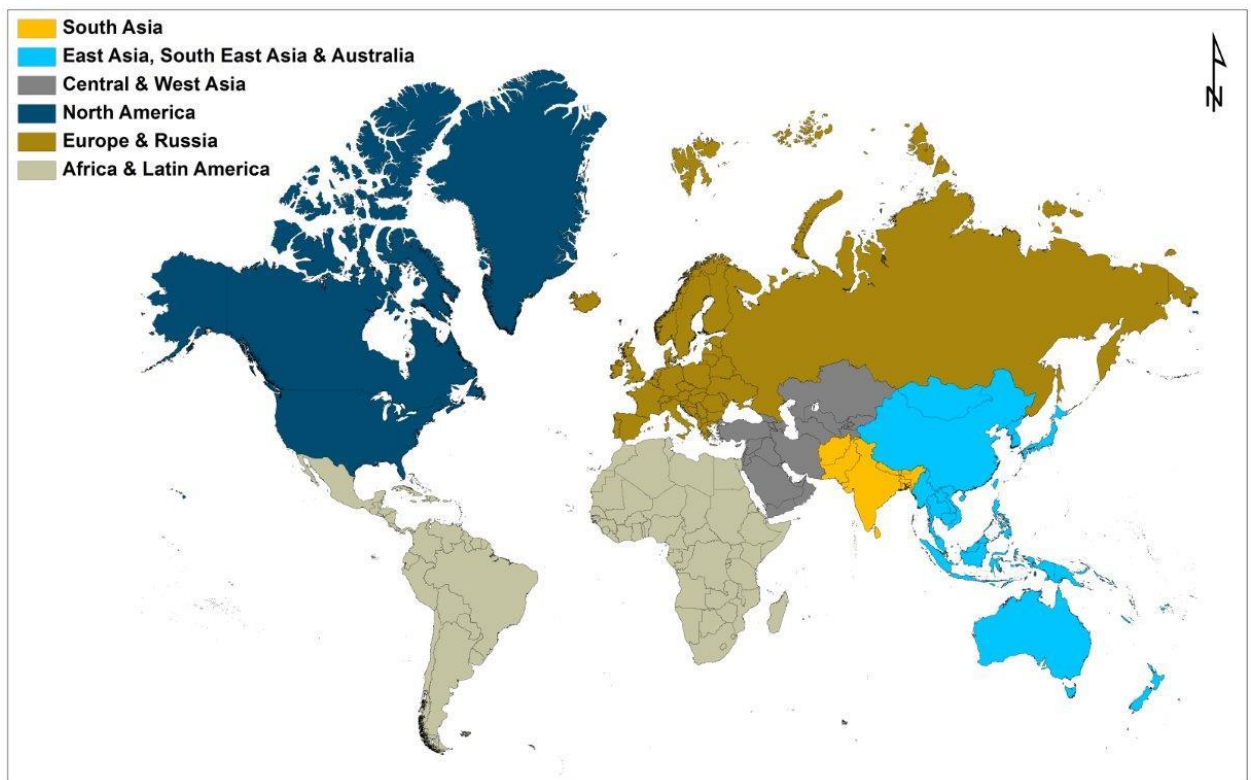




Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 23 | June 07, 2019



# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

## Volume 3, Issue 23

### 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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## Contents

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| South Asia.....              | 1  |
| East & South East Asia.....  | 8  |
| Central & West Asia.....     | 13 |
| United States.....           | 16 |
| Europe & Russia.....         | 18 |
| Africa & Latin America ..... | 21 |

## South Asia

### India

#### [PM's Maldives visit: Cricket, connectivity and defence top focus](#)

June 7, 2019, Zee News

PM Modi, in his first foreign visit after the Lok Sabha election, will be leaving for the Maldives and Sri Lanka on Saturday. This will be an India PM's first state visit to the Maldives in eight years. Former PM Manmohan Singh visited the island nation in 2011.

#### [Modi's visit to Male, Colombo can affirm the salience of the Indian Ocean island states](#)

June 7, 2019, The Indian Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit abroad in his second term to Maldives and Sri Lanka is being billed as the reaffirmation of Delhi's traditional diplomatic emphasis on "neighbourhood first". Hopefully, it is a little more than that – an effort to redefine what our neighbourhood is.

#### [Mike Pompeo to visit India this month, aims to strengthen US-India relationship](#)

June 6, 2019, Live Mint

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will also be visiting New Delhi on 25-26 June. Pompeo aims to prepare the ground for the Modi-Trump meeting in Osaka

#### [India-US Ties: Top US official to address issues related to Iran, Russia and trade matters](#)

June 4, 2019, Financial Express

Wide range of issues including the sanctions on Iran and Russia, the withdrawal of the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) trade status will be the focus of talks when the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visits India later this month.

#### [US agrees to expand defence trade cooperation with India](#)

June 5, 2019, Business Standard

The United States on Tuesday agreed to increase the defence trade relationship with India and batted for a broader security partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### [India's pursuit of a leading power status is linked to its role in the neighbourhood](#)

June 7, 2019, Hindustan Times

Ensure more diplomacy at home rather than abroad to infuse decisions on reforms with a global perspective

### [S Jaishankar: Saarc has some problems, Bimstec has energy](#)

June 7, 2019, The Times of India

A greater focus on the immediate neighborhood predicated on connectivity with BIMSTEC rather than SAARC as the focus area, and using foreign policy to facilitate new markets were some of the priorities spelled out by new foreign minister S Jaishankar.

### [India lodges strong protest with Pakistan for harassing guests at Iftar party in Islamabad](#)

June 2, 2019, The Indian Express

Calling it a violation of diplomatic norms and protocols, Bisaria said that it "was against all norms of civilized behaviour...and entirely counter-productive for our bilateral relationship".

### [Modi's Problems at Home Overshadow Trump's Latest Trade Threat to India](#)

June 1, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump has made India the latest target in his widening global trade war, but the country's newly re-elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has bigger problems to address.

### [Modi Reimagines India's Role in the World](#)

June 4, 2019, Foreign Policy

No longer just a balancer, the prime minister wants to make India a major power in its own right. And his cabinet pick shows he's serious about doing so.

## **Pakistan**

### [No meeting arranged between PM Imran, Modi at SCO summit: India](#)

June 6, 2019, Geo News

The Indian foreign ministry on Thursday said that no meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek.

### [PM Imran Khan asks nation to stand united against economic crisis](#)

June 5, 2019, Geo News

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday wished the nation on Eid and urged them to stand united against the economic crisis.

### [PM Khan appreciates Pakistan military's voluntary stringent cuts in defence expenditures](#)

June 5, 2019, Geo News

Prime Minister Imran Khan said Tuesday he was very appreciative of the Pakistan military's "unprecedented voluntary initiative of stringent cuts in their defence expenditures" especially in light of the country's financial situation.

### [COAS Bajwa says voluntary cut in defence budget will not impact response potential](#)

June 5, 2019, Geo News

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said there would be no impact to the military's response potential due to the voluntary cut in the defence budget.

### [Bank accounts promise to Afghan refugees in Pakistan comes true](#)

June 5, 2019, DAWN

The SBP spokesperson, Abid Qamar, said that this was the first time banking services would be offered to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. "This will also help us keep a record of transactions," he added.

### [Afghan President says he will visit Pakistan on June 27](#)

June 4, 2019, Radio Pakistan

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani says he will visit Pakistan on 27th of this month. In a message to mark Eid al-Fitr today, the Afghan President hoped the visit will be positive. He said the visit was agreed on after he met Prime Minister Imran Khan last week on the sidelines of a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Saudi Arabia.

## **Afghanistan**

### [Ghani, Imran hold rare talks](#)

June 2, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The leaders of the two neighboring countries, President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan held their first face-to-face talks Friday on the sidelines of an annual summit of Islamic countries in Saudi Arabia.

### [Improved Af-Pak ties key to regional stability: Khalilzad](#)

June 2, 2019, Afghanistan Times

US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad has welcomed recent meeting between President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting in Saudi Arabia.

### ["NUG scrambling with legitimacy"](#)

June 3, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Some political parties and figures say that the government of President Ghani would be illegal after its term finished on May 22, asking for a caretaker administration to run the country's affairs until a new leader comes to power following the September 28 presidential elections.

### [US Representative in Pakistan to Discuss Afghan Peace Process](#)

June 3, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Zalmay Khalilzad, the United States' Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, arrived here on Sunday to facilitate a peace process that ends the 19 years of war in Afghanistan.

### [Abdullah Reacts to Intra-Afghan Meeting of Moscow](#)

June 3, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Reacting to the Intra-Afghan meeting in Moscow, Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive of the country, said that no changes have come in the Taliban's position and they still stress on continuing the war.

## **Bangladesh**

### [Historic 6-Point Day today](#)

June 7, 2019, Prothom Alo

The historic Six-Point Day, marking the demand for autonomy for the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, is being observed on Friday across the country in a befitting manner.

### [UK concerned over rights situation, democratic environment in Bangladesh](#)

June 6, 2019, Prothom Alo

The UK has raised concern on the human rights situation and shrinking democratic environment in Bangladesh. It also said the 11th general election was

'affected by numerous credible allegations of irregularities and by significant violence'.

#### [Berlin Conference: Dhaka for climate justice, compensation](#)

June 5, 2019, The Independent.bd

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has asked for climate justice that needs to be established and demanded compensation and adequate financial and other assistance for adaptation measures, UNB reports.

#### [PM asks expats to counter BNP-Jamaat's anti-Bangladesh propaganda](#)

June 7, 2019, The Independent.bd

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has accused BNP-Jamaat nexus of spearheading propaganda against the country and urged expatriate Bangladeshis and particularly Awami League activists abroad to effectively counter them, as he joined overnight a community reception in Finland, BSS reports.

#### [Bangladesh, Finland to work together on climate change](#)

June 4, 2019, The Independent.bd

The consensus came at a meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Finland President Sauli Niinisto at the President's official residence in Helsinki.

#### [Modi likely to visit Bangladesh](#)

June 1, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

As part of his government's "neighbourhood first" policy, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said he will visit Bangladesh soon to raise the relationship between the two countries to an "unprecedented new height."

## **Nepal**

#### [Fuel trade with India via pipeline soon](#)

June 6, 2019, The Himalayan

A high-level meeting between officials of Nepal Oil Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation will be held in the first week of July to set the date for official commencement of the cross-border petroleum project.

#### [China sends back Nepali workers from Taklakot after murder of Chinese woman](#)

June 6, 2019, Setopati

China has restricted entry of locals from Humla after murder of a Chinese woman. Tirtha Khadera of Sarkideu in Sarkegad rural municipality was arrested in Taklakot of Tibet where he had gone to work on charge of murdering a Chinese



woman in the third week of May, according to Assistant Chief District Officer (CDO) of Humla Mahesh Kumar Pokharel.

#### [Nepal's undecided decision-makers](#)

June 7, 2019, Nepali Times

Actually, our ministers are hard at work behind the scenes trying not to take any major decisions. This is an ingenious strategic move by the government so that they do not make any mistakes.

#### [Nepal looks to limit Everest access after deaths, but doubts linger](#)

June 5, 2019, Standard

Under pressure after a deadly season on traffic-clogged Mount Everest, Nepal is considering tightening access to the world's highest peak, but mountaineering experts fear the proposed changes could amount to little more than lip service.

#### [Nepal-India transit, trade treaties and RSA to be amended](#)

June 6, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Nepal and India are set to amend Trade Treaty, Transit Treaty and Railway Service Agreement (RSA) between the two countries on a reciprocal basis.

#### [Nepal in Dilemma Over Participation in Indo-Pacific Strategy](#)

June 6, 2019, Nepali Sansar

As per US reports, Nepal is indeed a part of the defense strategy grouping. In its 'Indo Pacific Strategy Report', US stated that Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh agreed to participate in the upcoming events of the strategy.

## **Sri Lanka**

#### [Sri Lanka to obtain \\$ 310 million loan from World Bank to improve country's resilience to extreme climate events](#)

June 6, 2019, Colombo Page

The Government of Sri Lanka plans to invest US\$ 310 million in a multi-phase project to improve country's resilience to extreme climate events and the government's capacity to respond to disasters effectively.

#### [Australian Minister meets Sri Lanka PM, assures ongoing support to rebuild](#)

June 4, 2019, Colombo Page

Visiting Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton assured to continued support to Sri Lanka when he met with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at Temple Trees.

### [UK eases travel restrictions on Sri Lanka](#)

June 6, 2019, Colombo Page

The United Kingdom is no longer advising British travelers and tourists against all but essential travel to Sri Lanka, the British High Commission in Colombo said today.

### [President asked new envoys to re-assure world on Lanka's security conditions](#)

June 7, 2019, News.lk

President Maithripala Sirisena has asked new Sri Lankan Ambassadors and High Commissioners to remove dispel apprehensions abroad about Sri Lanka's security situation and urge every country to lift travel advisories.

### [The healing touch: on Muslim Ministers resigning in Sri Lanka](#)

June 6, 2019, The Hindu

The mass resignation of two Muslim governors and nine Ministers in Sri Lanka deepens a new fault line that has emerged in the island nation after the Easter Sunday blasts perpetrated by a fanatical Islamist group. Sinhala Buddhist hardliners had demanded that the Governors, Azath Salley and M.L.A.M. Hizbullah, and Cabinet Minister Rishad Bathiudeen, be removed for allegedly backing the terrorist group and interfering with the investigation.

### ['Conflicts Between Intelligence Units & Government' – Patali](#)

June 7, 2019, On Lanka

Speaking during an event in Kandy yesterday Minister Ranawaka said the first threat against national security was the murder of two Policemen while on duty in Batticaloa last year.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Chinese President Xi arrives in St. Petersburg for economic forum](#)

June 7, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday arrived in St. Petersburg after his visit to Moscow, capital of Russia.

#### [China, Russia agree to upgrade relations for new era](#)

June 5, 2019, Xinhua Net

China and Russia agreed on Wednesday to upgrade their relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era.

#### [China-Russia statement on global strategic stability shows willingness to safeguard multilateralism](#)

June 6, 2019, Global Times

The statement on strengthening contemporary global strategic stability between China and Russia sent the world a strong message of the two countries to safeguard multilateralism and the international order, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

#### [China appreciates Singaporean PM's remarks at Shangri-La Dialogue](#)

June 3, 2019, Xinhua Net

China voiced its appreciation of Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's China-related remarks at the opening ceremony of this year's Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore.

#### [China urges U.S. to stop arms sales to Taiwan, sever military ties](#)

June 6, 2019, Xinhua Net

China urged the United States to stop arms sales to Taiwan and sever its military ties with the island.

[Xi expounds China's position on Syrian conflict, Venezuelan crisis, Iran's nuclear issue](#)

June 5, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded China's position on the Syrian conflict, the Venezuelan crisis and Iran's nuclear issue during a joint interview with Russian media in Beijing.

[China hopes DPRK, U.S. to work for progress toward political settlement of Korean Peninsula issue](#)

June 5, 2019, Xinhua Net

China said that it hopes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States will meet each other half way, continue to act on their consensus and work for advancement toward a political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue.

[Meng's extradition 'violates Canadian law'; Huawei accuses Canada of procedure abuse](#)

June 7, 2019, Global Times

A Huawei spokesperson confirmed Friday morning that Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou will challenge her extradition to the US on fraud charges in January 2020, and reiterated that since the allegations against her do not constitute a crime in Canada, she "should be released immediately."

[U.S. deadline extension does not change nature of tariff hike: China customs tariff office](#)

June 6, 2019, Xinhua Net

The Office of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on Thursday said that a technical measure by the United States to maintain the additional 10-percent tariff on some imported Chinese goods did not change the nature of its tariff hike.

## Japan

[Abe hits milestone with 3rd-longest tenure](#)

June 6, 2019, The Japan News

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe became the nation's third longest-serving leader on Thursday, tying with the first prime minister, Hirobumi Ito.

[Amid Iran-U.S. standoff, Abe to play mediator in Tehran in first visit for a Japan PM since revolution](#)

June 6, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit Iran from June 12, the government said Thursday, the first trip to the country by an incumbent Japanese prime minister in over four decades.

[Shanahan, Abe reaffirm resolve over Indo-Pacific region](#)

June 4, 2019, The Japan News

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan agreed Tuesday to strengthen bilateral cooperation to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific region, in a bid to counter China's growing influence.

[Putin says process toward peace pact with Japan challenging](#)

June 7, 2019, The Mainichi

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday he wants to conclude a postwar peace treaty with Japan but that the process is challenging due to Tokyo's military cooperation with Washington.

[Japan unable to propose Abe-Kim summit to N. Korea at security forum](#)

June 7, 2019, The Mainichi

The Japanese government was unable to directly propose arranging a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un after Pyongyang pulled its officials out of a two-day security conference held in Mongolia through Thursday.

[Defense minister calls for stronger surveillance of North Korea's smuggling efforts](#)

June 1, 2019, The Japan News

Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya on Saturday called for ensuring the effectiveness of U.N. Security Council sanctions resolutions on North Korea, and said the international community needs to work harder to monitor North Korean ships engaged in illegal ship-to-ship transfers of goods on the high seas.

[Japan pledges close cooperation with U.S., ROK over North Korea](#)

June 2, 2019, The Japan News

Defense chiefs from Japan, the United States and South Korea on Sunday pledged close cooperation between the three countries to denuclearize North Korea.

## Korea

### [Japan, US, Australia urge N. Korea to return to nuclear talks](#)

June 2, 2019, The Mainichi

The Japanese, U.S. and Australian defense chiefs urged North Korea on Saturday to return to denuclearization negotiations that have been at a standstill following the collapse of a second summit between Washington and Pyongyang in late February.

### [Seoul denies reports of impending visit by Xi Jinping](#)

June 6, 2019, The Korea Herald

The South Korean presidential office on Thursday denied reports that Chinese President Xi Jinping has confirmed plans to visit Seoul before the G-20 summit.

### [S.Korea 'Idle' in Crackdown on N.Korean Smuggling](#)

June 7, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

South Korea is quietly staying out of a multinational crackdown on North Korea's illegal ship-to-ship transfers of banned goods, according to Japan.

### [Korea Stumped as U.S.-China Trade War Escalates](#)

June 7, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The Foreign Ministry here is either keeping its strategy for dealing with the escalating U.S.-China trade war very quiet or is burying its head in the sand.

### [N.Korea Wants 3 Million Tons of Food or Nothing](#)

June 7, 2019,

The North has put itself into a bind by on the one hand complaining about a food shortage, real or imagined, to the UN, and on the other boasting at home about its self-sufficiency and "bustling" stores.

## Southeast Asia

### [The 2019 Shangri-La Dialogue: Reflections on Great Power Rivalry and the Indo-Pacific](#)

June 6, 2019, The Diplomat

The Indo-Pacific, China-U.S. rivalry, the South Pacific, the South China Sea, and more loomed large this year.

[US arms sales jeopardize cooperation, stability in Asia-Pacific](#)

June 4, 2019, Global Times

The US Department of Defense announced on Friday the sale of 34 surveillance drones to four countries in the South China Sea region - Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

[Abe, Duterte agree on N. Korea, China](#)

June 1, 2019, The Japan News

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte agreed on Friday to cooperate in addressing issues involving North Korea and China.

[Japan, Philippines agree to work toward free, open Indo-Pacific](#)

June 1, 2019, The Mainichi

Japan and the Philippines agreed Friday to work toward achieving a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region by strengthening security cooperation.

[Japanese, S. Korean defense chiefs meet in Singapore amid strains](#)

June 1, 2019, The Mainichi

Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya met Saturday with his South Korean counterpart Jeong Kyeong Doo, with relations between the two countries deteriorating over contentious history and defense issues.

## Central & West Asia

### [SCO member states hold 7th border service meeting in Uzbekistan](#)

June 6, 2019, Global Times

The heads of border services of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held their 7th meeting on Thursday here in Tashkent, the organization said in a statement.

### [Turkmen president: Turkmenistan's geostrategic role is growing](#)

June 7, Trend News

Today, the geostrategic role of Turkmenistan on the Eurasian continent as an important intersection of transit and transport corridors is growing, Trend reports referring to the local Altyn Asyr TV channel, which in turn quotes President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

### [EEU member countries, China agree on cooperation in the movement of goods](#)

June 7, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

In the framework of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia on June 6, the Agreement on Exchange of Information on Goods and Vehicles of International Transport Moved across the Customs Borders of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and the People's Republic of China was signed, the official website of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan reported.

### [The EU's new Central Asia strategy: What does it mean for trade?](#)

June 7, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Although there has been some progress in recent years, the economic and trade relations between the European Union and Central Asia countries have a big, unused potential that needs to be fully used for the benefit of both parties a strategy: What does it mean for trade?

### [Congressman: Azerbaijan key global security partner for U.S.](#)

June 6, 2019, Azer News

U.S. Congressman from the Democratic Party and Co-Chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus Steve Cohen made a speech on the occasion of the 101st anniversary of the Republic Day - the national holiday of Azerbaijan, Trend reports referring to the Embassy of Azerbaijan to the U.S..

### [Tajikistan and Iran resume air communication as bilateral ties improve](#)

June 7, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

An Iranian Vares Airlines flight landed in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, on June 6 marking the resumption of air travel between the two countries after an eight-month pause, RFE/RL's Tajik Service reported.



### [UAE, Uzbekistan joint task forces meet](#)

June 5, 2019, Arab News

Intensive meetings of the joint task forces of the UAE and Uzbekistan governments held lately resulted in identifying a series of practical steps to transfer the UAE's pioneering experience in government work to Uzbekistan within three years in line with implementing the partnership agreement in government modernization between the two countries.

### [Armenia fails to see economic benefits of just settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict](#)

June 4, 2019, Azer News

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

### [Saudi Arabia, UAE, Norway tell UN Security Council tanker attacker 'most likely a state actor'](#)

June 7, 2019 , Arab News

The United Arab Emirates told United Nations Security Council members on Thursday that attacks on four tankers off its coast on May 12 bore the hallmarks of a "sophisticated and coordinated operation," most likely by a state actor.

### [Saudi Arabia buying new missile technology from China: Report](#)

June 5, 2019, Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia has significantly escalated its ballistic missile programme by buying technology from China, according to a US media report.

### [Yemen's Houthis claim to take positions in Saudi Arabia](#)

June 5, 2019, Andoulou Agency

Yemen's Houthi rebel group on Wednesday claimed to have captured 20 military positions inside Saudi Arabia's southwestern Najran province.

### [Aipac, J Street Support Restoring Israel-Palestine Peace Dialogue Funding](#)

June 7, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

An array of pro-Israel groups are backing a bipartisan bill that would seed investment in the Palestinian areas and restore funding to peace dialogue programming that the Trump administration removed as a punitive measure against the Palestinians.

### [Qatari economy shrugs off blockade impact](#)

June 5, 2019, The Peninsula Qatar

It has been two years since the Arab Quartet imposed an unjust blockade on Qatar and has miserably failed to achieve any of their objectives.

### [Israel Prevents Hamas-Affiliated Group From Receiving UN Status](#)

June 7, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Israel's Mission to the UN led a diplomatic effort to prevent a Hamas-aligned group called "The Palestinian Association for Human Rights - Witness" from receiving a prestigious status at the UN.

## United States

### [U.S. commander says American forces face 'imminent' threat from Iran](#)

June 7, 2019, NBC News

The top commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East says he believes the Iranians or their proxies may orchestrate an attack at any moment.

### [Donald Trump says US is not seeking war with Iran](#)

June 5, 2019, The Guardian

Donald Trump has told British officials he is not seeking a military confrontation with Iran and is instead aiming for direct talks with Tehran over his plan to negotiate and broaden the country's nuclear deal.

### [Low inflation "a more pressing problem" in developed economies, New York Fed president says](#)

June 7, 2019, Xinhua Net

Low inflation "a more pressing problem" in developed economies, New York Fed president says. Low inflation has become a pressing problem in developed economies, creating challenges for central banks in combating any possible economic downturn, New York Federal Reserve (Fed) President John Williams said.

### [US economy reigns supreme but IMF warns of growing risks](#)

June 6, 2019, Business Standard

The US economy is expanding faster than any other advanced nation, and in weeks will hit a historic milestone, but the International Monetary Fund and many economists are warning of building signs of trouble.

### [Trump still threatening tariffs on Mexico -- and more on China](#)

June 6, 2019, CNN

President Donald Trump said Thursday talks are going well with Mexico but that he's prepared to enact new tariffs -- a move that faces opposition from his own party and risks the strong economy he's counting on heading into the 2020 presidential campaign.

### [Decision on next China tariffs on \\$325 billion imports after G20: Trump](#)

June 6, 2019, Live Mint

US, Chinese negotiators hit an impasse in trade talks last month, which Trump said happened because Beijing reneged on provisions of a tentative deal.

### [Trump Blames India, China for Pollution, Says US Has the Cleanest Climate](#)

June 6, 2019, News 18

Trump has rolled back environmental regulations and pulled the United States out of the Paris climate accord since his surprise election in 2016.

### [Trade may triple with UK in a 'great and comprehensive' post-Brexit deal: Trump](#)

June 4, 2019, Live Mint

Trump has advocated for the U.K. to leave the European Union and aligned himself with some of its staunchest Brexit proponents.

### [Modi's Victory Is America's Opportunity](#)

May 29, 2019, National Interest

America's relationship with India has the greatest potential upside of any in the world today. Facing the reality of long-term competition with an assertive and illiberal China, strategic logic compels a closer bond with the Indo-Pacific's largest democracy, one that is increasing its economic and military muscle. For all the partisan disagreements bedeviling Washington, successive presidents from Bill Clinton through Donald Trump have sustained progress in deepening India ties.

### [Trump, trade and trust](#)

June 4, 2019, The Indian Express

US president needs to be convinced that helping India's economic rise will be in the US's interests in the long run.

## Europe & Russia

### [D-Day: Veterans and world leaders mark 75th anniversary](#)

June 7, 2019, BBC News

Hundreds of veterans gathered in France to honour the sacrifice of those who died in the D-Day landings, drawing to a close two days of commemorations.

### [Germany's new refugee labor laws slammed as lacking common sense](#)

June 7, 2019, Deutsche Welle

German lawmakers are set to pass a bundle of measures to make it easier to integrate migrants, but also deport rejected asylum-seekers. Experts say the laws not only send a mixed signal, but may even be unconstitutional.

### ['Anti-immigrant left' wins election as Danes reject far-right](#)

June 7, 2019, Al Jazeera

Social Democrats adopt anti-immigrant rhetoric from the far-right to secure national election victory in Denmark.

### [Italy risks disciplinary action for violating EU debt rules](#)

June 6, 2019, BBC News

Italy could face disciplinary action over its failure to respect European Union spending rules.

### [European Union warns: China racing to 'dominate the world' through space technology](#)

June 6, 2019, The Washington Examiner

China is racing towards an advantage in space that could lead to the regime "dominating the world," a top European Union official warned

### [Delegation from Sarajevo eyes economic cooperation with China at local level](#)

June 7, 2019, Xinhua Net

Delegation representing Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH's) capital Sarajevo will participate at Third China-CEEC Mayors Forum taking place in east Chinese city of Ningbo this week, BiH's local news portal Biznis Info reported.

### [Russia, Belarus, Serbia to hold joint military drills on June 14-27](#)

June 6, 2019, Tass

The Russian-Belarusian-Serbian tactical drills dubbed Slavic Brotherhood-2019 will take place in the Serbian city of Pancevo on June 14-27, Russia's Defense Ministry announced

### [BRI progress brings benefits to participating countries: Serbian legislator](#)

June 5, 2019, Global Times

The benefits of taking part in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been apparent for the participating countries, said a Serbian legislator.

### [China-Russia relations transcend geopolitics](#)

June 5, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Russia Wednesday for a state visit. China and Russia agreed to upgrade their relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era. This is a major event in China-Russia relations. During Xi's trip, the two countries are expected to reach achievements in expanding mutual cooperation.

### [Xi tells Russian media he cherishes deep friendship with Putin](#)

June 5, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping deeply cherishes his friendship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Xi told Russian media on Tuesday ahead of his state visit to Russia.

### [Russia Says U.S. Warship Nearly Caused Collision in East China Sea](#)

June 7, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia's Pacific Fleet on Friday accused a U.S. warship of nearly causing a collision with a Russian military vessel in the East China Sea due to what it called dangerous maneuvering, Russian news agencies reported.

### [Russian Pacific Fleet's submarines attack 'enemy' vessel during drills](#)

June 7, 2019, Tass

Two diesel-powered submarines from the Primorskaya Flotilla of the Russian Pacific Fleet located and attacked an 'enemy' submarine during drills in the Sea of Japan, the press service of the Eastern Military District said.

[Putin says Russia has most advanced weapons for its security](#)

June 6, 2019, Tass

In case that the New START Treaty is terminated in 2021, "there will generally be no instruments limiting the arms race," Putin said

[Russia may send more military specialists to Venezuela](#)

June 7, 2019, Tass

This is an absolutely technical issue related to implementing certain contracts on a particular volume of work, the Russian diplomat said.

## Africa & Latin America

### [US-Mexico talks to resume Thursday as tariff deadline nears](#)

June 6, 2019, The Guardian

Mexican officials left the White House on Wednesday without a deal to stave off Donald Trump's threatened tariffs on all Mexican goods flowing into the United States.

### [Which States Will Be Hit Hardest by Trump's Tariffs on Mexico](#)

June 5, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump's plan to force Mexico to take a tougher approach to enforcement of its border, by ramping up tariffs on its products, will ripple through the United States, with consumers around the country paying more for cars, TVs, bluejeans, beer, fresh vegetables and other products.

### [Mexico meets migrants at southern border with armed forces](#)

June 6, 2019, Reuters

Mexican soldiers, armed police and migration officials blocked hundreds of migrants after they crossed the border from Guatemala in a caravan into southern Mexico on Wednesday, and detained dozens of them, a witness from a migrant aid group and an official said.

### [What are Russia, Iran and Cuba doing in Venezuela?](#)

June 6, 2019, The Strategist

When about 100 Russian servicemen and military equipment were reportedly flown into Venezuela in late March, US President Donald Trump's response was to declare that 'Russia has to get out'.

### [Pompeo warns of divided Venezuela opposition: report](#)

June 6, 2019, France 24

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned during a closed-door meeting that divisions within Venezuela's opposition were hurting efforts to oust President Nicolas Maduro, a report said.

### [In a Blow to Maduro, Russia Withdraws Key Defense Support to Venezuela](#)

June 2, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

Russia has withdrawn key defense advisers from Venezuela, an embarrassment for President Nicolás Maduro as Moscow weighs the leader's political and economic resilience against growing U.S. pressure.



### [US imposes major new restrictions on travel to Cuba](#)

June 4, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Trump administration on Tuesday imposed major new travel restrictions on visits to Cuba by United States citizens, including a ban on many forms of educational and recreational travel.

### [China eyes Argentina in global nuclear roll out](#)

June 4, 2019, China Dialogue

In the midst of economic and political uncertainty, Argentina has doubled down on a major Chinese nuclear power deal. The new nuclear plant in Buenos Aires province will help meet Argentina's energy needs with the support of Chinese technology and finance.

### [Brazil, Argentina discuss lower Mercosur external tariff: sources](#)

June 5, 2019, Investing.com

Brazil and Argentina have started discussing a reduction in the common external tariff (TEC) of the South American trade bloc Mercosur, sources in both governments told Reuters on Wednesday, as their market-friendly presidents look to boost economic growth.

### [Nigeria shuts private TV, radio close to opposition](#)

June 6, 2019, Arab News

Nigeria's broadcasting authority said Thursday it had shut down a private radio and a television station both owned by a key opposition figure who earlier claimed his media operations were targetted in a crackdown.

### [African Union suspends Sudan's membership, threatens to sanction military council](#)

June 6, 2019, Sudan Tribune

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union has suspended Sudan's membership in the regional organization and threatened to impose sanctions of the members of the Transitional Military Council (TMC) if they fail to hand over power to a civilian-led authority.

### [UAE-backed Haftar injures Libya doctors, horses with multiple air-strikes](#)

June 6, 2019, The New Arab

Haftar's media office said early Thursday his UAE-backed air-force destroyed a Turkish drone at war with his militia when attacking Mitiga Airport.

[Libyan government forces battle Haftar's forces near capital](#)

June 2, 2019, TRT World

Armed clashes erupt between forces belong to Libya's UN-recognised Government of National Accords (GNA) and those loyal to the rebel warlord Khalifa Haftar.

[53 African countries to attend first China-Africa trade expo](#)

June 4, 2019, Global Times

A total of 53 African countries have confirmed to attend the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo scheduled for June 27-29 in central China's Hunan Province, a local official said.

[China to support Kenya's development agenda: envoy](#)

June 6, 2019, Global Times

China has vowed to support Kenya's development agenda, and actively participate in growing the bilateral cooperation, a Chinese envoy said.



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