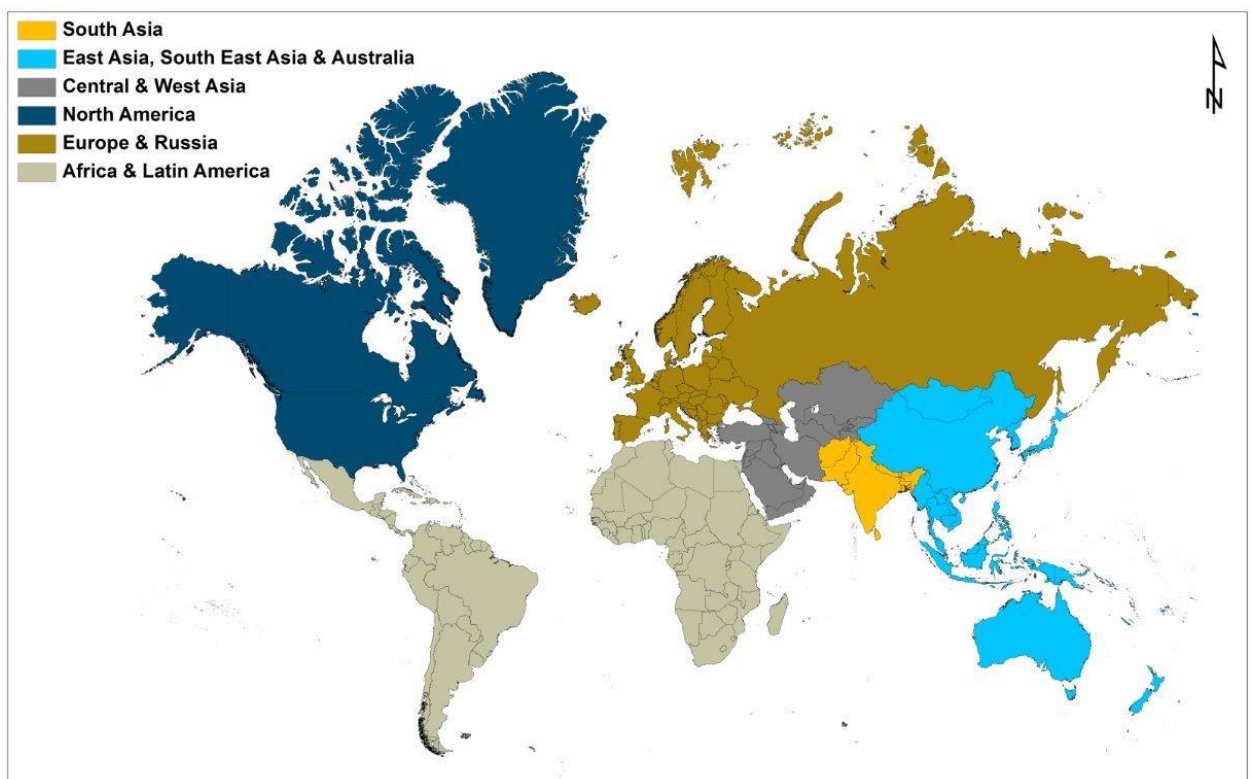




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 26

ABOUT US

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

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

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South Asia

India

[Japan, America, India stand for JAI: PM Modi holds trilateral meeting with Trump, Abe](#)

June 28, 2019, India Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held extensive discussions on the Indo- Pacific region, improving connectivity and infrastructure development with US President Donald Trump and Japanese premier Shinzo Abe in Osaka ahead of the formal opening of the G-20 summit.

[PM Modi, US President Trump discuss Iran, trade, defence, 5G](#)

June 28, 2019, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held talks with US President Donald Trump and discussed various bilateral and global issues including Iran, 5G communications networks, trade and defence ahead of the G-20 Summit.

[Modi and I will announce very big trade deal: US President Donald Trump](#)

June 28, 2019, India Today

US President Donald Trump on Friday said ahead of his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he thinks they will have a "very big trade deal to announce".

[India's tariffs unacceptable: Donald Trump lashes out ahead of meeting PM Modi at G20 Summit](#)

June 27, 2019, India Today

Ahead of meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, US President Donald Trump has hit out at the Modi government and said that India's tariffs on US products is "unacceptable" and they must be withdrawn.

[H1B visas, terrorism, Iran oil to top agenda of Jaishankar-Pompeo meet](#)

June 25, 2019, Financial Express

Terrorism, H1B visas, trade and the situation arising out of US sanctions on buying oil from Iran, will be among a host of issues on the table when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar holds talks with his American counterpart Mike Pompeo on June 26, 2019. The US Secretary of State's visit starting June 25th, 2019 is the first high-level visit from any country following the Lok Sabha polls.

[Will do what is in our national interest: India to US on S-400 deal](#)

June 27, 2019, Money Control

India will go by its national interest on S-400 missile defence deal with sanctions-hit Russia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his US counterpart Mike Pompeo, even as the two sides agreed to work their way through the contentious pact as also other prickly issues, including those related to trade, to take the bilateral ties to new levels.

[US promises to ensure oil supplies to India after Iranian crude ban](#)

June 26, 2019, Times of India

The United States will ensure India receives adequate supplies of oil as New Delhi stops buying Iranian crude in line with US sanctions, US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo said during his visit to India on June 26, 2019. He also added that the recent trade tensions between the US and India won't impact ties between the two nations, and their partnership is "already beginning to reach new heights".

[Pompeo vows cooperation with India but trade, defence issues unresolved](#)

June 26, 2019, Reuters

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sought to reduce heightened trade tension with India during his visit, promising a renewed focus on negotiating better ties, but giving few specifics of how they would overcome disputes over trade and investment.

[India says Pakistan must end terror funding by September, take irreversible, credible steps](#)

June 22, 2019, India Today

The Ministry of External Affairs has issued a statement to say that India expects Pakistan to adhere to the FATF norms and fulfil its conditions on ending terror financing.

[As G20 gets underway this week, Delhi may attempt a tightrope walk](#)

June 23, 2019, Live Mint

PM Modi is expected to meet leaders of Japan and US as well as Russia and China in two different sets of trilaterals. This comes amid strategic convergence with Japan and the US on some aspects of the Indo-Pacific concept.

[G20 Summit: Modi, Xi, Putin to discuss US' protectionist trade policies](#)

June 24, 2019, Business Today

Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders of the BRICS grouping during the G20 Summit in Japan this week where the talks would be focussed on opposing the "unilateralist" and "protectionist" trade policies of the US, a senior Chinese minister has said.

[India to push for reforms at WTO during G20 meet](#)

June 22, 2019, Live Mint

Briefing reporters in New Delhi, Suresh Prabhu said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will highlight the fact that "slower global trade adversely affects economic growth". This will be Modi's sixth G20 meet and India will push for reforming and strengthening the World Trade Organization (WTO), amid stresses and strains over free trade among key global economies.

[India-Japan ties to become stronger in 'New India': PM Modi tells diaspora](#)

June 27, 2019, Financial Express

"When it comes to India's relationship with the world, Japan has an important place in it. This relationship is dated back to centuries. There is a sense of belonging, goodwill and respect for each other's culture and civilization," Modi said while addressing an enthusiastic Indian community at Kobe.

[India Didn't Accept Petition From Hong Kong Activists to Consulates of G20 Nations](#)

June 27, 2019, The Wire

India was among only two members of the G20 whose consulates did not accept a petition from Hong Kong activists to the international community to put pressure on China to scrap the controversial extradition bill.

[Seems like Washington is coercing India: U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee](#)

June 25, 2019, The Hindu

The Chairman of the U.S House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), Eliot Engel, wrote to Secretary of State Michael Pompeo on Monday, saying there was a growing view that the Trump administration was coercing India on various fronts rather than negotiating with it.

[China wants India to be part of its Asian free-trade pact – flexibility on liberalisation may be an acceptable price](#)

June 23, 2019, SCMP

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is China's chance to forge a Trump-proof trade deal that can accommodate the Belt and Road Initiative. Patience with India, which wants to protect domestic manufacturing, may be the way forward

[India warns foreign e-commerce firms like Amazon, Flipkart over discounts](#)

June 26, 2019, Business Standard

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said that while the government was prepared to listen to concerns about its new foreign direct investment rules (FDI), it was committed to protecting small traders from predatory behaviour by foreign-funded companies. Foreign e-commerce firms such as Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart that they must ensure compliance with new foreign investment rules aimed at deterring them from providing steep online discounts.

[Jaishankar puts forth 5 points during diplomatic dinner, highlights India's role in global arena](#)

June 23, 2019, Business Standard

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar put forth five points he is working on and highlighted India's role in the global arena during the dinner hosted by him here on Saturday, according to the Ambassador of Iceland to India, GudmundurArni Stefansson.

[UK falling behind in race to engage with 'rising India': British Parliament panel](#)

June 24, 2019, Business Standard

The United Kingdom is "falling behind" in the global race to engage with the "rising India", said a key British Parliamentary committee in its report.

[India lining up defence deals worth \\$10 billion with US amid trade row](#)

June 23, 2019, Times of India

The latest deal being finalized by India under the foreign military sales programme of the US is for the acquisition of 10 more Poisedon-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft for over \$3 billion. The procurement case was cleared by anMoD committee.

[Deliveries of S-400 missile systems to India will start after 2020 – government service](#)

June 27, 2019, TASS

Russia's S-400 Triumf missile defense systems will be delivered to India after 2020, the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation said, in accordance with the agreement. Issues with payment have been resolved.

Pakistan

[Pakistan parliament approves Rs 1,150 billion defence budget](#)

June 27, 2019, India Today

Pakistan's military, in a rare move, early this month decided to voluntarily cut the defence budget for the next fiscal year and assured the nation that there would be no impact to its "response potential" due to the voluntary cut in the budget.

[Pakistan gets FATF reprieve, but only till October](#)

June 22, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan has avoided the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) blacklist, until October, when it will have to report back to the world financial watchdog that it has successfully implemented its own action plan to counter terror financing.

[MoUs signed with Doha on trade, investment, finance intelligence](#)

June 23, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan and Qatar on June 22 signed three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on trade and investment and cooperation on financial intelligence and tourism.

[Defence services secured biggest supplementary grant](#)

June 24, 2019, Dawn

The Pakistan military secured the biggest supplementary grant of more than Rs36 billion during the outgoing fiscal year before seeking about 4.7 per cent higher allocations for next fiscal year. Defence services spent these funds without prior approval of the parliament.

[Pakistan, EU sign Strategic Engagement Plan](#)

June 25, 2019, Radio Pakistan

Pakistan and the European Union have signed the Strategic Engagement Plan to further boost their relations in diverse fields. This framework includes

understanding to promote mutual peace and prosperity, trade and investment, migrant issues, sustainable development, energy, education and culture.

[Internet services disrupted across country](#)

June 25, 2019, Dawn

Internet services were impacted in different regions across Pakistan on June 24 due to multiple cable cuts. High-level investigation committee had been constituted to determine the root cause of the outage.

[Qureshi, Nato chief review cooperation](#)

June 25, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi met Nato secretary general Jens Stoltenberg at the headquarters of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in Brussels on June 24.

[Pakistan and Afghanistan talk peace, renew ties](#)

June 27, 2019, Pakistan Today

President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani visited Pakistan On June 27-28. During his visit he held one-on-one meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during which they agreed to open a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between both countries based on mutual trust and harmony for the benefit of their peoples. They also talked about CASA 1000 electricity line and TAPI gas pipe line.

[Pakistan's GSP Plus status in jeopardy](#)

June 28, 2019, The Express Tribune

The Generalised System of Preferences (GSP+) facility provided to Pakistan by the European Union (EU) is in jeopardy owing to a shift in the EU's policy and the sanctions imposed by Islamabad on international non-governmental organisations (INGOs).

[Pakistan has time till October to pass terror test](#)

June 22, 2019, The Times of India

Pakistan has until October to complete its action plans to curb terror financing and money laundering failing which it has a real chance of being blacklisted by the FATF.

Afghanistan

[Pompeo in Kabul: 'the hour has come for peace' in Afghanistan, US 'prepared to remove our forces'](#)

June 26, 2019, Washington Examiner

During his unannounced visit to Afghanistan on June 25, 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States is close to a deal with the Taliban on ending its support of terrorism in return for a U.S. pledge to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan at some future date.

['Real Peace Process' taking place in Afghanistan: Stoltenberg](#)

June 26, 2019, Tolo News

The NATO Secretary Jens Stoltenberg at a press briefing in Brussels on June 26, said that "a real peace process" is taking place in Afghanistan and that the international community is closer to a peace deal in Afghanistan.

[Two US soldiers killed in Afghanistan](#)

June 27, 2019, Tolo News

Two American soldiers were killed in Afghanistan on June 26. The latest deaths bring the tally of US soldiers' deaths in Afghanistan to at least six in 2019 and a total of at least 65 US military deaths since January 2015.

[Taliban threatens media in Afghanistan 'over enemy collusion'](#)

June 24, 2019, Aljazeera

In a statement the Taliban threatened Afghan media organisations and asked them to stop spreading what they call "anti-jihad and Taliban sentiments" or be targeted as enemies.

[Timetable for troop withdrawal 'Key to Progress in Peace Talks'](#)

June 24, 2019, Tolo News

Two former members of Taliban said that, the US and Taliban negotiators are expected to reach to some types of conclusion on a timetable for troop withdrawal as well as intra-Afghan talks in the next round of their meeting which will take place at June 29. This would be the seventh round of the US-Taliban talks.

[Dozens Of Afghan Politicians At Pakistan Meeting To Bolster Peace Efforts With Taliban](#)

June 22, 2019, RFERL

Pakistan hosted an Afghan peace conference on June 22. Many senior Afghan politicians attended the conference, however there were no representatives from Taliban and the Government of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

[Marshall secures multi-million pound defence contract with Bangladesh Air Force](#)

June 25, 2019, Cambridge Independent

The Cambridge Company will support the Bangladesh Air Force's entire C-130J fleet under the multi-year contract, which follows a landmark deal signed in May 2018. Bangladesh has now purchased an additional batch of former Royal Air Force C-130J aircraft from the UK Ministry of Defence.

[Momen advises others to follow Bangladesh-India relations](#)

June 23, 2019, New Age Bangladesh

Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen while speaking at the district correspondents' conference said the strong Bangladesh-India bilateral relations, built on political maturity and sagacity of both the countries' leaders, can be followed by other nations.

[PM: Rohingyas may threaten Bangladesh's security if not repatriated soon](#)

June 26, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told Parliament that the security and stability of Bangladesh could come under threat if the displaced Rohingya people are not repatriated to their homeland in Myanmar soon.

[Bimstec still ineffective 22 years after inception, despite Dhaka's proactive role](#)

June 26, 2019, The Dhaka Tribune

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) celebrated 22 years of its establishment on June 25th, but the organization remains ineffective and has failed to achieve even the minimum objectives

[World Investment Report: Bangladesh second largest FDI recipient in South Asia](#)

June 24, 2019, The Dhaka Tribune

In 2018, Bangladesh reached the highest ever level in the country's history at \$3.61 billion, according to World Investment Report 2019 by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

[Bangladesh needs to make itself heard in China: Chinese scholar](#)

June 26, 2019, UNB News

DrRuanZongze, Executive Vice President of China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) while delivering the keynote address at the Cosmos Dialogue said Bangladesh voice should be heard loud and clear inside China instead of "Bangladesh deficit in China and that "it's the responsibility of Bangladesh to promote itself to China."

[70th founding anniversary: AL pledges to build 'Golden Bangladesh'](#)

June 23, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Awami League (AL), one of the country's oldest political parties, celebrated its 70th founding anniversary in a befitting manner, with a commitment of building a hunger- and poverty-free 'Golden Bangladesh,' as envisioned by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

[Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina to visit China in July first week](#)

June 25, 2019, Business Standard

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit China in July first week, the first trip to Beijing after her re-election, during which the Asian giant may press for speeding up of the Bangladesh-China- India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor which has failed to take off.

Nepal

[China asked Nepal to ban a Tibetan official from entering the country. Nepali officials got the wrong man.](#)

June 26,2019, Kathmandu Post

Nepali officers denied entry to an American citizen after mistaking his for a former member of Tibetan Administration to the United States.

[Fresh bout of political instability](#)

June 24,2019, Kathmandu Post

As the probability of Oli handing over power to Dahal next May dwindles, the cloud of political instability looms large over Nepal yet again.

[Skill test mandatory for outbound Nepali workers to acquire permit](#)

June 27, 2019, Online Khabar

The government is preparing to make it mandatory for a section of migrant workers to pass a skill test conducted by it in order to acquire the permit to work abroad. Officials hope that this provision will help the workers get better facilities and ensure their security at the workplace.

[Chinese team to begin examining petroleum extraction potential in Nepal from Friday](#)

June 27, 2019, Online Khabar

A team of Chinese experts has arrived in Nepal to examine the potential of petroleum extraction in Dailekh district of Karnali province. The Chinese side will cover all costs of the examination.

[China tells Nepal to wait for cross-border railway DPR till issues get settled](#)

June 25,2019, Online Khabar

The Nepali delegation led by Physical Infrastructure and Transport Secretary Devendra Karki had gone to Beijing last week for the talk on the project that China wants to build as a part of its Belt and Road Initiative. However, the discussion did not produce any concrete results.

[Pun says Nepal itself will build Budhigandaki](#)

June 24,2019, Online Khabar

Minister for Water Resources, Energy and Irrigation Barsha Man Pun says Nepal itself will build the 1,200 megawatt Budhigandaki Hydropower Project. Minister Pun claims the government has not held any discussion with the Chinese firm, China Gezhouba Group Company, for the project.

[Nepal to lobby to Keep Kathmandu on the world heritage site](#)

June 26,2019,Himalayan Times

Nepali authorities will make a presentation at the WHC's 43rd session to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from June 30 to July 10 to keep Kathmandu in the heritage site list.

[South Asian countries can take huge advantage from BRI, says Nepali foreign minister](#)

June 21, 2019, UNB

Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali on Thursday said that South Asian countries can take huge advantage from BRI.

Bhutan

[EU Commits Additional 7.3 m Euros To Support Bhutan's Sustainable Development Path](#)

June 22, 2019, Daily Bhutan

A press release from the Bhutan Embassy in Brussels states that the Lyonchen, Dr Lotay Tshering commended the European Union (EU) for bringing together international partners to address the issue of inequalities at the European Development Days (EDD) in Brussels.

Sri Lanka

[Mike Pompeo canceled Sri Lanka visit over anti-US base sentiments - report](#)

June 25, 2019, Adaderana Lk

The US mission in Colombo cited "scheduling issues" over the cancellation of the June 27 trip that was aimed at showing solidarity with victims of terror attacks. But media reports have indicated that members of President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party are opposed to the presence of any American troops or base in the island nation.

[Sri Lanka in talks with China for \\$ 1 b loan](#)

June 22, 2019, Daily Ft

The Finance Ministry has revealed that Sri Lanka is seeking a loan of nearly \$ 1 billion from China for energy and highways as the island recovers from the devastating Easter Sunday bombings.

[Congress members urge US to support post-war reconciliation in Sri Lanka](#)

June 22, 2019, Adaderana Lk

Three members of U.S. Congress have written a letter urging the U.S. State Department to assert the need for the respect for religious minorities, respect for

due process and the rule of law in Sri Lanka following the horrific attacks on Easter Sunday.

[Sri Lanka President opposes SOFA style deals for US forces visits](#)

June 26, 2019, Economy next

President Maithripala Sirisena in an address to the media said that he was against agreements allowing US forces come to Sri Lanka and has blocked them in cabinet, in a stumbling block in relations with America.

[Sri Lanka considers buying more Russian-made helicopters - CDS](#)

June 26, 2019, Adaderana Lk

Sri Lanka is mulling over the possibility to buy more Russian-made helicopters in addition to several aircraft of the Mi family the country has, Sri Lankan Chief of the Defense Staff Adm.

[UK warns against moves to implement death penalty](#)

June 26, 2019, The Sunday Times Lk

The UK foreign office has warned that Sri Lanka would lose its global reputation as a tourist and business hub if the death penalty is implemented in the country.

[SL aims to woo 400,000 Indian tourists after Easter attacks](#)

June 24, 2019, Adaderana Lk

Sri Lanka expects 400,000 visitors from India in 2019 as it lines up discounts, events and aggressive marketing campaigns. These measures are being planned as the country recovers from the April 21 terror attack at Colombo hotels and churches which killed over 250 persons and crippled its tourism sector.

[AG instructs Acting IGP to initiate criminal investigation on former defense secretary](#)

June 24, 2019, Colombo Page

The Attorney General has directed the acting Inspector General of Police C. Wickramaratne to conduct a criminal investigation against former Defense Secretary Hemasiri Fernando for failing to prevent or mitigate the April 21 Easter Sunday Attacks.

[Sri Lanka extends state of emergency for another month](#)

June 22, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka government has issued an Extraordinary Gazette notification extending the Emergency Regulations for another month, June 22.

Maldives

[Maldives to Sign Visa Exemption Agreement With Russia](#)

June 25,2019, Maldives Times

In order to allow Maldivians to travel to Russia visa-free, an agreement is to be signed between both countries as per the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Russia, Maldives to Sign June 25 Deal on Mutually Eliminating Visa Requirements – Moscow](#)

June 24,2019, Maldives Times

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Maldivian counterpart, Abdulla Shahid, will sign on Tuesday in Moscow an agreement to mutually eliminate visa requirements, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

[Xuebing Sun: New FAO representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives](#)

June 24,2019, Maldives Times

The new representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Sri Lanka Xuebing Sun presented his credentials to Minister TilakMarapana at the Ministry premises on Monday

[Japan grants Maldives aid of USD 4.5 million](#)

June 21,2019, Maldives Times

Japanese government has made the decision to grant Maldives aid of USD 4.5 million. The agreement was signed between Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid and Japanese Ambassador to Maldives Keiko Yanai during the ongoing Maldives Partnership Forum last Monday.

[Maldives confident of 'fulfilling pledges' after partnership forum](#)

June 21,2019, Maldives Independent

Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and Finance Minister Ameer Ibrahim said they were confident the government can deliver on the pledges of its manifesto after eight agreements were signed at the Maldives Partnership Forum 2019.

[Maldives' top diplomat sits down with EU Trade Commissioner](#)

June 27,2019, The Edition

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid, on Thursday, met with the European Union (EU)'s Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom. At the meeting held at the European Commission in Brussels, Minister Shahid and Commissioner Malmstrom explored potential avenues to expand trade relations between Maldives and the EU.

[US embassy opens grants for Maldivian non-profits](#)

June 24,2019, The Edition

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the United States Embassy announced funding opportunities for non-profit organisations in Maldives under its Public Diplomacy grants program.

[Foreign Minister arrives in Belgium on official visit](#)

June 26,2019, Avas.mv

Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid arrives in Brussels, Belgium on a two-day official visit. Foreign Ministry revealed that the minister will be meeting with key officials from European Parliament, European Commission and European External Action Service during the trip.

East & South East Asia

China

[China is not budging ahead of Xi-Trump G-20 meeting](#)

June 27, 2019, CNBC

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce maintained a firm stance against the U.S. during a weekly press conference Thursday, less than two days ahead of a scheduled meeting between the leaders of the two countries.

[China, Nepal strengthen cooperation in air traffic control service](#)

June 28, 2019, Xinhua

The Tibet branch of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and Nepal's Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport signed an agreement on air traffic control in Lhasa, capital of southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region.

[China, Russia to lift military relations to new high: defense ministry](#)

June 28, 2019, Xinhua

China and Russia will bring their military relations to a new high under the strategic guidance of leaders of both countries, a spokesperson for the Chinese military said.

[China to hold first China-Africa peace, security forum](#)

June 28, 2019, Xinhua

The Ministry of National Defense of China will hold the first China-Africa peace and security forum from July 14 to 20, a spokesperson told a press conference.

[China refutes Pompeo's accusations against BRI](#)

June 28, 2019, Xinhua

A foreign ministry spokesperson on Thursday refuted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's criticisms against the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), saying that the international community is clear about which country is actually helping build infrastructure and promoting economic development.

[U.S. markets brace for Trump-Xi meeting, hoping for trade disputes solution](#)

June 28, 2019, Xinhua

U.S. markets on Wednesday braced for the much anticipated meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump.

[China to host 14th COP meeting of Convention on Wetlands](#)

June 28, 2019, Xinhua

Wuhan, the capital of central China's Hubei province, will play host to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 2021, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration announced.

[Chinese president arrives in Japan for G20 summit](#)

June 27, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived here Thursday afternoon for a summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

[Xi, Moon meet ahead of G20 summit on promoting win-win cooperation, multilateralism and free trade](#)

June 27, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in agreed here Thursday to further elevate bilateral relations with win-win cooperation and together safeguard multilateralism, free trade and an open world economy.

[Three outcomes from Xi visit to Pyongyang](#)

June 23, 2019, Global Times

President Xi Jinping and Chairman Kim Jong-un made history by meeting four times in less than a year, from March 2018 to January 2019. Xi's just-concluded visit to North Korea continues this history-making trend and adds a new chapter to China-North Korea relations.

[Head-of-state diplomacy can turn ties with US](#)

June 24, 2019, Global Times

Head-of-state diplomacy will lay a solid foundation for development of bilateral relations. We look forward to success at the G20 summit and fruitful returns for both countries.

[SCO can gain by improving mechanisms, increasing cooperation with ASEAN](#)

June 25, 2019, Global Times

Experts gave their suggestions on how to facilitate cooperation in trade, economy, investment and finance within the bloc and ways of strengthening the

organization's cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

[Cautious optimism needed on Xi-Trump meeting in Osaka](#)

June 26, 2019, Global Times

If Washington wants the Xi-Trump summit in Osaka to be a success, it needs to adopt a more practical and consistent China policy. The White House needs to rein in the impulse to corner China.

[Xi's trip to Japan could be a trendsetter](#)

June 27, 2019, Global Times

The comprehensive national power of China and Japan has undergone tremendous change. In the context of an increasingly complicated international situation, the stability of China-Japan relations is the cornerstone of not only the development of this bilateral relationship, but also an attempt at joint maintenance of global peace.

[US Indo-Pacific Strategy: hard to achieve goals](#)

June 26, 2019, Global Times

In the end, to advance the strategy, it is definitely wrong to create adversaries and bring together allies and partners to contain them.

[A lot at stake when Xi and Trump meet: China Daily editorial](#)

June 27, 2019, China Daily

Since both Beijing and Washington understandably want to hold their cards close to their chests until Xi Jinping and Donald Trump actually sit down to talk, it remains difficult to foretell exactly how the widely anticipated Saturday meeting between the two presidents on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka will play out.

[Huawei staff 'worked' with Chinese military](#)

June 27, 2019, Asia Times

Huawei staff have teamed up with Chinese military scientists to carry out research, a collaboration which challenges the telecom group's assertion that it has no ties to Beijing or the armed forces.

Japan

[Abe tells Xi he wants new era for Japan-China relations](#)

June 27, 2019, The Japan News

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he wants "to start a new Japan-China era" during bilateral talks with China's President Xi Jinping in Osaka.

[Abe, Xi agree on need for 'free, fair' trade](#)

June 28, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to work together to promote "free and fair trade" in talks on Thursday that included a "complicated" global economic landscape, a Japanese official said.

[Japan, U.S. affirm alliance after Trump revives security treaty criticism](#)

June 28, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed Friday to bolster the "unwavering" bilateral alliance after Trump earlier revived his criticism of what he sees as a one-sided security treaty.

[On approach to Osaka G20, Trump whips up storm for Abe on defense and trade](#)

June 27, 2019, Japan Times

As a storm bore down on Osaka on Thursday, bringing heavy rains to the city ahead of the Group of 20 summit, another was on its way — straight from Washington.

[Japan warns UK PM rivals on no-deal Brexit](#)

June 28, 2019, Japan Today

Japan cautioned the two candidates vying to replace Prime Minister Theresa May that a no-deal Brexit would be so disruptive for many companies that Japanese capital's 35-year bet on Britain could end.

[Abe, Macron vow more effort for free, open Indo-Pacific](#)

June 27, 2019, The Japan News

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed Wednesday to strengthen cooperation in maritime security, the environment and infrastructure development to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

[EU to ease restrictions on food imports from Japan](#)

June 27, 2019, The Japan News

Visiting leaders from the European Union informed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday of a plan to ease the EU's import restrictions on Japanese food products, set after a severe nuclear accident in Japan about eight years ago.

[Joint statement not expected after Abe-Putin talks in Osaka](#)

June 26, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin will not issue a joint statement after their upcoming talks, sources said, dashing hopes for progress toward a peace treaty at the Group of 20 summit.

[South Korea's Moon urges Japan to accept plan for firms from both nations to pay wartime labor plaintiffs](#)

June 27, 2019, The Japan Times

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has called on Japan to accept the country's proposal for solving the issue of compensation to Korean plaintiffs in wartime labor cases through funds from companies of both countries.

[MSDF, Japan Coast Guard hold 1st joint drill in South China Sea](#)

June 27, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The Japan Coast Guard and the Maritime Self-Defense Force conducted their first joint drill in the South China Sea on June 26, in a move apparently aimed at reining in China's aggressive behavior in the region.

['Promotion of free trade' included in G-20 declaration draft](#)

June 26, 2019, The Japan Times

The draft declaration of the Group of 20 summit to be held in Osaka June 28-29 currently includes the phrase "promotion of free trade" to accelerate the powerful growth of the world economy, sources said.

[Hong Kong extradition opponents in Osaka protest legislation ahead of G20, asking for U.K. and U.S. help](#)

June 27, 2019, The Japan Times

About 40 Hong Kong residents and Japanese gathered Thursday evening in central Osaka to protest extradition legislation that would allow Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China to face trial.

[Clash between liberal, authoritarian values at G20 summit](#)

June 28, 2019, Japan Today

World leaders attending a Group of 20 summit in Japan are clashing over the values that have served for decades as the foundation of their cooperation.

[UN chief urges G20 to make equitable financial reforms](#)

June 28, 2019, The Japan News

The U.N. chief is urging G-20 leaders to take action on equitable and stable reforms to strengthen the global financial safety net and increase the global economy's resilience.

Korea

[Moon greeted by Abe in G-20 opening ceremony](#)

June 28, 2019, The Korea Herald

The focus of attention is whether Moon will have bilateral talks with Abe, with relations between their countries strained over historical issues from Japan's 1910-45 colonization of Korea.

[Don't Make Me Choose Between China and U.S., Moon Tells Xi](#)

June 28, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

President Moon Jae-in on Thursday urged Chinese President Xi Jinping not to pressure South Korea to choose between China and the U.S.

[Kim Jong-un remains committed to denuclearization: Xi Jinping](#)

June 28, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un remains "strongly committed" to denuclearization and dialogue with the United States, Chinese President Xi Jinping said during a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

[US nuke envoy Biegun to hold talks with S. Korean officials ahead of Trump's visit](#)

June 28, 2019, The Korea Herald

Top US nuclear envoy Stephen Biegun held talks with his South Korean counterpart in Seoul on Friday, a day before President Donald Trump's trip to the Asian ally aimed at boosting efforts to bring North Korea back to the negotiation table.

[Trump to Meet Korean Business Leaders](#)

June 28, 2019, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The U.S. Embassy has invited the leaders of Korea's biggest conglomerates to a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday, the second day of his visit to Seoul.

[Trump will not meet Kim Jong-un during South Korea trip this weekend](#)

June 27, 2019, The Korea Times

U.S. President Donald Trump will not meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during his possible visit to the demilitarized zone in the inter-Korean border area this weekend.

[Exchange of letter can move US-North Korea talks forward: Seoul government](#)

June 27, 2019, The Korea Times

The Ministry of Unification said Thursday that a new momentum for the resumption of talks between North Korea and the U.S. was created by letters exchanged between leaders of the countries.

[N.Korea Rebuffs Fresh Advances from Moon](#)

June 28, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea on Thursday told South Korea to stay out of its dealings with the U.S., just a day after President Moon Jae-in expressed trust in North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's will to denuclearize.

[Australian, Japanese 'Arrested in N.Korea'](#)

June 28, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea appears to be resorting to its old tactic of taking foreigners hostage when things do not go its way, with reports of the arrest of an Australian and a Japanese man in Pyongyang.

Southeast Asia

[India treads a fine line in Indo-Pacific region](#)

June 28, 2019, The Economic Times

India told the US that it is "for something" in the Indo-Pacific and "not against somebody", seeking to tread a fine line in its relations with the US and China in the geopolitically critical region.

[India Welcomes ASEAN's Outlook On Indo-Pacific Region](#)

June 27, 2019, NDTV

The ASEAN, in its outlook, also saw the Indo-Pacific a region of dialogue and cooperation instead of rivalry, besides envisaging development and prosperity for all.

[PM, Donald Trump, Shinzo Abe Focus On Indo-Pacific During Trilateral Meet](#)

June 28, 2019, NDTV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a "productive" trilateral meeting with US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and extensively discussed issues of the Indo-Pacific region, connectivity, and infrastructure development ahead of the formal opening of the G20 Summit in Osaka.

[Indonesian former FM calls for ASEAN's solidarity in East Sea issue](#)

June 28, 2019, Vietnam Plus

The best way for ASEAN to approach the East Sea issue and the finalisation of the Code of Conduct (COC) is through one voice as a group, said former Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Marty Natalegawa on June 26.

[South China Sea: Philippine leader caves to China amid calls for impeachment](#)

June 27, 2019, Express UK

China appear to have succeeded in their diplomatic battle over the South China Sea after a prominent politician in the Philippines supported Chinese fishermen – leading to calls for President Duterte's impeachment.

[Myanmar army rejects ICC bid for full Rohingya probe](#)

June 27, 2019, CNA

Myanmar's military on Thursday (Jun 27) rejected an International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor's call for a full investigation into alleged crimes against Rohingya Muslims.

[Myanmar's internet blackout violates rights but could be the first of many](#)

June 26, 2019, ASEAN Today

In Myanmar's Rakhine State, local residents have relied on mobile internet and social media to share news of the ongoing violent conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army (AA). Activists and residents in the north of the

region send videos and photos of military operations and the impacts of the conflict to journalists and contacts across the country and abroad.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Uzbekistan Gets its first female parliament speaker](#)

June 21, 2019, Asia Plus

Ms. TanzilaNarbayeva, formerly Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, was elected to head Uzbekistan's upper chamber (Senate) of parliament (Oliy Majlis) at the 20th plenary session of the Senate that took place in Tashkent on June 20.

[Tajikistan Criminalises Use Of SIM Cards For Commitment Of Terrorism And Extremism Related Crimes](#)

June 21, 2019, Asia Plus

President Emomali Rahmon signed a number of laws, including the ones making amendments to the country's criminal and administrative codes.

[E-government in Tajikistan: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?](#)

June 26, 2019, Asia Plus

The Tajik authorities have begun discussing the issue of creation of the electronic government (e-government) once again.

[Kyrgyz Ex-President Rejects Accusations Ahead Of Vote On His Immunity](#)

June 27, 2019, Central Asia News

Kyrgyzstan's former president has rejected all accusations levelled against him by lawmakers and the prosecutor-general, as the parliament gets ready to vote on stripping him of immunity from prosecution.

[ADB and Uzbekistan renew development partnership with new 5-year strategy](#)

June 26, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on June 25 said it has endorsed a new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Uzbekistan.

[Uzbekistan: Former Prosecutor-General Sentenced To 10 Years For Corruption](#)

June 27, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The Tashkent City Court on June 26 sentenced former Uzbek Prosecutor-General RashidjonQodirov to 10 years in prison on corruption charges.

[Kazakhstan: President embarks on jumbo handout to soothe tempers](#)

June 26, 2019, Central Asia news

In the face of mounting grassroots pressure, Kazakhstan's president has ordered the government to pay off up to \$800 worth of debt owed by low-income families.

[Wage increases in Azerbaijan fuel speculation in troubled economy](#)

June 25, 2019, Central Asia News

For the second time this year, Azerbaijan's government will increase wages and pension payments. The increases, which will take effect later this summer, have sparked fears of increased inflation and a possible devaluation of the manat.

West Asia

[Armenian Ex-President Kocharian Back In Custody](#)

June 25, 2019, RFE/RL

Armenia's former president, Robert Kocharian, has returned to a detention center in Yerevan just hours after the country's Court of Appeal ordered his rearrest, overturning a ruling by a lower court.

[Georgians Hold Seventh Night Of Protests; Opposition Lawmaker Stripped Of Immunity](#)

June 27, 2019, RFE/RL

Protests have been continuing in Georgia's capital, with thousands of people rallying for a seventh night in Tbilisi, amid persistent anger about police violence and the government's policies toward Russia. Protesters were also angered by the announcement that opposition lawmaker Nika Melia was facing prosecution over the anti-government protests.

[Erdogan loses face in Istanbul rerun](#)

June 23, 2019, Khaleej Times

In a blow to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, an opposition candidate declared victory in the Istanbul mayor's race for a second time Sunday after the government-backed candidate conceded defeat in a high-stakes repeat election.

[Pompeo meets King Salman, Mohammed bin Salman to discuss Iran](#)

June 24, 2019, Khaleej Times

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and separately with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss the escalated crisis in the Arabian Gulf.

[Oman to open embassy in West Bank](#)

June 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Oman announced today that it will open an embassy in the occupied West Bank, in continuation of the Sultanate's support for the Palestinian people.

[Ex-Israeli prime minister Barak announces election run](#)

June 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Former prime minister Ehud Barak announced on Wednesday a return to politics as the leader of a new party in Israel's coming national election, saying it was time to end Benjamin Netanyahu's "corrupt leadership".

[UN official counters Saudi claims over Khashoggi report](#)

June 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

UN Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard said Wednesday that she did not rely on media reports to reach a conclusion in her investigation into the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi as Saudi Arabia claimed.

[Tehran renews warning that it may soon bid farewell to nuclear deal](#)

June 26, 2019, Al Monitor

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says his country's plan to scale back on the commitments it pledged under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a "phased" process that leaves the window to diplomacy open.

[Iraqi parliamentary groupings join hands in bid to oust Abdel Mahdi](#)

June 24, 2019, Al Monitor

Two days after the Victory Alliance led by former Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced it was forming a "reform opposition" to the Iraqi government, the National Wisdom Movement led by Ammar al-Hakim announced June 16 the adoption of the "constitutional opposition" which may also include the Sairoon Alliance led by Muqtada al-Sadr.

[Iran says 'idiotic' new US sanctions shut doors of diplomacy](#)

June 26, 2019, AP

Iran warned Tuesday that new U.S. sanctions targeting its supreme leader and other top officials meant "closing the doors of diplomacy" between Tehran and Washington amid heightened tensions, even as President Hassan Rouhani derided the White House as being "afflicted by mental retardation."

[Iran State TV: Ex-Defense Ministry Staffer Hanged For Spying](#)

June 23, 2019, AP

Iran's state TV says authorities have executed a former staff member of the Defense Ministry who was convicted of spying for the CIA.

[ISIL leader in Yemen captured, says Saudi-led coalition](#)

June 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

Saudi and Yemeni forces have captured the head of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's (ISIL or ISIS) branch in Yemen, according to an official.

[Turkey puts 16 on trial for trying to overthrow the government](#)

June 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

A trial in Turkey for 16 people accused of "terrorism" charges and organising anti-government protests in 2013 has begun with rights groups calling the allegations baseless.

[Netanyahu Denies Offering Gantz Rotation For Prime Minister](#)

June 27, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ended speculation of forming a unity government that would include a rotation for the Prime Minister's Office with Blue and White leader Benny Gantz, decreasing chances of canceling the September 17 election.

[Lebanese Prime Minister: We Oppose U.S. Plan For Mideast](#)

June 26, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The Lebanese government and parliament oppose a US plan for settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The \$6 billion grant has been widely seen as an incentive to accept the permanent settlement of Palestinians who have lived in Lebanon as refugees since the creation of Israel in 1948.

[Lebanese veterans block highways in budget protest](#)

June 27, 2019, Reuters

Hundreds of veterans burned tyres and blocked highways in Lebanon to protest plans to tax their pensions and other measures in a 2019 budget intended to slash the country's deficit.

[Saudi Arabia relaxes ownership limits for foreign investors](#)

June 26, 2019, Reuters

Saudi Arabia has relaxed a 49% limit for foreign strategic investors in shares of listed companies, aiming to attract billions of dollars of foreign funds as the Kingdom opens up the region's largest bourse to a more diverse investor base.

United States

[Trump-Xi meet, Iran tension to overshadow G20 summit in Japan](#)

June 26, 2019, Reuters

Concerns over trade, conflict and oil will dominate a summit of the Group of 20 major economies in Japan this weekend, with attention focused on a meeting between the leaders of the United States and China, embroiled in a lengthy trade war.

[US gets no commitment from NATO for help on Iran threat](#)

June 27, 2019, PBS

NATO allies gave the US no firm commitments that they will participate in a global effort to secure international waterways against threats from Iran, acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday, wrapping up his first alliance meeting.

[Mike Pompeo's 'terror remark' baseless, says Iran Embassy](#)

June 28, 2019, The Economic Times

Tehran on Thursday slammed US secretary of state Mike Pompeo for calling Iran the "largest sponsor of terror" and termed his statement made in Delhi as baseless and fabricated, and aimed at renewed conflict in the region.

[India wins solar case against the US in WTO](#)

June 27, 2019, The Economic Times

India received a shot in the arm in its fight against some US states offering favourable treatment to domestic renewable energy systems and components with a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel backing its complaint. The panel on Thursday ruled in favour of New Delhi which had claimed that subsidies and mandatory local content requirements in 11 renewable energy programmes in eight American states are inconsistent with global trade rules.

[Tillerson Says Kushner Bypassed Him and Mattis to Make Foreign Policy](#)

June 27, 2019, The New York Times

In a meeting in Riyadh in 2017, Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and adviser, talked with Saudi and Emirati leaders about their secret plans to impose a blockade on a critical American ally, Qatar. On another night, in a quiet corner of a Washington restaurant, Mr. Kushner huddled with the foreign minister of Mexico.

[Iran crisis looms over Pompeo's trip to Middle East, Asia](#)

June 23, 2019

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo headed to Saudi Arabia on Sunday as the Iran crisis overshadowed his attempts to make progress in negotiations with North Korea.

[Bernie Sanders lays out a new foreign policy vision to end America's "endless wars"](#)

June 25, 2019, Vox

In a new op-ed, the 2020 Democratic presidential candidate says he wants to end America's Middle East entanglements and privilege "diplomacy and working collectively with allies."

[U.S., North Korea in talks to set up 3rd Trump-Kim summit, Moon says](#)

June 26, 2019, NBC News

North Korean and U.S. officials are holding "behind-the-scenes talks" to arrange a third summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the fate of the North's expanding nuclear arsenal, South Korea's president said, four months after a second meeting between the leaders in Hanoi collapsed without any agreement.

[G20: world leaders urge Trump and Xi to reach a trade deal or risk global economy](#)

June 28, 2019, The Guardian

Donald Trump and Xi Jinping have been urged to reach a trade deal or risk setting the global economy on a downward path as world leaders gathered in Japan for the G20 summit.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Theresa May to meet Vladimir Putin at G20 summit in Japan](#)

June 26, 2019, The Guardian

Vladimir Putin will meet Theresa May at this week's G20 summit in Japan with a view to seeking improved relations between the countries, the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

[EU's Mogherini Says Special Trade Mechanism For Iran 'Operational'](#)

June 27, 2019, RadioFarda

The European Union Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini says a special mechanism to allow trade with Iran is expected to be launched soon.

[France says final G20 communique must mention Paris climate change agreement](#)

June 26, 2019, CNA

France said it will not accept a final G20 communique that does not mention the Paris climate change agreement, as President Emmanuel Macron hardened his position on climate change ahead of the G20 meeting.

[Donald Trump blasts Europe ahead of G20 summit](#)

June 27, 2019, Euronews

US President Donald Trump has taken aim at the European Union ahead of the G20 summit in Japan on Friday. In an interview with Fox News on Wednesday, the president said Europe "treats us worse than China" and also blasted EU antitrust cases against tech giants.

[EU to call for help from G20 leaders in reforming WTO](#)

June 27, 2019, Reuters

European Union leaders will this week urge the G20 to help reform the World Trade Organization in order to preserve a rules-based system which is under threat from an escalating trade war between China and the United States.

[US threatens Turkey with sanctions over S-400 deal](#)

June 28, 2019, Deutsche Welle

The US has urged Turkey to drop a Russian military hardware deal, saying it undermines their relationship. Turkey's president has refused to back down, saying he doubts NATO allies would impose sanctions on each other.

[Brexit no deal panic: EU to lose one million jobs and £228billion if Britain rejects deal](#)

June 27, 2019, Express

EUROPE faces a million job losses if Britain goes for a no deal Brexit, a shock impact study released today warned.

[EU makes last-ditch effort to keep Iran from leaving nuclear deal](#)

June 26, 2019, The Guardian

European states will announce a multimillion-euro credit line to ease trade between the EU and Iran in a last-minute and probably doomed effort to persuade Tehran not to take the first step to quit the 2015 nuclear deal.

Russia

[Putin arrives in Japan's Osaka to take part in G20 summit](#)

June 28, 2019, Tass

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Japan's Osaka, where he will take part in the G20 summit on June 28-29 and hold a dozen of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the event.

[Russia Returns to the Council of Europe.](#)

June 27, 2019, The Moscow Times

Five years after it was expelled for annexing Crimea, Russia has been admitted back onto the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. And not everyone is happy about it. We speak to Bloomberg columnist Leonid Bershidsky about how the decision has divided European allies and delighted Russia.

[Putin Slams 'Obsolete' Liberal World Order in FT Interview](#)

June 28, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published on Thursday that liberal values were obsolete because they had been rejected by the majority of the people in Western nations.

[Transnational corps need regulation, attempts to destroy WTO unacceptable – Putin to BRICS leaders](#)

June 28, 2019, RT

Russian President Vladimir Putin has spoken of the global economic situation and how the BRICS major emerging economies can join their forces to ensure it transforms into a more stable and fair model.

[Russia accomplished more than it expected in Syria – Putin](#)

June 27, 2019, RT

Not only has the intervention led to the stabilization of Syria and the defeat of IS (also known as ISIS), it had other positive effects that have far exceeded expectations..

[Western Intelligence Hacked 'Russia's Google' Yandex to Spy on Accounts](#)

June 28, 2019 The Moscow Times

The malware, called Regin, is known to be used by the "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing alliance of the United States, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, the sources said. Intelligence agencies in those countries declined to comment.

[Putin says Skripal poisoning story not worth a dime](#)

June 28, 2019, Tass

"Listen, all this fuss about spies and counterspies, it is not worth serious interstate relations. This spy story, as we say, it is not worth five kopecks. Or even five pounds, for that matter," he said. "And the issues concerning interstate relations, they are measured in billions and the fate of millions of people. How can we compare one with the other?"

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Africa joins rest of the world in opposing US position at WTO](#)

June 27, 2019, Africa News

Up to 43 African countries have joined a list of nations wanting an end to a U.S. veto on judicial appointments at the World Trade Organization, a statement showed.

[Sudan protest movement considers merged AU, Ethiopia transition plan](#)

June 27, 2019, Africa News

Protesters and opposition groups that are demanding the military hand over power to civilian rule said Thursday it received a new proposal for a transition drafted by Ethiopia and the African Union.

[Ethiopia coup attempt](#)

June 27, 2019, Africa News

An air of uncertainty is reigning over Ethiopia after the assassination of five senior officials in last Saturday's coup attempt in the Amhara region.

[Zimbabwe outlaws use of US dollar and other foreign currencies](#)

June 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Move seen as bid to support fledgling new currency that's been roiled by black market speculation.

[As violence flares in Burkina Faso, refugees trickle into Ghana](#)

June 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Latest deadly attack on Saturday highlights insecurity in Burkina Faso as refugees struggle to secure food and shelter.

[Thousands flee DR Congo as inter-ethnic violence flares](#)

June 26, 2019, Citizen

The United Nations refugee agency reports around 7,500 DR Congo refugees have fled to Uganda this month to escape escalating inter-ethnic violence.

[UN extends DRC sanctions as refugee flows increase](#)

June 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

Resolution prohibits selling or supplying weapons to rebel groups, blocks travel of some militia leaders, politicians.

[Eritrea: Government officials & supporters target critics abroad as repression follows migrants](#)

June 27, 2019, Africa News

As Eritrea chairs the UN Human Rights Council, government officials and supporters abroad are harassing and intimidating exiled human rights defenders (HRDs) and activists simply for criticizing the oppressive regime, shows a new Amnesty International briefing out today.

Latin America

[Uruguay walks out of OAS assembly over Guaido envoy inclusion](#)

June 28, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Uruguayan delegation walked out of the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly on Thursday in protest of the inclusion of representatives of Venezuela's political opposition in the regional body.

[Venezuelan ex-electric chief among 2 indicted in US](#)

June 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Miami US attorney's office says two former Venezuelan officials have been indicted on US money laundering charges, including the South American country's ex-minister for electricity.

[US immigration: Drowning exposes risks of illegal crossing](#)

June 26, 2019, BBC

El Salvador's government has warned people against risking their lives to reach the US after a man and his baby daughter drowned in the Rio Grande.

Photos of their bodies, found face down in shallow water with the 23-month-old girl's arm around her father's neck, have sparked condemnation.

[OAS says Venezuela is the region's top priority](#)

June 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

Leaders of the Organization of American States (OAS) on Wednesday cast doubt on any swift change ahead for the political crisis in Venezuela and appealed urgently for more global resources to attend to the more than four million migrants and refugees who have fled that country's collapse. OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro said the political, economic and humanitarian crises in Venezuela should be the region's top priority.

[Venezuela crisis: Maduro says 'fascist' coup foiled](#)

June 27, 2019, BBC

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro says security forces have foiled a plot to assassinate him and install a former defence minister as premier. He said the "fascist" plot had involved opposition leader Juan Guaidó backed by the US, Colombia and Chile.

[Bolsonaro's G-20 Trip Hits Snag: Brazilian Crewman Arrested With 86 Pounds of Cocaine](#)

June 27, 2019, NPR

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, known for his hard-line policies on law and order, began his trip to Japan for the G-20 summit on an embarrassing note after a crewman in an advance party was accused of carrying 39 kilos— 86 pounds of cocaine in his luggage.

[Islamic State group: Nicaragua arrests four suspected members](#)

June 26, 2019, BBC

Four men with suspected ties to the Islamic State (IS) group were arrested in Nicaragua after crossing illegally from Costa Rica, officials say.

[Argentina announces large seizure of weapons](#)

June 27, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

Argentine authorities have seized about 1,000 guns and hundreds of explosives from an international criminal gang, officials said Thursday, calling it the largest seizure of its kind in the country's history.

[Brazil Supreme Court rejects request to free former president Lula](#)

June 27, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

Brazil's Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a request to free leftist icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from prison while they consider whether Justice Minister Sergio Moro, who was the convicting judge, was biased.

[Women suffer disproportionately in Mexico's war on drugs](#)

June 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

In Mexico, a growing percentage of women are being imprisoned for crimes related to drug trafficking. This is despite the Mexican government's push towards reforming drug war policies that victimize the country's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

[Brazil judge blocks transfer of control over indigenous land](#)

June 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

A Supreme Court judge in Brazil has suspended President Jair Bolsonaro's plan to transfer power over indigenous land to the country's agriculture ministry. Indigenous leaders and rights groups have called President Bolsonaro's plan a 'flagrant' violation of the constitution.



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