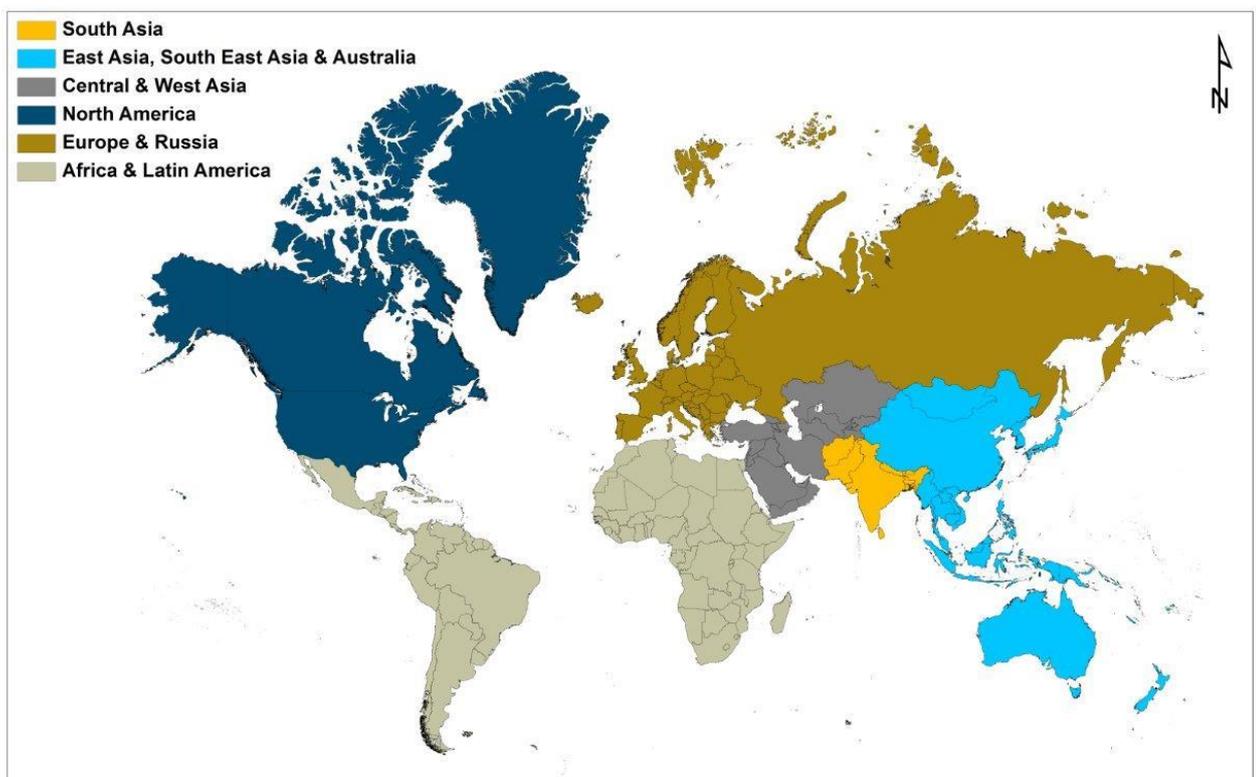




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 25

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

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Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at angana@dpg.org.in.

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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.
www.delhipolicygroup.org

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South Asia

India

[G20 summit: Trade row to be part of Modi-Trump talks](#)

June 18, 2019, The Times of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump will attempt to break a growing deadlock on trade while taking forward an increasingly deeper strategic relationship when they meet on the sidelines of the G-20 summit.

[Making India USD 5 trillion economy challenging but achievable: Narendra Modi](#)

June 15, 2019, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing NitiAayog's 5th governing council sought the cooperation of states in helping India achieve the target of \$5 trillion economy suggesting that each state should aim to increase their own economy by 2-2.5% and focus on exports.

[India levies retaliatory tariffs on 28 American products](#)

June 16, 2019, The Economic Times

The retaliatory tariffs, triggered by the US announcing higher duties on Indian steel and aluminium last year, were deferred multiple times in view of the trade dialogue between the two countries.

[India's Foreign Minister Jaishankar pitches for rules-based order in Asia and world at large](#)

June 15, 2019, The Economic Times

"The 21st century is being hailed as the Asian century and CICA can surely play a useful role in promoting peace, security and development in Asia," Jaishankar said in his address at at 5th CICA Summit 2019 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

[US standing in way of Modi's 'New India'](#)

June 18, 2019, Asia Times

The moment Narendra Modi took office for his second term as prime minister of India, the White House began putting on pressure. On May 31, the administration of President Donald Trump announced that the concessions and exemptions enjoyed by India will be retracted from June 5 onward.

[India's foreign policy for next 5 years: New Delhi must stave off Chinese influence on Myanmar through trade, development assistance](#)

June 20, 2019, Firstpost

For the Indian foreign policy establishment, especially under the current Narendra Modi government, Myanmar has been a pivotal country. Strategically placed at the intersection of South and Southeast Asia, it is at a civilisational crossroads of sorts.

[Don't share our goods with Huawei: US to Indian companies](#)

June 19, 2019, The Economic Times

In a May 27 letter sent to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the US has warned the Indian government that companies found supplying equipment or other products of American origin to Huawei or its units could face punitive action, is being seen as part of US efforts to intensify pressure on India to act against the Chinese company.

[India, projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country around 2027: UN report](#)

June 18, 2019, Live Mint

The report has highlighted the higher fertility rates, growing older population and migration are few reasons for projections of the population growth. Health experts have called for more investment in healthcare sector in the country.

[President Kovind asks MPs to support 'one nation, one poll' idea](#)

June 20, 2019, Live Mint

Addressing a joint sitting of Parliament of the first session of the 17 Lok Sabha, President Ram Nath Kovind said that due to frequent elections being held in some part of the country, the pace and continuity of development programmes have been impacted.

[French aviation, defence industries have chosen India: Envoy](#)

June 18, 2019, Business Standard

Describing itself as a "true partner", France said its aviation and defence industries have chosen India for investment and strengthening the strategic partnership which has "full political support".

[India grants \\$ 15 mn first time ever for African Union Summit](#)

June 18, 2019, The Economic Times

India has for the first time granted financial support of \$15 million for the African Union Summit, scheduled to be held in Niger in early July, infusing fresh energy into its focus on Africa.

[India expands scope of Act East policy in a bid to reset ties with Russia](#)

June 18, 2019, Live Mint

At a briefing in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek, foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale spoke of how India and Russia were looking to expand collaboration in Russia's Far East.

[India cautions against hasty US peace deal with Taliban](#)

June 20, 2019, The Economic Times

Speaking at the Security Council, India's Permanent Representative Syed Akbaruddin also said that shutting down terrorist safe havens in Pakistan must be a precondition for a peace agreement to go forward.

[Big win for India! Maldives likely to scrap controversial Indian Ocean observatory agreement with China](#)

June 17, 2019, Times Now

Post Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Maldives, the island nation is likely to scrap a 2017 deal with China to build an observatory in the Indian Ocean. A top-ranking government official has disclosed that the agreement signed by Former President Yameen with China in 2017 is "not on the table" anymore.

[US topples China as India's largest merchandise trade partner](#)

June 19, 2019, Live Mint

The US overtook China to once again become India's top goods trading partner in 2018-19, official data shows. Also, India's trade surplus with the US declined to \$16.8 billion from \$21.2 billion a year ago.

[At SCO Summit, India holds off on endorsing China's Belt and Road project](#)

June 16, 2019, Hindustan Times

India held off on endorsing China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the joint declaration issued after the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, a reflection of New Delhi's concerns about the ambitious trade and connectivity project.

[India ranked 20th among the top capital importing countries, China 6th: Knight Frank](#)

June 17, 2019, PTI

Capital investment in commercial real estate by Indian investors in overseas markets soared by 92 percent to \$700 million (around 4,893 crore) between the first quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of this year the report by global property consultant Knight Frank said.

[India's defence exports more than double](#)

June 18, 2019, The Economic Times

India's defence exports have more than doubled to nearly Rs 11,000 crore on the back of recent policy liberalisation and access to the US market.

[India eyes US spy planes, takes first steps to sign major defence deal](#)

June 20, 2019, The Economic Times

India wants ten more P-8I aircrafts for surveillance, reconnaissance and anti-submarine operations in addition to the eight it contracted for in 2009 for the Navy.

Pakistan

[CPEC remains top priority, Imran tells Xi](#)

June 15, 2019, The Nation

In a bilateral meeting which took place in Bishkek, on the sidelines Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on June 14 Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Xi Jinping reaffirmed their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. PM Imran Khan also met Russian President Vladimir Putin and discussed Afghanistan issue, situation in Middle East and Iran.

[Pakistan won't demand CSF funds from US](#)

June 15, 2019, The Nation

According to senior official Pakistan will not seek Coalition Support Fund from the United States. However, the US budget for the upcoming financial year does not include any security assistance for Pakistan's military but only civilian assistance programming.

[Transfers in Pakistan Army: Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed new ISI chief](#)

June 16, 2019, The News

Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has been appointed as the Director General of Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI). General Hameed will be replacing Lt-Gen Asim Munir, who has now been posted as the Corps Commander Gujranwala.

[Pakistan can no longer be blacklisted by Fatf: Malaysia](#)

June 16, 2019, The Nation

Prime Minister Imran Khan telephoned Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to thank Malaysia for its support of Pakistan's bid to avoid being blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

[Pakistan, World Bank sign loan agreement worth \\$918 million](#)

June 18, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan on June 18 signed three loan agreements worth a total of \$918 million with the World Bank. It includes \$400mn for 'Pakistan Raises Revenue Program', \$400mn for 'Higher Education Development in Pakistan' and \$118mn for 'Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilisation and Resource Management Program'.

[With COAS as member, PM forms Development Council](#)

June 19, 2019, The Nation

PM Imran Khan on June 18, established the National Development Council (NDC) with the aim of setting policies and strategies for regional cooperation.

[Gwadar Master Plan approval linked to finalisation of policy on city uplift](#)

June 19, 2019, The Nation

Pakistan has told China that no Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan will be approved till the finalisation of policy on the development of the city.

[Imran, Ghani seek to reset ties](#)

June 20, 2019, The Express Tribune

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani is scheduled to begin his two-day visit to Islamabad on June 27. This would be the first visit to Pakistan in three-and-a-half years.

Afghanistan

[China, India pledge support for Afghan peace process](#)

June 14, 2019, YeniSafak News

Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jin Ping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in which both the countries have expressed support for the Afghan-led peace process.

[Up to \\$5 billion smuggled to Iran from Afghanistan in 2018](#)

June 16, 2019, Khaama Press

Up to 5 billion U.S. Dollars were smuggled to Iran from Afghanistan during the year 2018. This comes as the issue following the revival of U.S. sanctions on Iran.

[Preparations on track to implement TAPI Project: Turkmen Official](#)

June 16, 2019, Tolo News

A high-level delegation from Turkmenistan visited Herat province on June 16 where they said that all preparations are on track to implement the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project.

[Taliban says US has accepted to withdraw all its troops](#)

June 18, 2019, Tolo News

SuhailShaheen, a spokesman for Taliban's spokesman in Qatar, said in a tweet on June 18 that besides accepting the withdrawal of its troops, the US has vowed not to do any interference in Afghanistan's affairs in the future.

[Pakistan to host meeting on Afghan Peace](#)

June 20, 2019, Tolo News

Pakistan is expected to host a meeting on the Afghan peace process with the participation of some prominent Afghan politicians, however the date and the venue have not been confirmed.

[China hosts top Taliban leader in bid to expand role in Afghanistan](#)

June 20, 2019, The Hindu

China confirmed that it had hosted Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar – the group's deputy chief on political affairs – as part of its bid to expand its role in Afghanistan, which is set for another major transition.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh fastest economy in Asia-Pacific: ADB](#)

June 20, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh has achieved the fastest growth in the Asia-Pacific economies comprised of 45 countries, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

[Foreign minister meets Indian counterpart, stresses Teesta deal, border killings](#)

June 15, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momenat his first meeting with newly-appointed Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday, on the sidelines of the 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit, in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, has laid emphasis on concluding the much-talked about Teesta water sharing agreement which was supposed to

be signed about eight years ago, and putting a stop to the killing of Bangladeshis along the borders.

[Bangladesh PM seeks UAE investment in economic zones](#)

June 18, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

The UAE state minister for food security has expressed her country's interest to import surplus food from Bangladesh. While Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to invest in Bangladesh's 100 economic zones that will be set up for economic zones in the country for rapid industrialization and employment generation.

[President seeks CICA support to repatriate Rohingyas](#)

June 15, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh President M Abdul Hamid during his address at the 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit in Tajikistan solicited support and cooperation from partners to repatriate the forcibly displaced Rohingya people to their ancestral homeland in Myanmar with safety and dignity.

[China looks forward to deeper relations with Bangladesh](#)

June 17, 2019, Blitz

Beijing is going to roll red-carpet and assure all-out cooperation to Bangladesh during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. During the upcoming trip, several protocols and agreements will be signed between the two friendly nations.

[China-Bangladesh Friends of Silk Road Club launched in Dhaka](#)

June 17, 2019, Xinhua

The China-Bangladesh Friends of Silk Road Club was launched in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, on June 16, 2019 to enhance people-to-people cooperation in the fields of socio-economic and cultural development between the two countries.

[Protests at Payra power plant leads to Chinese worker's death](#)

June 19, 2019, United News of Bangladesh

A Chinese worker, has died after being injured in a clash over the death of a worker at Payra 1320 MW Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh which is a partly-built China-funded power plant.

[Rohingya repatriation: Bangladesh asks Myanmar to come up with 'package'](#)

June 16, 2019, The Dhaka Tribune

An apparently annoyed Bangladesh has asked Myanmar to come up with a 'package' to ensure the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas, who had to cross into Cox's Bazar to escape persecution in Rakhine.

[Prioritise rights, safety of Rohingya people: ASEAN](#)

June 19, 2019, The Daily Star

ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) and Progressive Voice today said Myanmar must ensure that human rights of the Rohingya community are protected and respected while safe conditions should be in place in Rakhine State before any refugees are repatriated from Bangladesh.

[Bangladesh elected ECOSOC member](#)

June 16, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh was elected a member of the prestigious Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations for the term 2020-2022 from the Asia-Pacific region, securing 181 votes out of 191.

Nepal

[Understanding the modern Nepal-China border](#)

June 13, 2019, Kathmandu Post

Since 2002, an agreement between the two nations has issued those who live within 30 km of the border a border citizens' card that allows them to cross over without a passport and a visa and work in the two countries. This, in addition to the targeted aid in border regions, leaves Nepal dependent on the north and also gives China leverage similar to India's, especially in these districts.

[Controversial Bills: Following protests, Nepal govt shows signs of retreat](#)

June 14, 2019, The Indian Express

One of the Bills seeks to replace the existing Press Council with a media council led by a government-appointed chief, who would have sweeping powers to impose fines up to Rs 1 million on editors, reporters or publishers if they are found guilty of defamation.

[India-Nepal petroleum pipeline ready for operation](#)

June 17, 2019, Online Khabar

The work of laying petroleum pipeline underground from Motihari of India to Amlekhgunj of Bara in Nepal has been completed. It is the first cross border pipeline in South Asia.

[Nepali team in China to discuss Kyirong-Kathmandu railway DPR](#)

June 17, 2019, Online Khabar

A team of Nepali officials has gone to Beijing to discuss preparing the detailed project report for the proposed Kyirong-Kathmandu railway with the Chinese government. After China put the cross border trans-Himalayan railway on the list of projects to be built under the Belt and Road Initiative, Nepal is hopeful that China will support constructing the ambitious project.

[India sends Nepal Raxaul-Kathmandu railway project's engineering survey report](#)

June 14, 2019 Online Khabar

India has sent Nepal a report of a preliminary engineering and traffic survey for the proposed Raxaul-Kathmandu railway project. It has been learned that the Indian side had asked Nepal to choose between two options of 190 km and 140 km, before preparing the report. Nepali officials had favoured the shorter route.

[From the Kathmandu Press:](#)

June 20, 2019, Online Khabar

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind is preparing to visit Nepal in the coming future. Kovind is coming to Nepal upon invitation from President Bidya Devi Bhandari. The Nepali Embassy in Delhi says that the date of the visit has not been decided yet.

[Mandarin made mandatory in many schools](#)

June 14, 2019, Himalayan Times

Many schools across the country have made it mandatory for students to learn Chinese lured by the Chinese government's offer to cover salaries of teachers who teach Mandarin.

[Geo-strategic spill over](#)

June 17, 2019, Kathmandu Post

In recent years, Nepal has become a notable arena of competition for geo-strategic interests, especially that of India, China, and the United States. The aggressive strategies pursued by these countries are likely to strain Nepal's political stability and national interests.

Bhutan

[Bhutan PM says China must maintain status quo on Doklam](#)

June 16, 2019, The Hindu

In an exclusive interview to The Hindu, and the first public comments by the Bhutanese leader on the Doklam issue which had seen a near conflict between the Indian and Chinese armies in 2017, he said that as long as status quo was maintained, "there will be peace and tranquillity in the region."

[Bhutan to receive an additional fund of 7.3 M Euros from the EU](#)

June 19, 2019, BBS NEWS

Bhutan will receive an additional fund of 7.3 M Euros from the European Union (EU). The grant is approved for the establishment of the National Training Centre for Search and Rescue and the Water Flagship Programme.

Sri Lanka

[U.S. Secretary of State unable to visit Sri Lanka during upcoming travel to region](#)

June 19, 2019, Colombo Page

"Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts during his upcoming visit to the Indo-Pacific region that includes accompanying President Donald J. Trump to the G20 Summit in Japan, U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo is unable to visit Sri Lanka as previously announced," the US Embassy in Colombo said in a release. "Secretary Pompeo regrets that he is no longer able to visit Colombo at this time. He hopes to travel to Sri Lanka at a later date to underscore our strong partnership with Sri Lanka, which is rooted in a commitment to democracy, economic growth and a free, open Indo-Pacific region," the statement added.

[Sri Lanka President Maithripala meets Russia President Putin](#)

June 17, 2019, Onlanka News

A meeting between President Maithripala Sirisena and the Russian President Vladimir Putin was held on June 15, 2019 on the sidelines of the fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Dushanbe, Tajikistan. During the meeting, the attention of the two leaders were drawn to further strengthening bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Russia as well as on several other important regional issues like US imposed sanctions on some of the goods imported from Russia to Sri Lanka.

[China gifts security equipments to Parliament](#)

June 20, 2019, Sunday Times

The Chinese government gifted three portable x-ray machines and five walk through metal detectors worth about Rs 60 million to the Parliament in order to ensure the security of the Parliament aftermath of Easter Sunday attacks. The equipment were handed over by Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Chinese government, to the Speaker of the Parliament.

[ISIS shift in strategy may threaten India, Sri Lanka, Indian Intelligence warns](#)

June 20, 2019, Sunday Times

India and Sri Lanka are likely to fall under the threat with terror group ISIS turning its attention to the Indian Ocean Region in the wake of losses across Syria and Iraq, Indian intelligence reports have warned.

[Indian Navy's 'INS Ranvir' arrives at Colombo harbour](#)

June 19, 2019, Sunday Times

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvir arrived at the Colombo harbour on a goodwill visit on June 18. The ship's crew is scheduled to take part in several events organized by the Sri Lanka Navy, during their three-day official visit to Sri Lanka.

[Maldivian state delegation arrive for three-day official visit](#)

June 15, 2019, Colombo Page

The purpose of their visit was to show the international community that Sri Lanka is a tourist friendly, peaceful and safe country. The Maldivian delegation including Vice President of the Maldives Faisal Naseem and Speaker and former president Mohamed Nasheed called on the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

[Sri Lanka's economy recovered in First-Quarter but faces slump after April bombings](#)

June 19, 2019, Onlanka News

Sri Lanka's economy grew at its fastest pace in nearly a year from January to March, before the Easter Sunday bomb attacks on April 21. The economy gained 3.7% in the first quarter of 2019, accelerating from a growth rate of 1.8% the previous quarter – its slowest pace since early 2014, due to a political crisis. Sri Lanka's economy is expected to slump to a nearly two-decade low in 2019, as tourism, foreign investment and business activity eased sharply in the wake of the bombings.

[North Governor seeks UNDP assistance to bring back Sri Lankan refugees from India](#)

June 20, 2019, Sunday Times

Northern Governor Suren Raghavan has requested UNDP Country Director in Sri Lanka Joern Soerensen to assist in bringing back Sri Lankan refugees from India.

[Main suspect in Sri Lankan Easter Sunday attacks caught in Middle East](#)

June 15, 2019, AP

Five key suspects in Easter Sunday bomb attacks on Sri Lankan churches and hotels have been extradited from the Middle East, police confirmed. Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said the suspects arrived early from Saudi Arabia after their arrest in an unspecified Middle Eastern country. A total of 102 suspects are now being held in connection with the Easter suicide bomb attacks.

Maldives

[Documents required to rejoin Commonwealth presented by Maldives govt.](#)

June 13, 2019, Avas

The documentation required to rejoin the Commonwealth were officially presented by the Maldivian government to the Commonwealth.

[Defence Minister meets with Russian Security Council Secretary](#)

June 20, 2019, Avas

Defence Minister Maria Ahmed Didi has met with the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Nikolai Patrushev. During the sideline meeting with the secretary, mutual cooperation in the security sector was discussed in addition to exchange of information related to international terrorism, informs the Defense Ministry. During the sideline meeting with the secretary, mutual cooperation in the security sector was discussed in addition to exchange of information related to international terrorism, informs the Defense Ministry.

[Pres Solih expresses confidence in country's foreign policy](#)

June 20, 2019, Avas

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has stated that the independence and sovereignty of Maldives is protected by the country's comprehensive foreign policy. The President also emphasized the importance of maintaining the country's position as a respected member of the world community in establishing relationships with other countries for development of the nation.

[Japan grants MVR 73 million as foreign aid](#)

June 18, 2019, Avas

The Japanese government has agreed to provide a grant of MVR 73,450,000 in assistance to Maldives.

[Maldives wraps up on Partnership Forum 2019](#)

June 18, 2019, The Edition

Maldives Partnership Forum, hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the biggest multilateral gathering of its kind to be organized in the Maldives. Following two days of successful discussions, the Forum concluded on June 18. Two MoUs were signed with the Saudi Fund for Development, each worth over USD 25 million, for development of the fisheries sector and the implementation of an affordable housing scheme. Additionally, MoUs for a variety of departments were signed with Bangladesh, Japan and USA. Agreements were also signed with ADB AND EU.

[Countering terrorism requires wide scale cooperation: CP](#)

June 19, 2019, The Edition

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Asia Counter Terrorism Leaders Forum, Commissioner of Police Hameed declared that Maldives needed the assistance of like-minded countries to curb terrorism. The Asian Counter Terrorism Forum was held in collaboration with the Australian Federal Police in the capital city of Male'. In addition to Maldives, representatives of Australia, Thailand, Bangladesh and Myanmar participated in the forum.

[MNDF receives USD 4.5 million from Japan](#)

June 18, 2019, The Edition

Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) on Tuesday, signed a financial aid agreement worth USD 4.5 million with the Japanese government. As per the agreement, MNDF will utilize the financial aid to acquire a fire and rescue watercraft as well as a landing craft.

[EU revokes sanctions framework against Maldives](#)

June 18, 2019, The Edition

European Union (EU), on Monday, decided to revoke the framework for restrictive measures against Maldives adopted on July 16, 2018. EU adopted the framework for targeted sanctions against Maldives in response to a deterioration of internal politics during the first half of 2018.

[Maldives is at a critical crossroads: UN Special Rapporteur](#)

June 20, 2019, The Edition

The Special Rapporteur's preliminary findings and observations highlighted the negative consequences of framing the Maldivian identity as "homogenous".The Special Rapporteur's preliminary findings and observations highlighted the negative consequences of framing the Maldivian identity as "homogenous".

East & South East Asia

China

[Xi's trip to Pyongyang positive, timely move: China Daily editorial](#)

June 17, 2019, China Daily

Courtesy demands reciprocity. After Kim Jong-un visited China four times in less than 10 months, President Xi Jinping recently visited Pyongyang. This would be the first visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by China's top State leader since 2005.

[Hong Kong people should reject violent radicalism: China Daily editorial](#)

June 17, 2019, China Daily

Social harmony and stability have been crucial to sustaining the social development and economic vitality of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. These are now at risk of being undermined by the controversies surrounding changes to the SAR's extradition laws.

[A regional body working for global security, trade](#)

June 15, 2019, China Daily

Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away. In the spirit of this proverb and in stark contrast to some countries' beggar-thy-neighbor policies, President Xi Jinping's four-day trip to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has driven home the point that equality, respect and trust can turn good neighbors into good brothers.

[Xi-Trump meeting can get trade talks moving again: China Daily editorial](#)

June 19, 2019, China Daily

Following what US President Donald Trump described as "a very good telephone conversation" with Chinese President Xi Jinping, both Beijing and Washington confirmed the two will meet on the sidelines of next week's G20 summit.

[China donates security equipment to Sri Lankan parliament](#)

June 19, 2019, Xinhua

China donated a batch of security equipment to the Sri Lankan Parliament to ensure the safety of the public and legislators following the recent terror attacks in the island country.

[Humble China shouldn't be accused of being high-profile](#)

June 17, 2019, Global Times

Elephants cannot hide behind small trees. Should China be blamed for not keeping a low profile? China is being strategically targeted by the US, with waves of crackdowns. Chinese people are accustomed to introspection in face of trouble. Some of them therefore think: Could we have avoided the American attempt at containment had we been more low-key and discreet?

[West deliberately ignores SCO's contribution to peace, development](#)

June 17, 2019, Global Times

Since its establishment in 2001, the SCO has taken strides in facilitating cooperation in various fields. However, opinion in the West hasn't paid heed to the SCO's achievements. It bad-mouths the organization and believes that after new states join the SCO, differences in values and systems among members will lead to numerous contradictions within the group, leading to its collapse.

[Wrong to claim China, Russia compete for SCO dominance](#)

Global Times, June 17, 2019

It is a false assertion by the West is that China and Russia are competing for SCO dominance.

The SCO has a well-established operating mechanism. As such, China, Russia, and other member states are able to have their own voices heard. Major decisions are negotiated by all member states, and without a "dominating" country.

[China's anti-terrorism experience in Xinjiang useful to UN](#)

Global Times, June 16, 2019

Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov recently paid a visit to Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, despite objections from some Western countries such as the US and the UK.

[Qualitative change in US China policy in 4 perspectives](#)

June 16, 2019, Global Times

The change in US's China Policy can be explained in four perspectives. First, the jousting over national status and power. Second, the game between different political systems and rules. Third, the fight over interests, especially in the economic sphere. Fourth, US domestic political struggle.

[US defense cooperation proposal with India defies win-win results](#)

June 16, 2019, Global Times

The Bureau of the Political-Military Affairs (PM) of the US Department of State on June 4 issued a fact sheet titled "US Security Cooperation With India" stating that "India plays a vital role in the US vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," and adding the US would advance its defense trade relationship and broader security partnership with the country.

[Insidious US entraps HK with new Act](#)

June 15, 2019, Global Times

The US Senate recently introduced the bipartisan Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. The act requires the US government to reaffirm Hong Kong's autonomy, human rights and democracy every year, and re-evaluate whether Hong Kong warrants a special status as a separate customs territory by Washington.

[US, the real culprit, calls victim PLA the culprit](#)

June 19, 2019, China Military Online

The US Washington Times provoked China by reporting on June 16 that a US senior intelligence official claimed that the Chinese military has taken "irresponsible actions" towards the US forces stationed at the Camp Lemonnier, a US Naval Expeditionary Base situated in Djibouti City, the Horn of Africa.

[Hard-line US stance against China to continue: experts](#)

June 20, 2019, China Military Online

The new acting US Defense Secretary will continue to carry out the country's hard-line stance on China, Chinese observers said, noting that China is not afraid of any US provocation.

[No need for China to spy on India using balloons: experts](#)

June 19, 2019, China Military Online

China does not need to use balloons to gather intelligence on India, and if balloons have indeed been deployed along the borders of Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, as Indian media reported, they are likely only for China's own border protection or civil purposes, Chinese military experts said.

[PLA Navy needs own 'STOVL stealth fighter' jets to protect territory](#)

June 17, 2019, China Military Online

As China is reportedly building more aircraft carriers and its first group of amphibious assault ships, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy might

eventually need its own F-35B-like short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) stealth fighter jet to safeguard territorial integrity, Chinese military analysts said.

[China is lowering tariffs on other countries amid trade war with the US](#)

June 19, 2019, CNBC

As Beijing has raised duties on American exports in response to U.S. tariffs, it has lowered trade barriers for other countries, according to an analysis by the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Japan

[Japan says G20 summit to debate trade including WTO reform](#)

June 19, 2019, Money Control.com

Japan, which chairs this year's G20 gatherings, will take a neutral stance in the US-China trade row and urge countries to resolve tensions with a multilateral framework.

[Japan distancing itself from U.S. claims on Iran](#)

June 18, 2019, The Japan News

The government is avoiding taking sides in the dispute surrounding U.S. claims of Iranian involvement in Thursday's attacks on two oil tankers, including one operated by a Japanese company, near the Strait of Hormuz.

[Japan, Saudi Arabia to expand economic ties](#)

June 18, 2019, NHK World

Japan and Saudi Arabia will deepen economic ties and expand investment as the Middle East state seeks to reduce its dependence on oil revenue.

['Flying object' attacked Japanese tanker in Middle East](#)

June 15, 2019, The Japan News

A flying object was likely used to attack a tanker operated by Kokuka Sangyo Co., the shipping company said at a press conference at its head office in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo

[Japan reports suspected N.Korea ship transfers](#)

June 18, 2019, NHK World

Japan has reported to the UN Security Council more cases of suspected ship-to-ship transfers involving a blacklisted North Korean tanker.

[Tokyo snubs Seoul's proposed joint fund for wartime laborers](#)

June 20, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan has rejected South Korea's proposal for Japanese businesses named in compensation lawsuits filed by wartime Korean laborers to contribute money to a fund that will provide financial assistance to the aging plaintiffs.

Korea

[N.Korea's Kim Tells China's Xi He Wants to Be 'Patient' with U.S.](#)

June 21, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un told Chinese President Xi Jinping he "would like to be patient" with the United States over stalled nuclear talks and expressed hope "the relevant party will meet halfway" with Pyongyang, according to Chinese state media.

[Xi Vows to Back N.Korea in 'Grand Plan' for Stability](#)

June 20, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday pledged to draw up a "grand plan" with North Korea to achieve regional stability. In an op-ed on the front page of the North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper a day before his first visit to the North, Xi said that China "is willing to join hands with our comrades in [North Korea] to draw up a grand plan to realize permanent stability in the region."

[Xi Promises N.Korea 'As Much Help as Possible'](#)

June 21, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday promised North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "every possible support... to address security and development issues of reasonable concern."

[Seoul, Beijing hold economic talks amid US campaign against Huawei](#)

June 21, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea and China held their annual vice-ministerial economic cooperation talks Wednesday amid a U.S. campaign to push allies to shun Chinese telecom giant Huawei Technologies.

[Chaebol eager to form ties with Saudi prince](#)

June 20, 2019, The Korea Times

Leaders of the top four business groups will seek to bolster ties with Saudi Arabia during Prince Mohammed bin Salman's scheduled visit to Korea next week, according to chaebol watchers.

[Moon replaces top presidential secretaries for policy, economic affairs](#)

June 21, 2019, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in named new senior presidential secretaries for policy and economic affairs on Friday as the Korean economy slows down amid a sluggish job market.

[Korea's opposition party openly backs Hong Kong's 'democracy movement'](#)

June 16, 2019, The Korea Times

The minor opposition Bareunmirae Party has become Korea's first political party to officially support Hong Kong residents' anti-extradition protests.

[South Korea, Sweden to expand ties on startups, SMEs](#)

June 15, 2019, The Korea Times

The leaders of South Korea and Sweden agreed Saturday to level up their countries' partnerships, especially in response to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

[S.Korea reviewing Japan's request on wartime labor](#)

June 18, 2019, NHK World

South Korea's foreign ministry has not said whether it has appointed its member of an arbitration panel proposed by Japan aimed at resolving the issue of wartime labor.

[S.Korea offers condition for talks with Japan](#)

June 19, 2019, NHK World

South Korea says it is ready to consider talks with Japan on wartime labor if Japan accepts its proposal for compensating those who claim they were forced to work for Japanese companies during World War Two.

[Korean Peninsula crisis may deteriorate next year, Russian security official says](#)

June 18, 2019, Tass

The situation around the Korean Peninsula may worsen in 2020 unless Washington persuades Pyongyang that it is ready to improve ties, Russian Deputy Security Council Secretary Alexander Venediktov said.

Southeast Asia

[Inclusive Indo-Pacific must not exclude small states](#)

June 21, 2019, The Jakarta Post

Indo-Pacific is buzzing across the region. Government officials, diplomats and scholars are debating the merits and demerits of five proposed concepts: the Indo-Pacific Command (Indo-Pacom) of the United States, Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy (FOIP), Australia's Stable and Prosperous Indo-Pacific, India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), and last but not least, the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook.

[For Asean, US is natural choice, says top defence official](#)

June 20, 2019, Straits Times

For the Asean region, choosing the United States over China as a partner is the logical choice, Randall Schriver, Assistant Director of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs told an audience in Washington.

[India must play a key role in claiming the Indo-Pacific region](#)

June 19, 2019, The Indian Express

There is an increasing recognition of the importance of maritime security, maritime commons and cooperation. In the last few years, almost every joint or vision statement at the end of summit-level talks or meeting between major maritime powers accords high priority to maritime security and stability.

[Great Expectations: ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific Concept](#)

June 17, 2019, The Diplomat

After France unveiled the latest version of its policy in the Indo-Pacific ("France and security in the Indo-Pacific") in May 2019, and after the United States published its updated "Indo-Pacific Strategy Report" in June 2019, ASEAN is next in line in terms of new articulations of an ongoing concept that has been under development. At the 34th ASEAN summit to be held in Bangkok on June 23, member-states are expected to endorse an "ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook."

[Mike Pompeo Drops Colombo from Indo-Pacific Visit Over 'Unavoidable Scheduling Conflicts'](#)

June 19, 2019, News 18

Pompeo's trip to Colombo was aimed at expressing America's solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka as they stand united against the despicable April 21 suicide attacks.

[Myanmar Army Denies Helping Indian Govt Wipe Out Northeast Militants](#)

June 19, 2019, APN News

The Myanmar military has denied reports media reports that the armed forces of the two countries have been conducting joint military operations Northeastern rebel groups, reports The Irrawady.

[Myanmar: UN Blames Itself For Chinese Threats](#)

June 20, 2019, Strategy Page

The UN revealed an internal report on how the UN handled the crises created when a million Rohingya (Burmese Moslems) who were driven out of Burma into Bangladesh in 2017 by the Burmese military. The UN blames itself for not taking action in 2017.

Central & West Asia

[Former head of Kyrgyzstan accused of creating organized crime groups](#)

June 18, 2019, Asia Plus

Kyrgyz parliament deputies filed charges against former President Almazbek Atambayev, including the creation of organised criminal groups, corruption during the modernisation of the Bishkek Thermal Power Plant, illegal supply of coal to this facility, and illegal acquisition of land, persecution and repression of members of parliament, judges, public figures, as well as journalists and media representatives who oppose his regime.

[Kazakhstan: Police now say they detained 4,000](#)

June 18, 2019, Central Asia News

Police in Kazakhstan have updated their tally of people they say were detained during recent anti-government protests to 4,000. Interior Minister Yerlan Turgumbayev said on June 18 that over a five-day span, 677 people were placed under arrest and that another 305 were fined. The remainder had their details taken and were released within three hours.

[Turkmen President Names Son Provincial Governor](#)

June 18, 2019, Central Asia News

Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov has appointed his son as governor of the south-central region of Ahal, amid speculation that Serdar Berdymukhammedov, 37, is being groomed to succeed his father at the helm of the tightly controlled Central Asian nation, after his previous appointment as Deputy Foreign Minister.

[Uzbekistan's economic transformation gets new boost with \\$500m World Bank loan](#)

June 15, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Uzbekistan's ongoing economic transformation and market reforms, aimed at increasing jobs and prosperity for all its citizens, will receive further support through a \$500 million Development Policy Operation (DPO), approved on June 14 by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors.

[ADB vice-president reaffirms commitment to Tajikistan's development](#)

June 19, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Asian Development Bank Vice-President Mr. Shixin Chen met with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and senior government officials during his first official visit to Tajikistan on 17–18 June. He reiterated ADB's support for Tajikistan's development priorities through the country partnership strategy (CPS) and national development programs.

[Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Deadly Prison Riot In Tajikistan](#)

June 14, 2019, RFE/RL

The Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for a May 20 prison riot in Tajikistan in which 32 people were killed. The militant group said on June 14 in its online Al-Nabaa publication that the "attackers" at the maximum-security prison about 15 kilometers east of Dushanbe were "caliphate soldiers" – a term that IS has used to claim responsibility for terrorist attacks around the world.

[EU Foreign Ministers Call For 'Strong Partnership' With Central Asia](#)

June 17, 2019, RFE/RL

The European Union member states have adopted a new strategy on Central Asia, saying the document aims at forging a strong and durable partnership between the bloc and countries of the region. The EU Council of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed its commitment to conclude and implement Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCAs) with the countries in the region.

[Saudi crown prince linked to Khashoggi murder in U.N. report](#)

June 19, 2019, Reuters

After a six-month investigation, the 100-page report by the U.N. special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, Agnes Callamard, accused Saudi Arabia of a "deliberate, premeditated execution" in the case of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder in Turkey in 2018. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and some senior government officials have been directly implicated.

[Saudi, UAE Call to Protect Gulf Shipping Route](#)

June 16, 2019, Khaleej Times

The UAE urged world powers on Saturday to help secure maritime traffic and energy supplies, following twin attacks on tankers in a vital Gulf shipping channel. Saudi Arabia also called for swift action to secure Gulf energy supplies in the form

of rapid and decisive response to the threat to energy supplies, market stability and consumer confidence after the attacks in the Gulf area.

[Iraqi Shi'ite cleric warns politicians to form government within 10 days](#)

June 18, 2019, Reuters

Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr urged political blocs to pressure the prime minister to form a complete cabinet within 10 days, warning that his supporters would take a "new stance" if they failed to do so. Sadr has rallied his supporters to stage mass protests against previous governments, and has implied this could take place against the current government under Adel Abdul Mahdi.

[Emir of Kuwait to Visit Iraq to Discuss Gulf Tension](#)

June 18, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will travel to Iraq at the head of a government delegation in order to hold talks on regional developments and bilateral relations with President Barham Salih, Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi and Parliamentary Speaker Mohammed Al-Halbusi. It comes amid heightened tensions in the Gulf region due to the recent attacks on a number of oil installations and tankers.

[Palestinian finances near collapse as cuts deepen](#)

June 18, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Palestinian finances are on the brink of ruin after the suspension of hundreds of millions of dollars of US aid, the head of the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) said. The mounting financial pressures on the Palestinians' self-ruling entity have sent its debt soaring to \$3 billion, and led to a severe contraction in its estimated \$13 billion GDP economy for the first time in years.

[Saudis Shoot Down Drone Launched from Yemen's Houthis](#)

June 19, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Saudi air defences shot down a drone launched by Houthi rebels from Yemen, according to a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition. The drone was intercepted over Yemen's Hajjah province before entering Saudi airspace. Last month, Riyadh accused Houthi rebels of carrying out drone attacks on two oil-pumping stations on the East-West pipeline, which carries Saudi oil from the eastern province to the port in the western coast.

[Lebanon's Hariri Calls for Cabinet Solidarity in Budget Debate](#)

June 18, 2019, Reuters

Lebanon Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri called for parliament to quickly approve the country's 2019 budget and urged his coalition government to avoid internal disputes. The cabinet agreed to a budget plan that shrinks the projected fiscal deficit by 4 percentage points from last year to 7.6% by cutting spending and raising taxes and other fees. Lebanon has one of the world's heaviest debt burdens, equivalent to about 150% of GDP, and the IMF has urged it to cut spending.

[Turkey says U.S. Stance on F-35 Doesn't Fit Spirit of NATO Partnership](#)

June 18, 2019, Reuters

Turkey condemned a U.S. warning that it would be removed from Washington's F-35 fighter jet programme unless it drops a planned purchase of a Russian air defence system, saying it was out of keeping with the spirit of NATO partnership. The U.S. says Turkey's acquisition of the Russian system poses a threat to Lockheed Martin Corp's F-35 stealth fighters, and has threatened to impose sanctions on Turkey under CAATSA.

[Israel Should Wait for Peace Plan Before West Bank Annexation, says Jason Greenblatt](#)

June 19, 2019, The National

Israel should hold off on the partial annexation of the occupied West Bank until the US has presented its controversial Middle East peace plan, US special envoy to the Middle East Jason Greenblatt said. He endorsed US ambassador David Friedman's comments in support of Israel partially annexing the West Bank. Such a move is against international law and a dramatic break with decades of US policy in the region.

[Israel will not attend US-sponsored Bahrain Economic Summit on Middle East Peace](#)

June 18, 2019, The National

Israel will not be attending an economic-focused conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Bahrain, ending weeks of speculation about whether the Israelis would be meeting Arab states side by side to discuss part one of the United States' so-called Deal of the Century. Israel not attending also means that neither of the two main parties – Israelis or Palestinians – will have official representatives at the workshop meant to discuss their futures.

[Israel to reopen Gaza fishing zone to 10 nautical miles](#)

June 18, 2019, The National

Israel will reopen the fishing zone off the coast of Gaza to 10 nautical miles, after it closed the entire waterway to Palestinian fishermen. Israeli military had closed the waters off of the territory it blockades in response to balloons that Palestinians attach flaming rags to and then fly into Israeli territory. It was a rare move as Israel usually restricts the zone but never fully closes it. The move to reopen came after a new round of Qatari money entered the coastal enclave, delivered by a delegation led by Doha's envoy to the enclave.

[Syrian foreign minister says Damascus does not want to fight with Turkey](#)

June 18, 2019, The National

Syria does not want to see fighting with Turkey, its foreign minister said, after Turkey said one of its observation posts in Syria's Idlib region was attacked from an area controlled by Syrian government forces. The dominant force in the Idlib region is Tahrir Al Sham, the latest incarnation of the former Nusra Front that was part of Al Qaeda until 2016. Others, including some with Turkish backing, also have a presence.

[Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu warns 'enemies' as Gulf tensions rise](#)

June 20, 2019, The National

With tensions rising between Israel's ally the US and Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the Jewish state's enemies not to test it. Israeli public radio said that Netanyahu convened his security cabinet for a meeting that lasted close to four hours in the shadow of the tension in the Persian Gulf. The radio said that it was the second time in a week the senior ministers had met.

[Staff evacuated as rocket strikes near foreign oil firms in Iraq](#)

June 19, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Workers are being evacuated in the wake of a rocket hitting a site in southern Iraq used by foreign oil companies on Wednesday, including US energy giant ExxonMobil, wounding three people and threatening to further escalate US-Iran tensions in the region. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack near Iraq's southern city of Basra, the fourth time in a week that rockets have struck near US installations.

[Ghani calls for Iran's active role in Afghan peace talks](#)

June 15, 2019, Tehran Times

President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani In a meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the side-lines of SCO Summit in Bishkek on June 15 underlined the necessity of promoting cooperation with Iran, calling for the Islamic Republic's active role in the Afghanistan peace talks.

[Tensions rise as Iran speeds up enrichment, US sends troops](#)

June 18, 2019, AP

Iran will surpass the uranium-stockpile limit set by its nuclear deal soon, raising pressure on Europeans trying to save the accord also heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington. The Pentagon announced it was sending about 1,000 additional American troops to the Middle East to bolster security in the region in the face of. President Hassan Rouhani already has warned Europe that a new deal needs to be in place by July 7 or the Islamic Republic would increase its enrichment of uranium.

[China continues buying Iranian LPG despite U.S. sanctions](#)

June 19, 2019, Tehran Times

According to Ship tracking data, Kpler SAS(Paris-based energy researcher) estimates that at least five supertankers loaded Iranian LPG in May and June heading for China. That would equate to around \$100 million of the gas, according to Bloomberg calculations.

[Iran shoots down US drone aircraft](#)

June 20, 2019, CNN

Iranian forces have shot down a United States military drone on June 20. The incident occurred in international airspace over the Strait of Hormuz. The head of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, said the shooting down of the drone had sent a warning to the US.

[Macron's senior advisor arrives in Tehran for talks to reduce tensions](#)

June 20, 2019, IRNA

Senior advisor to French President Emanuel Macron arrived in Tehran on June 19 to hold talks with local officials as part of European efforts to reduce tensions between Iran and the US.

United States

[Mexico first to ratify USMCA trade deal, Trump presses U.S. Congress to do same](#)

June 20, 2019, Reuters

Mexico on Wednesday became the first country to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) agreed late last year to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) at the behest of U.S. President Donald Trump.

[Global Economic Growth Is Already Slowing. The U.S. Trade War Is Making It Worse.](#)

June 18, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump's trade war is chilling business investment, confidence and trade flows across the world, a development that foreign leaders and business executives say is worsening a global economic slowdown that was already underway.

[Trump Accuses Europe of Bolstering Its Economy at America's Expense](#)

June 18, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump on Tuesday accused the European Central Bank of trying to prop up Europe's economy and weaken its currency to gain a competitive edge over the United States. Mr. Trump directed his criticism at Mario Draghi, the bank's president, who said in a speech on Tuesday that "additional stimulus will be required" to help Europe withstand the economic challenges it faced, including mounting protectionist threats stemming from Mr. Trump's trade war.

[Shanahan Withdraws as Defense Secretary Nominee, and Mark Esper Is Named Acting Pentagon Chief](#)

June 18, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump withdrew the nomination of Shanahan and named Mark Esper as the new acting secretary of defense, prolonging period without confirmed defence chief.

[Oil prices spike after Iran shoots down American drone](#)

June 20, 2019, CNN

Oil prices climbed around three percent on Thursday amid escalating tensions in the Middle East after a US military drone was shot down by Iranian forces. The drone was brought down in international airspace over the Strait of Hormuz by an Iranian surface-to-air missile, a US official told the Reuters news agency on Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

[India slaps back at U.S. with tariffs, lobbing small but strategic strike ahead of G-20 summit](#)

June 17, 2019, The Washington Post

India lobbed a small but strategic strike in President Trump's trade war, imposing retaliatory tariffs on 28 products and layering in another economic stressor just days before leaders from both nations meet at the Group of 20 summit.

[U.S. tells India it is mulling caps on H-1B visas to deter data rules - sources](#)

June 19, 2019, Reuters

The United States has told India it is considering caps on H-1B work visas for nations that force foreign companies to store data locally, three sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters, widening the two countries' row over tariffs and trade.

[US likely to impose more tariffs on China if new trade deal isn't reached](#)

June 18, 2019, ABC News

U.S. trade representative Robert Lighthizer said before the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday that the U.S. is ready to place more tariffs on China if it can't agree to a new trade deal

[Pompeo Cancels Visit to Sri Lanka](#)

June 19, 2019, VOA News

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is cancelling a visit to Sri Lanka during his upcoming visit to the Indo-Pacific region that includes accompanying President Donald Trump to the G-20 summit in Japan. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo said "unavoidable scheduling conflicts" necessitated the cancellation.

[US ups investment in Africa to counter China's influence](#)

June 19, 2019, Al Jazeera

Eleven heads of state and government and more than 1,000 business leaders are meeting in Mozambique this week for the US-Africa Business Summit ahead of the launch of a new, ambitious \$60bn United States investment agency that some analysts are calling a "once-in-a-generational opportunity" for the continent as well as a bid by the administration of US President Donald Trump to directly counter China's influence there.

[Trump Approves Strikes on Iran, but Then Abruptly Pulls Back](#)

June 20, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump approved military strikes against Iran in retaliation for downing an American surveillance drone but pulled back from launching them on Thursday night after a day of escalating tensions.

Europe & Russia

[UK risks Scotland split, more austerity after a no-deal Brexit: Hammond](#)

June 20, 2019, Reuters

British finance minister Philip Hammond warned contenders in the race to become prime minister that a no-deal Brexit could pull the United Kingdom apart and would deprive Britain's next leader of the money needed to end austerity.

[Tory leadership contest: Rory Stewart knocked out](#)

June 19, 2019, BBC

Britain's international development secretary Rory Stewart is the latest figure to drop out of the race to become the country's next prime minister, receiving just 27 votes in the third secret ballot of the Conservative Party's MPs. The MPs' secret votes will continue this week until the candidates are whittled down to just two, when the choice of who will lead the country of some 65 million people will be put to the 160,000 members of the Conservative Party.

[UK, France and Germany in last-ditch effort to save Iran deal](#)

June 19, 2019, The Guardian

Britain, France and Germany are to mount a last-ditch effort to dissuade Iran from effectively quitting the nuclear deal, warning time was running out for negotiations and the risk of war in the region "has not been averted".

[Spain joins France and Germany in race to build Europe's next combat jet](#)

June 17, 2019, Reuters

Spain on Monday joined a Franco-German project to build a next-generation fighter jet, an initiative touted as key to ensuring Europe can defend itself without depending on allies in an increasingly uncertain world.

[EU leaders wrangle over top jobs](#)

June 20, 2019, Deutsche Welle

EU leaders are meeting in Brussels to try and agree on who should fill the bloc's top posts. Berlin and Paris are at odds over who is best equipped to take the reins amid challenges such as Brexit and climate change.

[EU summit: Six things to look out for as leaders face bumpy start to new EU era](#)

June 20, 2019, Euronews

Leaders from across Europe gather on Thursday for a bumpy summit that could see major clashes over how to fill the top jobs in Brussels. Here are the six things to watch out for at the summit.

[Trump Weighs New Sanctions on Turkey Over Russian Missiles](#)

June 19, 2019, Bloomberg

The Trump administration is weighing three sanctions packages to punish Turkey over its purchases of the Russian S-400 missile-defense system, according to people familiar with the matter.

[US ready to discuss minimizing consequences of Turkey's cancellation of S-400 deal](#)

June 20, 2019, TASS

The USA is ready to discuss the ways to minimize any consequences that may potentially ensue from Turkey's exit from the S-400 deal with Russia, a senior US administration official informed TASS on Wednesday, commenting on Bloomberg's report on Washington considering three packages of sanctions against Turkey in case it acquires the S-400 missile defense systems.

[Two European countries could be the big winners from the US-China trade war, Barclays says](#)

June 18, 2019, CNBC

Christian Keller, head of economic research at Barclays, suggested in an analyst note that trade substitution resulting from additional tariffs, and other non-tariff related barriers, opens opportunities for core euro area economies to gain export market share. France and Germany could be the biggest beneficiaries in an escalation in trade tariffs between the U.S. and China, Barclays economists have projected.

[Russian bomber 'violates' Japanese airspace, defense ministry claims](#)

June 20, 2019, Tass

The Japanese Air Force's fighter jets were scrambled to intercept the bomber, the ministry said, noting that there was no dangerous situation.

[Iran's actions on nuclear deal can be reversed – Russian diplomat](#)

June 19, 2019, Tass

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said that "Iran is honoring all its obligations and even today, it technically remains within the framework set by the JCPOA".

[Russian diplomat emphasizes need to maintain New START](#)

June 19, 2019, Tass

The Treaty is set to remain in effect until 2021 unless a new document is signed to replace it.

[Deterrence works both ways: Russian diplomat says Pentagon needs to get a grip on reality](#)

June 19, 2019, Tass

The senior diplomat expressed concerns over the growing trend in the US, where the term "strategic stability" is used in a very loose way.

[Moscow's missile defense system to be modernized by 2022, says Defense Minister](#)

June 19, 2019, Tass

The Russian Defense Ministry is planning to complete Moscow's missile defense system modernization by 2022, defense chief Sergey Shoigu told the Ministry's council for implementing state defense orders and the Russian President's May decrees from 2012 and 2018.

[EU to extend sanctions against Russia for six months](#)

June 19, 2019, Tass

Economic sanctions against Russia will be extended for six months by heads of states and governments of the European Union, although Poland requests to do so for 12 months, an EU source told reporters.

['Russia Is Our Enemy': The Reactions to Anti-Russian Protests in Georgia](#)

June 21, 2019, The Moscow Times

Officials in Russia and Georgia have spoken out following Thursday night's mass protest in Tbilisi which broke out over anti-Russian sentiment and led to dozens of injuries.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Sudan's military leaders urge fresh talks](#)

June 19, 2019, BBC

The head of the ruling military council in Sudan Lieutenant-General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan urged the Forces for Freedom and Change and all political powers to resume peace talks. There has been deep mistrust of the military rulers since security forces opened fire on peaceful protesters two weeks ago.

[Unregulated sand mining threatening African coasts](#)

June 19, 2019, Africa News

Several African beaches are now threatened with extinction according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The coastlines are threatened with extinction by the sand mafias. In the case of Morocco, it is estimated that at least 55.07% of the sand sold on the Moroccan national market comes from illegal channels which is mainly used in the construction sector.

[Ethiopia secured historic global telecom summit - in week it blocked internet](#)

June 20, 2019, Africa News

Ethiopia was last week chosen as hosts of the next World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC. The event takes place in 2021 and will be the first time an African country is hosting it. However, at the time, the country's only internet service provider, state-owned Ethio Telecom, cut internet access and disabled text messaging between for a week without explanation.

[IS militants 'killed by Niger and foreign forces'](#)

June 20, 2019, BBC

Niger's defence ministry has announced that 18 Islamic State (IS) militants have been killed in a joint operation by US, French and Nigerien troops.

[US ups investment in Africa to counter China's influence](#)

June 19, 2019, Al Jazeera

Eleven heads of state and government and more than 1,000 business leaders are meeting in Mozambique this week for the US-Africa Business Summit ahead of the launch of a new, ambitious \$60bn United States investment agency that is seen as a bid by the administration of US President Donald Trump to directly counter China's influence there.

[Ethiopian migrants rescued from Yemen](#)

June 18, 2019, Al Jazeera

Hundreds of Ethiopian migrants have returned home from Yemen as part of a UN repatriation programme. Around 12,000 people take the dangerous sea journey from the Horn of Africa to Yemen every month despite its poverty.

[Italy allocates 5 million euros to IOM activities in Libya, Sudan, and Ethiopia](#)

June 20, 2019, Libya Observer

The Italian Foreign Ministry announced on Wednesday the allocation of 5 million euros from the Africa Fund resources to support International Organization for Migration (IOM) activities in Libya, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Italy has provided an additional loan of two million euros to Libya, in an initiative to ensure voluntary humanitarian repatriation programs for migrants stranded in Libya, and promoting direct assistance to vulnerable groups of migrants.

Latin America

[Mexico's Migration Chief Abruptly Resigns](#)

June 14, 2019, NPR

The president of Mexico's National Migration Institute, the government agency that controls and supervises migration, resigned Friday. His resignation comes as Mexico is dealing with a surge of migrants, mostly from Central America, trying to reach the United States.

[Ecuador: Colombia refugees stage weeks-long protest against UNHCR](#)

June 20, 2019, Al Jazeera

Dozens of protesters occupying space outside UNHCR's office in Quito say the refugee agency is failing to protect them. They refuse to leave until the UNHCR promises to relocate them to another country.

[Trump revives Monroe Doctrine as warning to China and Russia](#)

June 19, 2019, Al Jazeera

Latin American countries long demonised the doctrine which historically gave Washington a blank cheque to intervene. The White House is using crippling economic and financial sanctions as a means to bend or break "uncooperative" countries.

[Brazilian Judge Acquits Man Who Stabbed Jair Bolsonaro](#)

June 15, 2019, NPR

A Brazilian judge has acquitted a man who stabbed then-presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro. The judge ruled that Adélio Bispo de Oliveira was mentally ill and ordered him held in a mental facility indefinitely.

[Javier Duarte: Former Mexican governor arrested in Guatemala after six months on the run](#)

June 16, 2019, TheIndependent

Mexico's Attorney General's Office said Javier Duarte was arrested in Panajachel, Guatemala after six months on the run. The Mexican government has allegedly found millions of dollars linked to the politician – frozen from more than 100 bank accounts and has also seized property and businesses tied to him.

[Nicaragua says released all considered political prisoners](#)

June 18, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

Nicaragua said Tuesday that it has released all prisoners detained in relation to 2018 anti-government protests, though the opposition maintains that more than 80 people it considers political prisoners are still in custody. Protests erupted in April 2018 calling for President Daniel Ortega to step down.

[UN human rights chief makes first visit to Venezuela](#)

June 19, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

The United Nations' top human rights official was set to arrive to Venezuela on Wednesday amid heightened international pressure on President Nicolás Maduro for allegedly silencing opponents with jail, torture and excessive violence.

[Power Restored After Tens Of Millions In South America Experience Prolonged Blackout](#)

June 16, 2019, NPR

The lights came back on late Sunday for some 44 million people in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay after the sudden collapse of an interconnected South American power grid. At a news conference, Argentina's energy secretary, Gustavo Lopetegui, declined to rule out the possibility of a cyber-attack, though he acknowledged it was an unlikely scenario.



Delhi Policy Group
Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
India

www.delhipolicygroup.org