



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group
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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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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

[PM Narendra Modi meets Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin at SCO Summit](#)

June 14, 2019, India Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday arrived in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. He met Chinese President Xi Jinping, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit to further strengthen the bilateral relations.

[Narendra Modi's visit to Maldives and Sri Lanka indicator to China that India is ready for strategic competition](#)

June 11, 2019, Firstpost

We now understand why Modi, as soon as getting re-elected for the second term, chose to emphasise on India's "Neighborhood First" policy and made the Maldives his first port of call abroad followed by a pit stop in Sri Lanka. Not to be missed is the fact that while he was touring these nations, Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar went to Bhutan — another nation that experienced China's provocative behavior leading to an intense militarized face-off between India and China in Doklam plateau of high Himalayas in 2017.

[India, Maldives, Lanka to restart NSA-level talks](#)

June 12, 2019, The Economic Times

India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka are planning to revive their tri-nation national security adviser-level security dialogue, in the backdrop of Colombo terrorist strikes and following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach to Male and Colombo, the first foreign destinations he chose to visit in his second term. The talks had been put on hold five years ago, because of the approach of the then Yameen regime in the Maldives.

[PM Modi in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for SCO Summit](#)

June 13, 2019, India Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the plenary session of the SCO Summit, and will present his vision for the regional cooperation and development. At the sidelines of the summit, India will hold bilateral meetings with Russia (where he accepted President Putin's invitation to be the main guest at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in September) and China (briefly discussed

Pakistan, stressing that talks cannot happen with terrorism at the helm and about the listing issue of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar.)

[PM Modi to pitch for decisive action to deal with terrorism at SCO Summit](#)

June 10, 2019, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to pitch for strong and decisive action to deal with terrorism when he addresses a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Bishkek on June 14. Dealing with the growing challenge of terrorism, enhancing security and defence cooperation among SCO countries and boosting connectivity in the region are expected to be key focus areas of the summit. India is also keen on deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

[US ready to help India's defence but buying S-400 from Russia would limit cooperation: Trump administration](#)

June 12, 2019, PTI

The statement came weeks after an identical warning from a senior State Department official who had said that New Delhi's deal to procure the lethal missile system from Moscow will have "serious implications" on India-US defence ties.

[India ready to take a giant leap into space, to set up own station](#)

June 14, 2019, Live Mint

The Indian space station will be placed in the low earth orbit, also at 400km above the earth's surface. It will be launched as a small module and that module will be used to carry small micro-gravity experiments. The project is at a nascent stage and will be executed after 5-7 years.

[Govt plans Rs 6 lakh crore spectrum auction to ensure affordable 5G](#)

June 14, 2019, Times of India

The plan was cleared by the Digital Communications Commission and will see the government auction nearly 8,600 MHz of mobile airwaves, most likely before the end of this year. This would include spectrum of the current bouquet of telecom services, and also for new age 5G services, including fibre to the home in rural areas.

['Modi hai to mumkin hai', says Mike Pompeo in major policy speech ahead of India visit](#)

June 13, 2019, The Indian Express

Citing the popular election slogan “Modi hai to mumkin hai”, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has sought to take the bilateral relationship with India to the next level and said the Trump and Modi Administrations have a “unique opportunity” to make it happen.

[Pompeo to boost US' 'incredibly important' ties with India during visit to New Delhi](#)

June 11, 2019, Business Today

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said that his visit to New Delhi this month will be focused on advancing the "incredibly important" ties with India which is a significant part of President Donald Trump's strategy in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

[Pompeo woos India with 'secure' 5G, arms sales & nuke project after recent tensions](#)

June 13, 2019, RT

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is gearing up for a trip to New Delhi, where he will try to sell American 5G tech, LNG gas, and arms to Narendra Modi's government. Pompeo also wants India to end its reliance on Venezuelan and Iranian crude by purchasing Liquefied Natural Gas and constructing six US-made nuclear power plants he told the US-India Business Council.

[India to buy US missile system to shield Delhi](#)

June 10, 2019, The Times of India

US is likely to send the final draft of the 'letter of acceptance' for the sale of NASAMS-II to India by July-August this year.

[Raja Mandala: India and the Sino-Russian alliance](#)

June 11, 2019, The Indian Express

The strengthening of ties between Russia and China present a challenge to Delhi. But it is better prepared than most to play the new Great Game.

[Terms of engagement](#)

June 13, 2019, The Indian Express

The context of India-Pakistan relationship has changed significantly. Any framework for dialogue must reflect the new situation.

[India, China do not pose 'threats' to each other: Chinese President Xi Jinping to PM Modi](#)

June 13, 2019, The Economic Times

President Xi made the remarks during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

[BCIM 2019: Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar agree to uphold multilateralism, free trade at 13th meeting of forum](#)

June 13, 2019, Firstpost

Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) on Thursday called for upholding multilateralism and free trade.

Pakistan

[Fiscal Budget 2019-20](#)

June 12, 2019, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan's government presented its first federal budget on June 11 for the fiscal year 2019-20. The government's key priorities are; reduce current account deficit to 6.5pc; boost exports through a revised duty structure; reduce prices of electricity and gas; reevaluate Free Trade Agreements; the government's running expenses slashed to Rs437bn from Rs460bn; the defence budget kept static at Rs1.15tr.

[Accountability court grants NAB 11-day physical remand of Zardari](#)

June 11, 2019, Dawn

Former Pakistan President and Co-chairmen of Pakistan Peoples Party Asif Ali Zardari was arrested by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for corruption and money laundering on June 10, 2019. An accountability court in Islamabad granted NAB 11-day physical remand. The police's intelligence wing has been directed to collect reports on the reactions and future activities of opposition parties, in light of his arrest.

[KP govt seeks three-week delay in Fata polls](#)

June 10, 2019, Dawn

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has requested the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to postpone by 20 days the first-ever provincial assembly elections in the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Agencies (Fata) for security reasons. While elections for the 21 seats of the merged tribal districts in the KP assembly are scheduled for July 2, security situation in parts of Fata, particularly in North Waziristan, has deteriorated over the past few weeks due to agitation started against repressive regime of Pakistan Army. Following to this on June 11 the local

administration has imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for 30 days.

[Top-level engagement agreed upon to boost Pak-Afghan cooperation](#)

June 11, 2019, Dawn

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on June 10, in a meeting with Afghan deputy foreign minister Idrees Zaman on first review session of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS), called for making bilateral ties framework with Afghanistan effective. The meeting is also conducted on the background of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's upcoming visit to Pakistan on June 27. It would be Mr Ghani's third visit to Pakistan.

[Modi should improve Pakistan ties to realize regional goals](#)

June 9, 2019, Global Times

The article published in Global Times on June 9, argues; *"If India wants to show its intent to combat terrorism and promote its rise in the Indian Ocean, Modi should not merely express his gratitude for Khan's good wishes, but take pragmatic actions to recover the bilateral dialogue process, which has been suspended since January 2016, promote better relations with Pakistan and work to establish peace in the region."*

Afghanistan

[US Envoy Working On Four 'Pillars' For Afghan Peace](#)

June 11, 2019, Tolo News

Continuing his efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan the US Special Envoy ZalmayKhalilzadvisited Afghanistan on June 9, 2019. He is working on four issues regarding the Afghan peace process which include the timeline for US forces withdrawal from Afghanistan, counterterrorism assurances, intra-Afghan dialogue and the reducing violence.

[Taliban, US Welcome Release of Insurgent Prisoners by Kabul](#)

June 11, 2019, Voice of America

President Ashraf Ghani had ordered 900 Taliban prisoners to be freed within the next two months in a goodwill gesture. Until June 11, 300 prisoners have been released. A Taliban statement confirmed its prisoners are being set free from different Afghan jails, calling it a "positive step" and urging the government to continue the process. U.S ambassador to Afghanistan Johan Bass welcomed the releasing of insurgent prisoners by Kabul, saying it would improve "the climate for a political settlement" to the conflict.

[Germany Pledges Facilitating Intra-Afghan Talks](#)

June 12, 2019, Tolo News

Germany's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Markus Potzel, after meeting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and a number of Afghan politicians and senior government officials, said that his country is willing to facilitate intra-Afghan talks. In which at least 60 people will represent the Afghan government and the Taliban. However, the exact date and venue for such a meeting is yet to be agreed upon. The meeting will likely take place either in Doha or Uzbekistan.

[Iran, Afghanistan atomic energy organizations sign cooperation MoU](#)

June 11, 2019, IRNA

In coordination with International Atomic Energy Agency, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Afghanistan and Iran to help promote cooperation in uses of atomic energy in health and agriculture.

[Voter Registration Begins Countrywide: Nuristani](#)

June 8, 2019, Tolo News

The voter registration process for the upcoming presidential elections scheduled for September 28, started in 34 provinces of Afghanistan on June 7. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) is not using the biometric identification system.

[Pakistan Airspace Closure Declines Exports To India: Official](#)

June 8, 2019, Tolo News

The closure of Pakistan's airspace to commercial flights between Kabul and New Delhi has decreased Afghanistan's exports to India by 30 percent. Pakistan closed its airspace to all commercial flights late in February after escalating tensions with India. The airspace was opened to some certain flights but it is yet to be opened for Afghan flights en-route to India. At present Afghan airliners are using Iran and China routes for Kabul-Delhi flights. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan promised President Ashraf Ghani on the sidelines of the 14th summit of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation in Saudi Arabia to resolve the airspace problem.

[India affirms support to Afghanistan in choosing legitimate govt: Sources](#)

June 14, 2019, Business Standard

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured President Ashraf Ghani that India will support Afghanistan to ensure that a "legitimate government is chosen through

the democratic process" in a bilateral meeting held on side-lines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

Bangladesh

[India, Bangladesh hold DG level talks between BSF and BGB](#)

June 13, 2019, The Indian Express

The two delegations discussed various issues related to control of fake currency, narcotics trade and cattle smuggling on the India-Bangladesh international border and confidence-building measures between the two forces.

[Bangladesh informs UN of Myanmar's non-cooperation on Rohingya repatriation](#)

June 13, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh has shared the existing problems regarding the Rohingya issue with the UN and informed it about Myanmar's non-cooperation in starting the repatriation.

[7th US-Bangladesh partnership dialogue](#)

June 12, 2019, Bd News

The meeting was held in Washington on June 10, 2019, co-chaired by Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque and United States, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale

Nepal

[China encroaching Nepal's land, shows government survey](#)

May 31, 2019, Ani News

China is encroaching into Nepal's land through an ongoing road expansion project in Tibet, said Ministry of Agriculture.

[New Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge Becomes Operational, Replaces Damaged One](#)

June 7, 2019, PTI

The 110-meter long Miteri Bridge is now open to traffic, but China is yet to officially hand it over to Nepal. The Nepal-China Friendship Bridge (Miteri bridge) was constructed with Chinese aid linking Nepal to Tibet.

[Full steam ahead for Nepal-China railway project through Himalayas](#)

June 13, 2019, Business Standard

The much talked about Nepal-China railway line project has picked up pace as Beijing announced funding for a detailed feasibility study of the project, which many critics say reflects China's strong strategic and geopolitical engagement with the small Himalayan nation.

[India extends Rs 1.6 bn aid to Nepal for rebuilding earthquake-hit houses](#)

June 10, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India's ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri handed over the cheque to Finance Secretary of Nepal Rajan Khanal of 1.6 billion Nepalese rupees to Nepal to help 50,000 people in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts rebuild their houses damaged in the devastating earthquake in 2015. India has so far granted Nepal a total of Rs 4.5 billion Nepalese rupees under the housing reconstruction projects.

[Nepal has no interest in U.S. strategy to contain China](#)

June 10, 2019, Xinhua

Chandra Prakash Mainali, general secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), called the Indo-Pacific Strategy pushed forward by the United States a purely China containment strategy. Nepal should not become part of the U.S. strategy, he said, adding that although the Pentagon enlisted Nepal as a partner, government leaders were caught unaware.

[What is keeping Nepal poor?](#)

June 13, 2019, Asia Times

Having spent the past 70 years following the Soviet system of centralized planning, diligently adopting dominant development discourses, concepts, and jargon as the development mantra, and producing uncountable pages of diagnostics on the problems and challenges faced by every sector of society, Nepal still ranks as one of the poorest nation-states.

Bhutan

[S Jaishankar's first foreign trip: Meets Bhutanese King, highlights India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy](#)

June 8, 2019, India Today

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made his first overseas trip to Bhutan. He met with the Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering and Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji discussing issues of mutual interest especially in the sectors of hydropower and development.

Sri Lanka

[‘India, Maldives, Sri Lanka to join hands against terror’: Wickremesinghe](#)

June 11, 2019, The Hindustan Times

As part of his two nation visit, Prime Minister Modi arrived in Colombo on June 9, 2019. He held talks with President Sirisena, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe, the Leader of the Opposition, Mahinda Rajapaksa and a delegation of the Tamil National Alliance. His visit was considered as a sign of India's affirmation of solidarity with Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the deadly Easter terror attacks in April. Later, the Sri Lankan PM took to social media to disclose details of the visit. He reconfirmed bilateral projects that have, been under consideration, such as offering India the development of a civilian airport in the formerly military airfield, Palali in the Jaffna peninsula as well as upgrading an existing one the eastern coastal town, Batticaloa. He also wrote that India, Sri Lanka and Maldives would “join hands against terror”.

[US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to visit Sri Lanka](#)

June 11, 2019, Colombo Gazette

United States Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo will visit Sri Lanka in the last week of June as part of his four nation visit (India, Sri Lanka, Japan, South Korea). Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe is expected to discuss a number of issues including counterterrorism, freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean and a shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

[Japan offers to support Sri Lanka to curb global terrorism](#)

June 12, 2019, Colombo Page

Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Toshiko Abe during her official visit to Sri Lanka on June 12, discussed counter terrorism measures and regional security cooperation with the Sri Lankan PM. She directed attention on signing a defense agreement between the two countries in furtherance of these objectives. PM Wickremesinghe explained discussions held with the Indian Prime Minister on the tripartite arrangement between India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka on counterterrorism. Ideas were suggested regarding the implementation of a joint plan with India and Japan for the development of several sectors in Sri Lanka.

[India: Man arrested over ties to Sri Lanka bombings](#)

June 13, 2019, Andolou Agency

Indian authorities have arrested a man in the southern state of Tamil Nadu with alleged links to a suicide bombing in Sri Lanka in April which left more than 250 people dead.

Maldives

[India, Maldives ink pacts as PM Modi, Prez Solih hold talks](#)

June 08, 2019, Live Mint

As part of India's "Neighborhood First" policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two nation visit to Maldives and Sri Lanka. He arrived in Maldives on June 8, 2018. The Prime Minister held talks with Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and signed six agreements to strengthen bilateral ties in a number of key areas including defence and maritime. In a display of Maldives "India First" policy, PM Modi was conferred with Maldives highest honour – the "Nishan Izzudeen". The two leaders jointly inaugurated two key defence projects - a coastal surveillance radar system and composite training centre for Maldives National Defence Forces.

[India and Maldives to work on mutually beneficial partnership: MEA](#)

June 8, 2019, Daily Excelsior

India and Maldives will work on mutually beneficial partnership and expand the ties across multiple sectors, MEA spokesman Raveesh Kumar said.

[Tourism boost! India, Maldives agree to launch ferry service between Kochi, Male](#)

June 9, 2019, Business today

Prime Minister Modi and Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on Saturday directed officials to expeditiously work towards starting the regular passenger-cum-cargo ferry service between the two countries.

[In a boost to neighbourhood policy, India to gift Maldives cricket stadium](#)

June 10, 2019, Live Mint

India will build the stadium, which is likely to come up at Hulhumale. India will also train young Maldivian men and women in cricket.

East & South East Asia

China

[China, Kyrgyzstan push ties](#)

June 13, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Kyrgyz President SooronbayJeenbekov held a meeting where they agreed to promote the China-Kyrgyzstan comprehensive strategic partnership to a new level and continue firm support for each other to push cooperation in every field.

[China will fight to end if US keeps escalating trade frictions: MOC](#)

June 13, 2019, Global Times

"China will fight to the end if the United States continues to escalate trade frictions," the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said.

[Chinese FM slams US fallacies for 2nd straight day](#)

June 11, 2019, Global Times

China again strongly responded to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday against his false and misleading accusations against China's governance in its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

[Xi's neighborhood diplomacy to forge closer community with shared future](#)

June 11, 2019, Global Times

Against the backdrop of growing uncertainties worldwide, his trip is expected to further consolidate multi-dimensional cooperation within the frameworks of the SCO and the CICA and pool efforts to create a shared future of security and prosperity for all countries in the region.

["Chinese solution" paves the way for the world's sustainable development](#)

June 11, 2019, Global Times

At the 23rd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, China's President Xi Jinping delivered a speech in which he called sustainable development the "golden key" to solving global problems. President Xi proposed creating an open and pluralistic world economy, a happy society that is inclusive and that benefits everyone, and a beautiful homeland in which humanity coexists in harmony with nature. President Xi's proposal offered the world a "Chinese solution" for sustainable development.

[Xi, Putin lead bilateral ties into new era, embark on fresh journey of int'l cooperation](#)

June 8, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Russia showed that the consensus on deepening mutual trust between the two countries is unbreakable and that China's belief in win-win cooperation is unshakable, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

[US Coast Guard latest way for Washington to stir up trouble: China Daily editorial](#)

June 13, 2019, China Daily

With a full-blown trade war between the US and China hotting up, every close-quarters move the US makes on China's doorstep is likely to further worsen the already tense atmosphere between the two countries and even risks triggering a direct conflict between the two sides.

[Violence after HK rally clearly premeditated and planned: China Daily editorial](#)

June 10, 2019, China Daily

Both the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and law-abiding residents condemned the violence outside the Legislative Council building after Sunday's rally protesting the proposed amendments to the SAR's extradition laws.

[Unwarranted fear-mongering, speculation about the Arctic: China Daily editorial](#)

June 10, 2019, China Daily

Judged solely from the "desired end-state" the United States Defense Department portrayed in its just updated Arctic Strategy, there is nothing wrong with that policy blueprint.

[Better Sino-Russian relations also good for the world: China Daily editorial](#)

June 10, 2019, China Daily

Looking through the prism of geographical politics, some Western media have interpreted the further development of the relations between China and Russia as forging a united front in a broader confrontation with the United States. Some even suggest they may forge an alliance against the US.

[Sino-US trade war won't go the Japan way](#)

June 13, 2019, China Daily

The United States has been criticizing China for its "unfair" trade practices and currency "manipulation", allegations that are strikingly similar to the ones the US labeled against Japan in the 1980s and 1990s, leading to the US-Japan trade

dispute. The US criticized Japan for its large current account surplus, which resulted in long, intense trade negotiations between the two countries, and a broad range of economic policies to reduce what the US considered was Japan's excessive savings.

[Trade war will damage East Asia's supply chains](#)

June 12, 2019, China Daily

Different countries and regions in East Asia have different advantages. For example, Japan and the Republic of Korea enjoy an edge when it comes to technologies and capital while China has a competitive advantage in market capacity, tech personnel and overall labor force. That's why East Asian economies have successfully built a complete industry chain.

[It's time China became self-reliant in chips](#)

June 12, 2019, China Daily

The United States' ban on Chinese telecommunications equipment maker ZTE last year and global 5G leader Huawei in May this year have exposed Chinese enterprises' dependency on US high-tech exports, especially chips which are used in nearly all digital products. How can China develop its chip industry and become self-sufficient in the sector?

[17 nations to join China's space station](#)

June 13, 2019, China Daily

It is the first time a Chinese space mission has invited all members of the UN to conduct experiments, and is a milestone in the advancement of China's manned space program from independent development to global cooperation.

[AI robots take on important role for World Military Games preparation](#)

June 13, 2019, Xinhua

Twenty robots designed with cutting-edge AI technologies have been introduced to take over some heavy duties for workers in the ongoing construction of a power supply system for the 7th Military World Games in the host city of Wuhan.

[Chinese, Afghan presidents pledge joint efforts to promote ties](#)

June 13, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Afghan counterpart, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, met here Thursday, pledging joint efforts to promote bilateral relations.

[China ready to join India for closer development partnership](#)

June 13, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Thursday that Beijing is ready to join New Delhi in pushing forward a closer development partnership between the two sides.

[China, India vow to enhance mutual trust, expand cooperation](#)

June 8, 2019, Xinhua

A delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its four-day visit to India on Saturday, and both sides pledged to enhance mutual trust and boost cooperation in various fields.

[Commentary: "Belt" of security and "Road" to development for SCO in challenging times](#)

June 13, 2019, Xinhua

Situated along rivers and beside mountains, Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan and host of this year's Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, used to be a key juncture along the ancient Silk Road.

[China urges media not to quote Putin's words on China-U.S. trade dispute out of context](#)

June 12, 2019, Xinhua

According to media report, Putin was asked during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum last week about his view of the China-U.S. trade dispute. He answered by citing a Chinese proverb which said "when tigers fight, the smart monkey sits aside and waits to see who wins."

Japan

[S Korean parliament speaker apologizes for remarks on Japan emperor](#)

June 14, 2019, Japan Today

The South Korean National Assembly speaker on Thursday apologized for the first time for saying earlier that an apology from then Emperor Akihito would settle a long-standing dispute over Korean women forced into Japan's wartime brothels.

[Iran's supreme leader tells Abe Trump 'not worthy' of a reply to message](#)

June 14, 2019, Japan Today

Iran's supreme leader told Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday that it was pointless to reply to a message he had brought to Tehran from U.S. President

Donald Trump, as a peacemaking visit was overshadowed by attacks on tankers in the Gulf of Oman.

[Japan's Abe urges Iran to play constructive role for peace](#)

June 13, 2019, Al Jazeera

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has urged Iran to keep abiding by international nuclear rules and to play a "constructive role" for regional security, on his two-day visit to the country, with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani saying tensions in the Middle East can only be reduced if the United States stopped its economic pressure through sanctions.

[At Trump's request, Abe asked Iran to release American captives, source says](#)

June 14, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe asked Iranian leaders during his Tehran visit to release Americans detained by the country at the request of U.S. President Donald Trump, a Japanese government source said.

[In trade talks, Japan considers proposal to cut U.S. farm tariffs immediately to TPP levels](#)

June 13, 2019, The Japan Times

Japan plans to propose immediately reducing tariffs on U.S. agricultural products to current levels for TPP members, according to sources familiar with the matter.

[Trump 'frustrated' with lack of Japan trade deal, Ambassador William Hagerty says](#)

June 13, 2019, The Japan Times

U.S. President Donald Trump is "frustrated" by the fact that the U.S. and Japan have yet to ink a trade deal, which was reflected in his recent mention of August as a desirable deadline, the U.S. top envoy to Japan has said.

[Could Japan be Trump's next trade war victim?](#)

June 13, 2019, NBC News

In the frenzied exchanges of international commerce that have played for almost a year, news of Japan has been relatively quiet. But, with premier Shinzo Abe marking the first visit by a prime minister to Iran since the Islamic Revolution — and as America's fourth-largest trading partner — global economists are wondering how long it could be before President Donald Trump takes aim at Japan, as he has done with China, Mexico, and the European Union.

[Chinese aircraft carrier sails between Okinawan islands](#)

June 11, 2019, The Japan Times

The Defense Ministry said that China's sole operating aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, had passed through the Miyako Strait between the island of Miyako and Okinawa's main island as it ventured into the Pacific that morning.

[Japan's largest warship joins U.S. carrier for military exercises in disputed South China Sea](#)

June 12, 2019, The Japan Times

The Maritime Self-Defense Force's Izumo helicopter carrier has joined the United States' sole forward-deployed aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, in joint military exercises in the disputed South China Sea, the MSDF and U.S. 7th Fleet said in separate statements.

Korea

[N.Korea 'Ready to Test New Submarine-Launched Missile'](#)

June 14, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea seems ready to test a new submarine-launched ballistic missile at its Sinpo shipyard, according to the website 38 North at Johns Hopkins University.

[Moon's call for inter-Korean summit in June feeds speculations](#)

June 13, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in expressed hopes on meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the coming weeks, further fueling speculation surrounding inter-Korean and US-North Korea dialogue.

[Moon, Abe to Hold 'Informal' Meeting at G20 Summit](#)

June 13, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Japan plans to arrange an informal "pull-aside" between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Korean President Moon Jae-in during the G20 summit in Osaka later this month, diplomatic sources said

[UK-South Korea in big post-Brexit free trade deal](#)

June 10, 2019, Asia Times

South Korea and the United Kingdom agreed in Seoul on Monday to continue the terms of the current EU-South Korea free trade agreement, bilaterally, after the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

[Moon to address Swedish parliament on denuclearization, peace](#)

June 14, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korean President Moon Jae-in will deliver another major speech on the Korea peace process Friday on a visit to Stockholm, his office said.

[Korea, Norway to cooperate on hydrogen, shipbuilding](#)

June 13, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea and Norway have agreed to strengthen ties in hydrogen energy and shipbuilding areas with the summit between the two countries' heads of state serving as an opportunity to pursue future partnerships.

[S.Korea Deteriorates in Terms of Peace and Security](#)

June 14, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

South Korea was ranked as the world's 55th most peaceful country in an annual report released by an Australia-based think tank

[Gov't Erases Audio from Clip of Meeting with Kim Jong-un's Sister](#)

June 14, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The Unification Ministry has erased the audio from video footage of a meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister Yo-jong and senior South Korean government officials.

Southeast Asia

[Australia moots logistics support agreement with India to widen defence partnership in Indo-Pacific region](#)

June 12, 2019, The Economic Times

Australia and India can do more in global and regional responses to the threat of terrorism besides widening the scope of their Indo-Pacific partnership to stabilise Indian Ocean Region through Mutual Logistics Support Agreement would smooth the path towards closer defence cooperation, suggested Australian High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu.

[The 2019 US Indo-Pacific Strategy Report: Who's It For?](#)

June 11, 2019, The Diplomat

It's been a little more than one week since the release of the United States' first-ever Indo-Pacific Strategy Report (IPSR), a strategic document prepared by the U.S. Department of Defense outlining Washington's priorities in the region. The document (PDF) released online just minutes after U.S. Acting Secretary of

Defense Patrick Shanahan took the podium in Singapore at this year's Shangri-La Dialogue.

[The Privatization of US Indo-Pacific Vision](#)

June 11, 2019, FX Street

In the Shangri-La Summit, the Trump administration introduced a new, muscular Indo-Pacific strategy. It is fueled by private interests of corporations, defense contractors and foreign governments - not by the interests of the United States, China or emerging Asia.

[US Senate confirms top diplomat for East Asia](#)

June 14, 2019, The Korea Herald

The United States Senate confirmed a former Air Force brigadier general as the top American diplomat for East Asia.

[Philippines on the horns of a superpower dilemma](#)

June 10, 2019, Asia Times

As US-China rivalry boils ever hotter in the contested South China Sea, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte finds himself on the horns of a high stakes strategic dilemma.

[Why Hong Kong won't go quietly to China](#)

June 10, 2019, Asia Times

A protest march of more than a million people brought Hong Kong's streets to a standstill on Sunday (June 9) in what organizers claim to be the city's largest-ever rally.

[ASEAN: Prioritize rights of Rohingya](#)

June 13, 2019, The Jakarta Post

As ASEAN prepares for its 34th Summit in Bangkok on June 20 to 23, the heads of member states must keep the Rohingya crisis at the top of their agenda. With the world's largest refugee camp now sitting at the doorstep of ASEAN, the regional dimensions of the crisis can no longer be ignored.

[ASEAN should exploit trade war opportunities: Envoy](#)

June 14, 2019, The Jakarta Post

ASEAN must be able to convince multinational companies to relocate operations to the region in order to achieve "positive impacts" from the trade rift between the United States and China, Phasporn Sangasubana, Thailand's permanent representative to ASEAN and current chair of the regional bloc, has said.

[Singapore 'holds back' adoption of ASEAN Indo-Pacific concept](#)

June 13, 2019, The Jakarta Post

The planned conclusion and adoption of an ASEAN Indo-Pacific perspective in the upcoming ASEAN Summit this month might be delayed because Singapore has yet to endorse it, a diplomat familiar with the issue has said.

[Thailand Sees Threefold Increase In Chinese Companies Looking To Move](#)

June 10, 2019, Forbes

Thailand's Board of Investment said that they have received a threefold increase in the number of applications from Chinese businesses looking to relocate their supply chain to other Asian countries.

[Thailand should seize business opportunities under China's GBA plan: deputy Thai PM](#)

June 12, 2019, Xinhua

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said Thailand should seize business opportunities under China's initiative to develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) in its south into an economic powerhouse. Thailand takes up the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) this year. As one of the most developed provinces in China, Guangdong bridges the country with ASEAN under China's GBA plan. Thailand, the hub of ASEAN, would seek to tighten cooperation with the province in all dimensions.

Central & West Asia

[Indian Foreign Minister to call for securing Asia at Dushanbe CICA summit](#)

June 14, 2019 The Economic Times

S Jaishankar, on his second trip abroad in his current capacity will attend the 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan eyeing to explore ideas to stabilise Asia amid tumultuous geopolitics.

[India, Uzbekistan explore joint economic projects ahead of SCO Summit](#)

June 11, 2019, The Economic times

Key Central Asian State Uzbekistan besides Kazakhstan has taken lead in inviting business delegation from the PM's home state of Gujarat to push joint economic projects ahead of Narendra Modi's visit to the region for the June 13-14 SCO Summit.

[Kazakhstan Gets New Leader, but Old System's Grip on Power Remains](#)

June 10, 2019, The New York Times

Kazakhstan has a new president after being under the same person's rule since its formation in 1991, but lopsided election results confirmed the victory of the old order's handpicked candidate in a tightly controlled vote marred by hundreds of detentions. Preliminary official results from Sunday's vote showed that Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the governing party's chosen candidate, had won 70.7 percent of the vote, far ahead of his nearest rival Amirzhan Kosanov, who received only 16 percent. The election was denounced as unfair by observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

[Kazakhstan's Newly Elected Leader Calls Himself a 'Reformer'](#)

June 13, 2019, WSJ

The new president of this Central Asian nation said he would listen to grievances aired during recent protests as his government transitions from decades of tight state control in the former Soviet country.

[Hundreds arrested in Kazakhstan over election protests](#)

June 14, 2019, Al Jazeera

Authorities in Kazakhstan have handed jail terms and other penalties to nearly 1,000 people for taking part in protests over its recent presidential election.

[Pakistan seeking stronger ties with Central Asia: FM](#)

June 14, 2019, The International News

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Thursday Pakistan was focusing on adopting people-centric approach, in addition to formal diplomacy, in order to strengthen ties with Central Asian states. Addressing a gathering of Pakistani community in the Kyrgyz capital, he said commonalities of culture, religion and traditions could bring Pakistan closer with Central Asia.

[Central Asia Hosts Two Major Summits to Find Responses to Global Challenges](#)

June 13, 2019, Valdai

From 13 to 15 June 2019, two major events will take place in Central Asia: the 19th summit between Heads of States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and the 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

[Tanker Attacks In Gulf Of Oman Stoke Security And Oil Fears](#)

June 13, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Two oil tankers were attacked and left adrift in the Gulf of Oman, driving up oil prices and stoking fears of a new confrontation between Iran and the United States.

[Iran Has Accelerated Production of Enriched Uranium, IAEA Says](#)

June 11, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

UN atomic watchdog IAEA said that Iran has followed through on a threat to accelerate its production of enriched uranium. There has been a sharp rise in the US-Iranian confrontation after the United States withdrew from the JCPOA agreement between Iran and some prominent world powers to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the removal of international financial sanctions. Washington tightened sanctions at the beginning of May, ordering all countries and companies to halt all imports of Iranian oil or be subject to secondary sanctions.

[Gujarat delegation visits Andijan to further expand cooperation](#)

June 11, 2019, Business Standard

A delegation from Gujarat comprising officials from various ministries visited Uzbekistan's Andijan region where they held talks to further expand cooperation between Andijan and Gujarat. The Gujarati delegation met with government leaders as well as representatives of the private sector to discuss implementation

of joint projects in tourism, agriculture, renewable energy sources, telemedicine, start-up projects, and also considered the issue of holding a joint business forum.

[For the first time, India votes for Israel at UN against Palestine human rights body, ditches decades long position](#)

June 11, 2019, Free Press Kashmir

India voted in support of Israel for the first time at the United Nation's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to deny observer status to a Palestinian human rights organisation, 'Shahed'. This is the first time that India has departed from its long established position of the two-state theory under which it sees both Israel and Palestine as separate and independent countries.

[Assad demolishes refugee homes to tighten grip on rebel strongholds](#)

June 8, 2019, The Guardian

The Syrian government blew up several properties in the industrial zone Qaboun, a former opposition stronghold just outside the capital, Damascus. The destruction and devastation echoed several other clearance operations around the country documented by activists and analysts, who view them as a worrying pattern. The government is taking advantage of the messy aftermath of war to tighten its grip on towns and cities, targeting neighbourhoods and communities that rose up against President Bashar al-Assad for demolition, under the guise of military clearance operations.

[Qatari official accuses Saudis of blackmail and destabilising the region](#)

The Guardian, June 9, 2016

Qatar's foreign minister has alleged that Saudi Arabia is a force for disruption across the Middle East and Africa and often uses blackmail and economic pressure to enforce its brand of authoritarian rule. In recent weeks the Saudis and Emiratis have been accused of interfering with popular movements in Sudan, Libya and Somalia. In a briefing in London, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani appeared to accept that an unresolved two-year quarrel between Qatar and Saudi Arabia was starting to fuel other disputes across the region, making those disputes more difficult to resolve.

[Energy vs alliances: Abe's Middle Eastern tightrope walk](#)

June 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

64-year-old Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has chosen to visit Iran this week in an attempt to mediate between two powerful adversaries, and help secure his nation's future energy needs. After pulling out of an international nuclear deal last year, the US reimposed sanctions on Iran that prevent it from exporting oil to some of its biggest customers, including Japan, until the sanctions took full effect in May. The loss of Iranian crude oil could hurt Japan's economy. But any attempt to circumvent the sanctions, risks angering Japan's biggest international ally: the US.

[Iran FM: UAE trying to become the 'second Israel' of the Middle East](#)

June 12, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif stated that the UAE is attempting to become the region's "second Israel" by increasing its arms imports. Zarif said that "three countries in the region believe they can maintain their security through their relations with the United States," in reference to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Israel. He added, that they would be wrong to believe the weapons can guarantee security from the US, as they would be used to achieve the goals of Israel.

[Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran to examine North-South transport corridor](#)

June 10, 2019, IRNA

Russia will be hosting a trilateral meeting of Russia, Iran and Azerbaijan on International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) at the end of the year.

[Iran unveils new indigenous air defense system](#)

June 10, 2019, IRNA

Iranian Defense Minister Brig Gen Amir Hatami unveiled the indigenous advanced air defense system "Khordad, 15th" on June 9. The system is which is capable of simultaneously hitting six high-altitude targets.

[Yemen's Houthis strike Saudi airport, coalition vows to retaliate](#)

June 12, 2019, Reuters

The Saudi-led military coalition vowed to respond firmly to a missile attack by Yemeni Houthi forces on a civilian airport in southern Saudi Arabia that wounded 26 people. The Western-backed, Sunni Muslim alliance that has been battling the Iran-aligned Houthi movement in Yemen said the strike was proof of Iranian support for what it called cross-border terrorism. The coalition said a projectile hit

the arrivals hall at Abha airport, causing material damage. Three women and two children were among the wounded, who were of Saudi, Yemeni and Indian nationalities, it said in a statement.

[UAE, Germany ask Iran to de-escalate tension](#)

June 13, 2019, Khaleej Times

The UAE and Germany expressed concern over growing tensions in the Arab Gulf region and called on Iran to refrain from any escalatory steps. In a communique issued at the end of the visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Germany, both countries reaffirmed the urgency for all actors in the regions to refrain from actions that could escalate existing tensions. They stressed that respecting sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries is essential to guarantee regional security and stability.

[UAE signs \\$100 million deal for power plant in Yemen's Aden](#)

June 12, 2019, The National

The UAE has signed an agreement with Yemen's ministry of electricity to build a \$100 million power plant in the southern Yemeni city of Aden. The agreement was signed at the headquarters of the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for Humanitarian Works with Yemen's Ministry of Electricity. The project is said to reflect the historic ties between the two countries and the UAE's intent to stand by Yemen.

[Lebanon's industry minister calls for modifications in free trade agreements](#)

12 June, 2019, Xinhua

Lebanese Industry Minister Wael Abou Faour called for the revision of free trade agreements signed between Lebanon and other countries aimed at protecting the industry sector in the country, the National News Agency reported. "We should look again into these agreements because they are not fair to Lebanon," the minister said, adding that other countries tend to take several measures in a bid to protect their local industries. Lebanon has signed free trade agreements with major trading partners, including some EU and GCC states. The Greater Arab Free Trade Area was fully established in January 2005.

['It is a done deal': Turkey says it has already purchased Russian S-400s](#)

June 12, 2019, Middle East Eye

Turkey has already purchased S-400 missile defence systems from Russia and expects delivery next month, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday, despite Washington's objections to the deal. Turkey and the United States have sparred publicly for months over Ankara's order for the S-400s, which the US says are incompatible with NATO's defence network and pose a threat to US F-35 fighter jets that Turkey also plans to buy.

United States

[India-US relations: Mike Pompeo takes a leaf out of Modi slogan, says 'Modi hai to Mumkinhai](#)

June 13, 2019, Business Today

The US Secretary of State will visit India on June 24; Pompeo's remarks came amid trade-related frictions between the US and several other countries, including India and China.

[U.S. open to dialogue on GSP, says Pompeo](#)

June 13, 2019, The Hindu

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo hinted that it was possible to reinstate the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a programme for preferential access to certain goods markets in the U.S., for India. Mr. Pompeo is expected to discuss this as well as 5G network technology and data localisation while in New Delhi later this month on a visit.

[Trump: US to send 1,000 troops to Poland in new deal](#)

June 12, 2019, BBC

The US will deploy 1,000 more troops to Poland, President Donald Trump has said during a press conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda. President Trump said the force would be taken from America's 52,000-strong contingent in Germany and include drones and other military hardware. He fell short, however, of committing to a permanent US base in the country.

[Trump calls off tariffs after US-Mexico deal but Mnuchin says threat remains](#)

June 8, 2019, The Guardian

After the US and Mexico reached an agreement to stave off tariffs on Mexican goods in return for concessions on immigration, his treasury secretary said the president retained the authority to impose tariffs if Mexico did not live up to the deal.

[Trump to Meet with Putin at G-20, Striking a Blow to Ukraine](#)

June 12, 2019, U.S. News

President Donald Trump on Wednesday confirmed he plans to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G-20 summit in Japan later this month, relinquishing what key allies hoped would remain a principal tool in Washington's efforts to exert influence over Moscow. Trump added he would also meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the summit, to take place June 28 and 29 in Osaka, Japan.

[U.S. Navy assists after tankers burn in Gulf of Oman off Iran](#)

June 13, 2019, NBC News

An American guided missile destroyer was sent to assist two burning tankers following what the U.S. Navy described as a “reported attack” in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday. The USS Bainbridge was dispatched after the vessels suffered damage off the coast of Iran, according to 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Josh Frey. It was unclear who was behind the incident, which occurred amid escalating tensions between Washington and Iran.

[Pompeo downplays climate change, suggests 'people move to different places'](#)

June 8, 2019, CNN

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo downplayed climate change as a longstanding trend, suggesting that that modern societies could adapt to a changing environment, possibly with people moving to different places.

[Accused of Inaction, Trump Team Set to Appoint Sudan Advisor](#)

June 10, 2019, Foreign Policy

Former U.S. diplomat Donald Booth expected to address the bloody impasse between military and protesters as U.N. officials warn of spiraling violence.

[US-China trade war risks global technology split](#)

June 11, 2019, Financial Times

Chinese technology firms such as Huawei have been among the chief targets of the trade dispute with the US. The Trump administration’s desire to exclude them from the US is driven by security and economic concerns, and the hope of preserving America’s tech dominance. In reality, banning Chinese companies may do more to harm the US.

Europe & Russia

[BREXIT BRITAIN CONTEMPATES ANOTHER FOREIGN CENTRAL BANK BOSS:](#)

June 12, 2019, Bloomberg

Ex-RBI chief Raghuram Rajan is the only outsider among the top contenders to replace the outgoing Central Bank of England boss Mark Carney.

[Turkey to get Russian S-400 missile system 'in July' amid row over US jets](#)

June 12, 2019, BBC

Turkey's President Erdogan says he hopes a Russian missile system that Washington sees as a threat to US jets will be delivered in July. The US had said Turkey could not have both the S-400 anti-aircraft defence system and US F-35 fighter jets.

[German minister lands in Iran in bid to save nuclear pact](#)

June 9, 2019, Reuters

Germany's foreign minister has arrived in Tehran to hold talks with President Hassan Rouhani on Monday, as part of a concerted European effort to preserve Iran's nuclear pact with world powers and defuse rising U.S.-Iranian tensions.

[Brexit: EU will not reopen withdrawal agreement, insists French minister](#)

June 11, 2019, The Guardian

France's state secretary for European affairs has confirmed that the EU are not prepared to reopen the Brexit withdrawal agreement and that without a "new political line" in the UK or a second referendum, Britain must expect to leave the bloc on 31 October.

[Franco-German tension complicates race for EU's top jobs](#)

June 13, 2019, Financial Times

Strained relations between Berlin and Paris make it hard to predict who will end up running the European Union commission and ECB

[The End of the Spanish Exception?](#)

June 12, 2019, Foreign Affairs

On Tuesday, Spain's acting prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, announced that his center-left Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) would seek to form a minority government in cooperation with the far-left party Unidas Podemos. Six weeks

after elections in late April left no party with a clear majority, the country is edging closer to a new left-wing government.

[Greek president approves Tsipras call for snap election](#)

June 10, 2019, Reuters

Greece's president accepted a request from Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to dissolve parliament on Monday, formally triggering a snap election that Tsipras has called for next month after badly losing a vote for European parliament.

[Turkey gets culled from US defence program in warning sign for India](#)

June 8, 2019, Times of India

In what could be a grim foreboding for New Delhi and Indo-US ties, the Trump administration announced on Friday that it would stop training Turkish pilots on F-35 stealth fighters and cancel the sale of the jet to Turkey if the country went ahead with buying the Russian S-400 air defence system – a purchase India has also committed to in the face of Washington's opposition.

[Putin invites Indian prime minister to attend Eastern Economic Forum as main guest](#)

June 13, 2019, Tass

Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come as the main guest to the Eastern Economic Forum.

[Putin approves supporting Rosneft's gas projects in Venezuela](#)

June 14, 2019, Tass

Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved the government's proposal to support Rosneft's shale gas projects in Venezuela (Patao and Mejillones) and ordered to sign a protocol on making amendments to the agreement with Venezuela on cooperation in the sphere of implementing joint strategic projects from 10 September 2009. The president's order was published on the official website of legal information.

[Russian Air Force targets militants in Syria's Idlib at request of Turkish military](#)

June 13, 2019, RT

Russia's Air Force has carried out four strikes in Idlib province, Syria's last jihadist stronghold, after Turkey asked for help in ensuring the safety of its troops in the area, the Defense Ministry said.

[Russia Will Respond to New U.S. Deployment in Poland, Lawmakers Say](#)

June 13, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russian lawmakers said on Thursday that a new U.S. military deployment to Poland announced by President Donald Trump would force Moscow to take retaliatory steps, with one saying it would make Poland a target in the event of a conflict.

[Russia Warns Against Using Tanker Attacks to Pressure Iran](#)

June 13, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia warned against rushing to attribute blame for a suspected attack on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, and said the incident should not be used to stoke tensions with Tehran, Russia's state-run RIA news agency reported.

[Russia ready to cut gas price for Ukraine by 25%](#)

June 13, 2019, Tass

Russia may resume gas supplies to Ukraine at the price, which is 25% lower than the current one, Energy Minister Alexander Novak said at a briefing on the results of negotiations with the European Commission's Vice President for Energy Union Maros Sefcovic

[Russia's Northern Fleet air defense troops hold drills with advanced missile systems](#)

June 13, 2019, Tass

Air defense units of Russia's Northern Fleet held first live-fire drills at the Kapustin Yar practice range to learn to operate the latest Arctic Tor-M2DT surface-to-air missile systems, the Defense Ministry of Russia reported

[Russian fighter jets scrambled 10 times in last week on interception missions](#)

June 14, 2019, Tass

Russian fighter jets have been scrambled ten times over the last week to prevent the violation of the Russian state borders, the Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) newspaper reported on Friday citing the Russian Defense Ministry.

Africa & Latin America

[U.N. Says More Than 4 Million People Have Left Venezuela](#)

June 7, 2019, NPR

The United Nations says more than 4 million refugees and migrants have left Venezuela, which is suffering from political chaos, food shortages and hyperinflation.

The U.N. has called this exodus the "largest in the recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean."

[Venezuela Socialist Party deputy meets Castro in show of unity on Cuba trip](#)

June 7, 2019, Reuters

Venezuela's ruling Socialist Party Vice President Diosdado Cabello met with Cuban Communist Party chief Raul Castro on Friday in Havana in a show of unity as the United States steps up pressure on the governments of the allied nations.

[Mexican president leads 'celebration' rally after US tariffs dropped](#)

June 9, 2019, The Guardian

The Mexican president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, travelled to the border city of Tijuana to rally the country in "defence of national dignity", but to also reaffirm friendship with the US people – barely a day after the US cancelled the threat of tariffs. He called the rally, which was convened prior to the tariffs being cancelled, a "celebration" of both countries brokering a deal.

[Colombia's Duque searching for trade, investment on trip to Argentina](#)

June 10, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

Colombian President Iván Duque arrived in Buenos Aires for his first official visit to Argentina, with the trip set to focus on trade and investment opportunities. Argentina and Colombia are expected to sign a number of agreements focused on trade and investment, government officials briefed reporters.

[Zimbabwe: Sikhala - Mnangagwa Faces Overthrow Through Citizen Mass Protests](#)

June 11, 2019, All Africa.com

Outspoken MDC top official and legislator, Job Sikhala says President Emmerson Mnangagwa will be forced out of power by disgruntled citizens before his five-year term ends in 2023.

[Nicaragua frees 56 protest leaders as part of amnesty](#)

June 12, 2019, BBC News

Fifty-six activists who led anti-government protests in Nicaragua have been released from prison. The move comes just days after Congress passed a controversial amnesty law.

While the release of the activists has been welcomed by rights groups, the new law has been criticised for offering an amnesty to the security forces as well as the activists.

[Mexico sends troops to southern border over migrant deal](#)

June 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

Mexico sends troops to its southern border in a bid to stem migration flows into the US. Mexico's move comes as Trump threatened to impose tariffs on the country if it did not do more to stop the migrant tide.

[Trump says he's considering giving Venezuelans protection in US](#)

June 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

US President Donald Trump said he was looking into the possibility of granting temporary asylum to thousands of Venezuelans who have fled to the United States amid political turmoil in their country. He is looking into the possibility of granting asylum or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Venezuelan migrants.

[Libya's Interior Minister meets with EU ambassadors in Tunisia](#)

June 12, 2019, The Libya Observer

The Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha met the ambassadors of the European Union, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Holland and Spain in Tunisia and discussed the on-going military operations and their consequences on the humanitarian level in Libya's capital Tripoli. The meeting also reviewed the conditions of the illegal immigrants and internally displaced people and focused on the ways possible to end the military operations and restart the political process to help the country stabilize.

[Sudan's opposition demands full power transfer to civilians](#)

June 7, 2019, Sudan Tribune

The opposition alliance Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) alliance Thursday said the Transitional Military Council (TMC) should hand over power to civilian-led authority without negotiation. This statement was released after a decision by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to suspend Sudan's membership at the regional body.

[Dozens killed in major Boko Haram attack on Cameroon island](#)

June 13, 2019, Al Jazeera

A weekend assault by suspected Boko Haram fighters in northern Cameroon killed dozens of people, including soldiers and civilians, officials have said, in one of the deadliest attacks by the group in the country.

Cameroon's defence ministry said that "more than 300 heavily armed Boko Haram" fighters attacked military positions on Darak, an island near Lake Chad in Cameroon's Far North region some 1,000km from the capital, Yaounde.



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