Japanese products with US steel tariffs in 2018, quite a few products produced by Japanese companies in China are expected to be sold on the US market.

### [As Trump heads to Tokyo, Japan's firms brace for trade war impact](#)

May 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

Tokyo - United States President Donald Trump will visit Japan this weekend, a trip marked by pomp and ceremony. He's due to attend a sumo match, play golf with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and meet newly-crowned Emperor Naruhito.

### [Okinawa waits as U.S. Marines' move to Guam struck by delays](#)

May 24, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The move to set up a live-fire range on the island is part of a wider project to relocate thousands of U.S. Marines stationed in Okinawa Prefecture to Guam under a Japanese-U.S. agreement.

### [Kono presses S Korea on wartime labor issue](#)

May 24, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Thursday turned up the heat on South Korea in a dispute over compensation for wartime labor, pushing Seoul to agree to arbitration as Tokyo requested earlier.

### [Japan on high alert for drones and terrorism ahead of Trump's four-day visit](#)

May 23, 2019, Japan Times

The government is making full-fledged preparations to receive U.S. President Donald Trump as a state guest from Saturday and security personnel in the Tokyo metropolitan area are on high alert for any possible terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

### [Few Japanese firms plan to hire foreign workers under new immigration law, poll suggests](#)

May 23, 2019, Japan Times

Only 1 in 4 Japanese companies plan to actively employ foreign workers under a new government immigration program, a poll has found, complicating Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's efforts to ease the country's tightest job market in decades.

## **Korea**

### [Korea Joins New U.S.-Led Naval Drill in Pacific](#)

May 24, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The drill is apparently intended as a show of force against China's territorial expansionism in the South China Sea, ostensibly to ensure "freedom of navigation."

### [Moon lauds Bush's visit as strong Korea-US alliance](#)

May 23, 2019, Korea Herald

South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Thursday said former US President George W. Bush's attendance at a memorial service to commemorate the late South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun reflects strong alliance between the two countries.

### [Seoul urges Tokyo to accept WTO's ruling on Fukushima seafood ban](#)

May 24, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's trade minister has urged Japan to accept the World Trade Organization's decision that upheld Seoul's import restrictions on Japanese seafood following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Seoul's trade ministry said.

### [Intensifying US-Sino rivalry poses tricky challenge to Korea's diplomacy](#)

May 24, 2019, The Korea Times

An intensifying Sino-U.S. rivalry on trade, security and other fronts is posing an increasingly tricky foreign policy challenge to South Korea, as it strives to keep its defense alliance with Washington and strategic partnership with Beijing.

[North Korea: US should consider consequences of ship seizure](#)

May 22, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea's U.N. ambassador said Tuesday the Trump administration should consider the possible consequences that the recent U.S. seizure of a North Korean cargo ship could have on relations between the two countries and immediately return the vessel.

[North Korea to protest cargo ship seizure at UN](#)

May 21 2019, The Korea Times

North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Kim Song plans to raise his voice against Washington's recent seizure of a North Korean cargo ship by holding a press conference at the U.N. headquarters, Tuesday (local time in New York).

## **Southeast Asia**

[US-Japan vision for Indo-Pacific serves as foundation for global partnership: White House](#)

May 23, 2019, The Economic Times

The vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific that the United States and Japan share serves as the foundation for a global partnership that strengthens security, prosperity and order around the world, the White House has said.

[China-ASEAN Media Cooperation Through Science and Technology](#)

May 23, 2019, PR Newswire

2019 is the year of China-ASEAN Media Exchange Year. The "2019 China-ASEAN Media Cooperation Forum" held in Beijing on May 14 focused on the theme of "New Stage, New Trends and New Cooperation". The guests who attended the meeting shared their experience of how to tell the story of win-win cooperation in Asia truthfully, objectively and comprehensively. They also discussed the methods and provided suggestions for improving future media cooperation.

[How US-China trade war will hit Singapore](#)

May 23, 2019, The Straits Times

Mr David Low is glad he hedged his bets - otherwise the US-China trade war would have spelt disaster for his Singapore-based company.

## [Indo-Pacific region and elections in New Caledonia](#)

May 23, 2019, Modern Diplomacy

Elections in New Caledonia are more than just a local development and are a source of serious concern for both France and Australia.

## Central & West Asia

### [Indian envoy says relations with region have lasted for more than 2,000 years](#)

May 24, 2019, The Astana Times

Indian Ambassador to Kazakhstan Prabhat Kumar, who finds Central Asia to be India's extended neighbourhood, considers the region to be a very important one for his country strategically, economically and politically. The two nations, with many similarities in culture and traditions, have had a number of exchanges in the past and now have an opportunity to further develop relations.

### [China, Tajikistan should work together to build community of shared future for mankind: Chinese FM](#)

May 21, 2019, Global Times

The comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Tajikistan has reached a new level and the two countries should make more efforts in building a community of shared future for mankind, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

### [Lukashenko proposes Kazakhstan supply oil to Belarus](#)

May 24, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Belarus is holding talks on the delivery of oil from Kazakhstan and suggests stepping up these talks, Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko said as he met with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Belarus Yermukhamet Yertysbayev in Minsk on May 23.

### [Kazakh, foreign companies sign \\$9 billion in deals in Nur-Sultan](#)

May 20, 2019, The Astana Times

Forty-three agreements worth \$8.7 billion were signed between Kazakh and foreign companies in agriculture, trade, mining and metallurgy May 17 at the capital's 2019 Kazakhstan Global Investment Roundtable (KGIR). The event was organised by the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Kazakh Invest national company.

### [Tajikistan increases trade with CIS](#)

May 24, 2019, Azer News

The volume of trade turnover of Tajikistan with the CIS countries in January-April 2019 increased by 5.4 percent compared to the same period in 2018.



### [Kazakhstan developing special economic and industrial zones](#)

May 22, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

On May 21 at the meeting of the Government chaired by the Prime Minister Askar Mamin, the development of special economic zones and industrial zones was reviewed, the official website of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan reported.

### [Armenia violates ceasefire with Azerbaijan 23 times](#)

May 24, 2019, Azer News

Over the past 24 hours, Armenian armed forces have violated the ceasefire along the line of contact between Azerbaijani and Armenian troops 23 times, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said on May 24

### [Yemen's Civil War Is Spilling Deeper Into the Gulf Region](#)

May 20, 2019, Bloomberg

Yemen's four-year civil war is spilling deeper into the oil-rich Persian Gulf region. Saudi Arabia, with its Sunni majority, intervened to support the government of President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi; Iran, which has a Shiite majority, aids the Houthi rebels who took control of the capital, Sana'a, and other cities in 2015. Now a strike by the Yemeni rebels more than 400 miles inside Saudi Arabia has raised the prospect that Iran might be helping to arm them.

### [After Balloon Attacks, Israel Again Reduces Gaza Fishing Range](#)

May 23, 2019, Hamodia

The IDF reduced the range Gaza fishing vessels could ply to 10 nautical miles off the coast. The reduction was in response to Gaza terror balloon attacks that took place Wednesday. Israeli naval vessels moved closer to the coast, compacting the naval blockade against the Hamas-run terror enclave.

### [With Its National Security at Stake, Israel Takes Sides in U.S.-China Trade War](#)

May 24, 2019, Haaretz

Israel's security officials object to a Chinese infrastructure project in central Israel. What seems like a shift in policy comes amid growing U.S. concerns that China could strategically gain from such investments.

### [UAE, Saudi Arabia to attend US economic peace confab in Bahrain](#)

May 22, 2019, The Times of Israel

Abu Dhabi 'welcomes' announcement of summit, highlighting potential benefits to Palestinians — who are staying away; Riyadh to send its economic minister.

## [Trump May Expect Riyadh to Invest in Peace Deal, but Saudi Dollars Come at a High Price](#)

May 23, 2019, Haaretz

Trump hopes to raise \$68 billion for his 'deal of the century' in Bahrain conference, but it's unclear who's going to be pulling out the checkbook.

## [Iran says it will not surrender even if it is bombed](#)

May 23, 2019, Reuters

Iran will not surrender to U.S. pressure and will not abandon its goals even if it is bombed, President Hassan Rouhani said on Thursday, stepping up the war of words between the Islamic Republic and the United States.

## [How US-Iran tensions could disrupt Iraq's fragile peace](#)

May 23, 2019, Brookings

Tensions between the United States and Iran are escalating rapidly, particularly since U.S. warships were dispatched in response to reported threats against U.S. forces in Iraq from Iran and its proxies. The U.S. has withdrawn all non-emergency embassy staff from Iraq and, on Monday, a mortar attack by Iran's proxies in Baghdad, striking in the vicinity of the U.S. embassy, raised the prospects of a conflict on Iraqi soil even further.

## [Saudi Arabia wants to buy tons of American natural gas](#)

May 22, 2019, CNN

In a sign of shifting energy fortunes, Saudi Aramco announced a mega preliminary agreement on Wednesday to buy 5 million tons of liquefied natural gas per year from a Port Arthur, Texas export project that's under development.

## [Turkey to further develop relations with Latin America](#)

May 23, 2019, Daily Sabah

Turkey-Latin America relations are about to further develop with political, economic and social ties now expanding to a new level following Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu's recent official visits to the region. Until the 1990s, Turkey's relations with the region had been friendly but stagnant, mainly due to geographical distance and differences in foreign policy priorities. Over the last 20 years, in line with its multidimensional foreign policy, Turkey has been pursuing a more active opening policy toward the region with a view to strengthening relations with Latin American countries.

## United States

### [Donald Trump planning more restrictions on US tech exports to China as trade war friction continues](#)

May 24, 2019, SCMP

Commerce Department expected to roll back rules making it easier for US companies to export goods that have both civilian and military purposes. It may also end policy of approving export licences for such goods if they go to civilian use and instead require reviews on case-by-case basis.

### [Trump arrives in Japan with his Asia policy in tatters, to Abe's benefit](#)

May 24, 2019, CNN

Shinzo Abe's long game is paying off. Only a year ago, the Japanese Prime Minister was looking like the odd one out as US President Donald Trump cozied up to China's Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

### [The Trump Administration May Bypass Congress to Export Weapons to Gulf States](#)

May 24, 2019, TIME

The White House may bypass Congress to export billions of dollars of weapons to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that are now on hold.

### [Senator claims Trump may use Iran threat to sell bombs to Saudis without Congress' approval](#)

May 22, 2019, CNBC

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration plans to use a loophole and rising tensions with Iran to sell bombs to Saudi Arabia, Senator Chris Murphy said.

### [Pompeo on tensions with Iran: 'The threat is real'](#)

May 23, 2019, Fox News

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in an interview Thursday with "Fox & Friends," addressed mounting tensions between the United States and Iran -- saying the threat from the regime is "real" and "credible."

### [U.S. Urges Korea to Help Restrain China's Territorial Ambitions](#)

May 24, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The U.S. is putting Korea under more pressure in its nascent cold war against China, asking for support in keeping China's territorial expansion in the South China Sea in check.

### [Trump Gives Farmers \\$16 Billion in Aid Amid Prolonged China Trade War](#)

May 23, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump on Thursday unveiled a \$16 billion bailout for farmers hurt by his trade war with Beijing, signaling a protracted fight ahead that is already prompting some American companies to shift business away from China.

### [US closely watching for N. Korea's possible financial sanction violations](#)

May 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said President Donald Trump has firm willingness to implement sanctions against North Korea, in another signal that the country will not pursue sanctions relief in order to resume nuclear talks.

### [U.S., Iran Conflict Intensifies Amid Talk of Troop Deployment](#)

May 23, 2019, US News

New threats from Tehran follow reports the White House is considering sending 10,000 troops to the region.

### [Why Are Leading Democrats Supporting Trump on Venezuela?](#)

May 24, 2019, The Nation

But the administration's hawks, led by National Security Adviser John Bolton, special adviser for Venezuela Elliot Abrams, and Florida GOP Senator Marco Rubio, have certainly not given up. So, no one should be surprised when the blustering Trump once again threatens the Venezuelan people with war unless they rise up and throw out their president.

### [Julian Assange, Wikileaks co-founder, faces 17 new charges in US](#)

May 24, 2019, BBC News

The US justice department has filed 17 new charges against Wikileaks co-founder Julian Assange, who is facing extradition from the UK.

## Europe & Russia

### [Voting begins in European elections](#)

May 16, 2019, Al Jazeera

This year's polls have generated a level of drama and debate normally reserved for the national stage.

### [EU citizens in UK denied vote in European elections](#)

May 23, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Rights groups have condemned the chaos, saying UK authorities have failed to guarantee the vote. Britons in the EU's 27 other countries also experienced irregularities, including postal votes "gone missing."

### [British Prime Minister Theresa May expected to resign over Brexit fallout – but why now?](#)

May 24, 2019, ABC News

After almost three years as Prime Minister, Theresa May's tenacity has seen her survive a number of political setbacks.

### [EU Deploys Border Guards on Albania-Greece Border](#)

May 22, 2019, Greek Reporter

Teams from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, or Frontex, will patrol Albania's borders with Greece for the first time, it was announced on Tuesday in Tirana. The newly-placed officers will patrol areas for illegal immigration and also keep an eye out for criminal activity in the region.

### [Italy's Salvini says government will not collapse after EU vote: paper](#)

May 23, 2019, The Guardian

Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said on Wednesday that the government will not collapse after European parliament elections on May 26, seeking to quell fears of an imminent political crisis.

### [Angela Merkel says Europe needs to 'stand up' against far right as Austrian government falls](#)

May 19, 2019, ABC News

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says Europe needs to push back against the far right, amid a political crisis that has claimed Austria's government.

## [Could US sanctions on Iran create new migrant crisis for Europe?](#)

May 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iranian foreign policy ignites its fair share of Twitter storms. But when a member of President Hassan Rouhani's administration said earlier this month that the country's deepening economic crisis could lead to the expulsion of millions of Afghans from Iran, the criticism hit social media like a flash flood.

## Africa & Latin America

### [China invites Brazil to take part in its second import expo](#)

May 23, 2019, CGTN

China has invited Brazil to participate in the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) later this year and Brazil encourages its companies to take part, according to a statement released on Thursday following a meeting between Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan and his Brazilian counterpart Hamilton Mourao.

### [Venezuela's Maduro proposes early National Assembly vote](#)

May 21, 2019, BBC News

Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has proposed bringing forward next year's election for the opposition-controlled National Assembly.

### [Cuba gets 80 Chinese-built carriages as it looks to revive its once-great rail network](#)

May 24, 2019, Japan Times

Cuba's railway system is undergoing a major overhaul, with the government pushing a program to revamp the decrepit and aging network with new cars and locomotives in the hope of restoring a rail service that was once the envy of Latin America.

### [Venezuela opposition envoy meets with US officials](#)

May 21, 2019, Financial Times

A key member of Venezuela's opposition met officials from the Pentagon and the US state department on Monday as diplomatic efforts continued in search of a solution to the stand-off between President Nicolás Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaidó.

### [U.S. tells foreign firms to stop jet fuel trading with Venezuela: sources](#)

May 24, 2019, Reuters

The United States told some large foreign firms this week they should stop trading jet fuel with Venezuela or face sanctions, according to two industry sources, ratcheting up pressure intended at removing Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro from power.

### [Maduro says U.S. seeks to destroy Venezuela state-backed food programme](#)

May 24, 2019, Reuters

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday accused the United States of seeking to destroy a food aid programme that the government of the crisis-stricken OPEC nation says feeds some 6 million families.

### [Argentina's contracting economy will likely sway voters](#)

May 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

Argentina's economy may keep shrinking - and that's likely to impact the presidential election.

### [Dispute Over Oil Deposits Raises Somalia-Kenya Tension](#)

May 23, 2019, VOA

The Somali government says it's not ready to take any action that could threaten its relationship with its neighbor Kenya. The announcement comes amidst simmering tensions over potential offshore oil deposits and an incident where Somali government officials and diplomats were denied entry to Kenya this week.

### [Zimbabwe hikes fuel prices again as crisis deepens](#)

May 22, 2019, ENCA

Zimbabwe on Tuesday announced a fresh increase in fuel prices, months after a price hike triggered nationwide protests and a brutal security crackdown as the country's economic woes deepen further.

### [UN envoy: 'Libya a textbook example of foreign intervention'](#)

May 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United Nations' envoy to Libya has bitterly denounced the conflict raging in the North African country, describing it as a "suicide" that was robbing its inhabitants of the land's vast oil riches.

### [Moscow concerned over Haftar's 'purge' plan as UN warns Libya is heading towards civil war](#)

May 23, 2019, RT

A plan by Libyan National Army commander Khalifa Haftar to wipe out "terrorists" has sparked concern in Moscow as it is unclear who is considered a target. It comes as the UN warns that Libya is on the verge of a new civil war.



['Macron is responsible' for Tripoli battle casualties, says militia commander](#)

May 23, 2019, Euro News

French President Emmanuel Macron "is responsible" for the casualties in Libya, a fighter loyal to the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) told Euronews, condemning the French leader's meeting with rebel general Khalifa Haftar.

[Russia's envoy to Libya: Haftar can't take Tripoli](#)

May 23, 2019, The Libya Observer

The Russian special envoy to Libya Lev Dengov said Khalifa Haftar's attack on Tripoli had stalled and he can't take the Libyan capital.

[Libya's ambassador to UN: Haftar's Tripoli offensive is a coup against legitimacy](#)

May 22, 2019, The Libya Observer

The Libyan ambassador to the UN, Al-Mahdi Al-Mijirbi said Tuesday that the attack that has been launched by Khalifa Haftar against Tripoli since April 04 is a coup against legitimacy and undermines the political process, adding that it aims to bring Libya back to totalitarian and military rule.

[DR Congo: 'No time to lose' says newly appointed UN Ebola response coordinator](#)

May 23, 2019, UN News

Amidst a surge in new cases, the epidemic has claimed more than 1,200 lives and threatens to spread to other provinces in the east, as well as neighbouring countries. A third of those infected have been children; a higher proportion than during previous outbreaks.



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