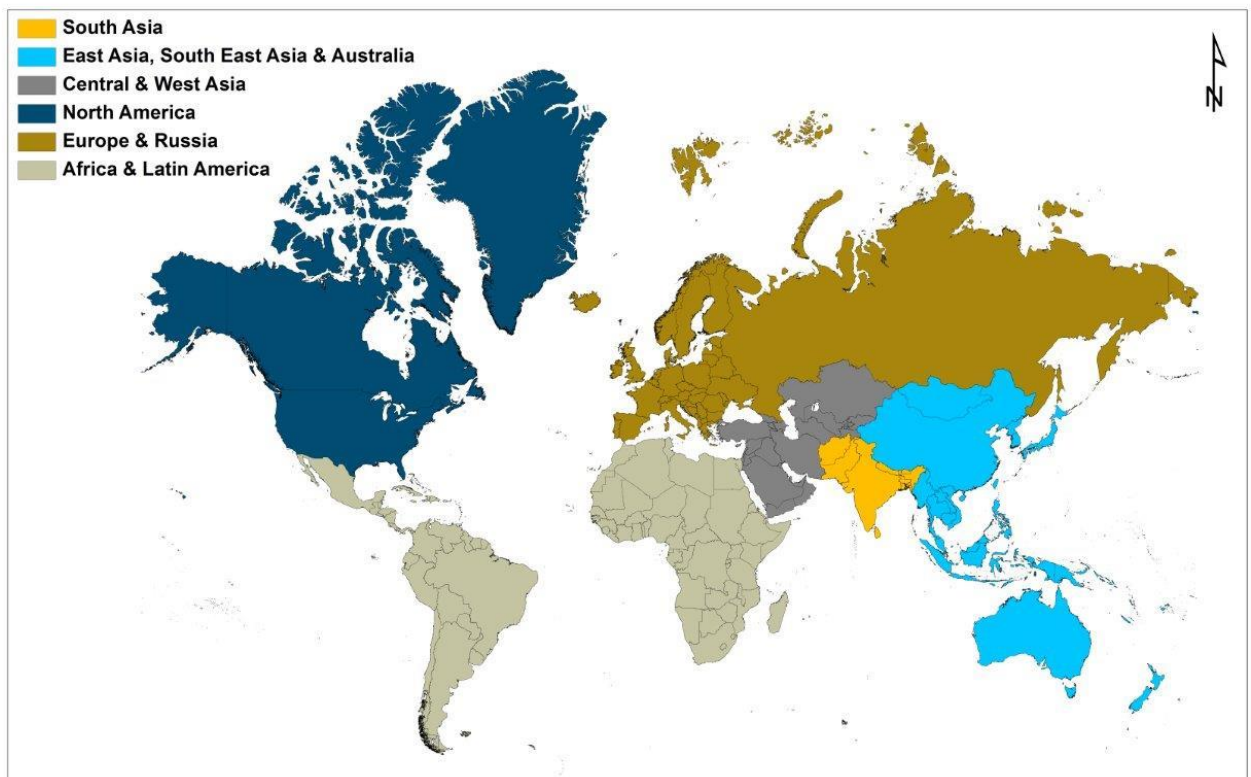




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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ABOUT US

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

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

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South Asia

India

[Modi raises India's concern over energy security and peace in Persian Gulf region](#)

June 28, 2019, Outlook

Briefing the media on the Modi-Trump talks, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the primary focus was on how to ensure stability in the Persian Gulf region. "It is that instability affects us in many ways, not just in terms our energy needs but in terms of the very large diaspora that we have in the Gulf, eight million Indians in the Gulf region and economic interests," he said.

[Indian entities supplying to Huawei may face US sanctions: Govt](#)

July 03, 2019, The Economic Times

Indian entities supplying US-origin technology components to Chinese telecom major Huawei may face penal action under American regulations, telecom and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said in Parliament. However, no call had been yet taken by the government on whether to bar the Chinese telecom equipment manufacturer.

[Expect a friend to understand: Hope India will act in its national interest, says Iran on oil imports](#)

July 3, 2019, India Today

Iran's Ambassador to India Ali Chegeni has said that Iran believes India will act in its national interest on the issue of oil imports and Tehran can act as a "protector" of India's energy security. He asserted that his country can provide "affordability, accessibility and security" of energy to India.

[India seeks to buy \\$2 bn worth warships to meet security challenges](#)

July 02, 2019, Bloomberg

The government has asked seven shipyards to submit proposals for the construction of six missile warships and other smaller vessels worth ₹15,000 crore (\$2.2 billion), the Defence Ministry announced in a statement. The tender includes eight fast patrol vessels, 12 hovercrafts and eight missile-cum-ammunition barges.

[US Senate passes legislative provision to give India NATO ally-like status](#)

July 02, 2019, Business Today

The US Senate has passed a legislative provision that brings India at par with America's NATO allies and countries like Israel and South Korea for increasing defence cooperation. The National Defense Authorisation Act or NDAA for the fiscal year 2020 that contained such a proposal was passed by the US Senate last week.

[Budget 2019: Modest Rise in Military Spending Likely as Govt Puts Modernisation on Hold](#)

July 03, 2019, News18

The government is likely to stick to a modest rise in defence spending in the 2019 Budget due on Friday because of tight government finances, officials said, further delaying a long-planned military modernisation programme.

[India, Indonesia set \\$50-billion trade target by 2025 to boost bilateral ties](#)

June 29, 2019, Live Mint

India and Indonesia set an ambitious \$50 billion target for bilateral trade over the next six years as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joko Widodo discussed ways to deepen cooperation in a number of key areas including economy, defence and maritime security.

[PM Modi meets Turkey's Erdogan in Japan over anti-terror, defence ties](#)

June 29, 2019, Business Standard

According to Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, the two leaders' discussions focused on trade and investment, defence, counter-terrorism, IT and civil aviation.

[India boycotts 'Osaka Track' at G20 summit](#)

Jun 30 2019, Live Mint

India, South Africa and Indonesia among others chose not to sign the declaration on Osaka Track because it would undermine the core WTO principles for arriving at consensus-based decisions.

[G20 summit: India pitches strongly for fight against fugitive economic offenders](#)

June 29, 2019, The Economic Times

Suresh Prabhu clarified that India strongly believes in digital economy and has taken host of measures, including a huge number of bank accounts to thrust its

digital agenda. On the query that why India didn't join the Osaka declaration on digital economy, Prabhu said the reasons have been communicated to the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

[China says it values India's role in maintaining international security](#)

June 28, 2019, Economic Times

Beijing backed New Delhi's candidature for a non-permanent seat at the powerful UN Security Council. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman GengShuang said that China has taken note of the unanimous approval of India as the only candidate of the Asian and Pacific major group of the UN general assembly to stand for non-permanent membership of the UNSC.

[India's trade deficit widened with 25 major countries in 3 years](#)

July 04, 2019, Live Mint

India's trade deficit, difference between imports and exports, has widened during the past three years with as many as 25 major countries including South Korea, Japan, Germany, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The increasing trade deficit in spite of positive growth of exports is mainly due to higher imports of products such as crude oil electronic goods.

[Extending \\$28 billion in loans, India reaches out to 63 countries](#)

July 1, 2019, The Times of India

While lacking the scale , or even the ambition, of China's BRI , India's development cooperation partnership based on concessional Lines of Credit (LOC) has been carrying out economic projects in 63 countries around the world.

[Narendra Modi at G20: PM's exhaustive push for multilateralism runs up against nation's capacity constraints](#)

June 29, 2019, First Post

Modi has joined Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US president Donald Trump in a trilateral grouping before meeting Chinese president Xi Jinping and Russian president Vladimir Putin in another.

[India eyes gains from Sino-US trade tension](#)

July 04, 2019, The Economic Times

India has opened conversations with over 250 American companies that are exploring a shift in manufacturing operations from China – an effort that has

received fresh impetus after the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

[Political stability to help economy rebound: Economic Survey](#)

July 04, 2019, Live Mint

The government expects economic growth to rebound this year from a five-year low, as political stability aids a pickup in demand and investments. Real gross domestic product growth for the fiscal year started April 1 is projected at 7%, the Finance Ministry said in its annual Economic Survey report.

Pakistan

[\\$500m received from Qatar](#)

June 30, Dawn

Pakistan on June 30 received the first tranche of \$500 million from Qatar under the \$3 billion package consisting of a foreign currency deposit and direct investment.

[Pakistan extends closure of airspace till July 12](#)

June 30, The News

Pakistan had closed its airspace following escalating tensions with India till June 28. However, the airspace closure for over-flight and transit flights has now been extended until July 12.

[Terror financing: 12 JuD, JeM men convicted](#)

July 1, Dawn

Four local leaders of the banned JamatudDawa (JuD) and eight of Jaish-e-Muhammad have been convicted of terrorism financing in cases registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Punjab, Pakistan.

[\\$6 bn Parco Coastal Refinery to come on stream in 2025-26](#)

July 1, The News

Parco Coastal Refinery (PCR) valuing \$5-6 billion with capacity to refine 250,000 million barrels per day (BPD) crude oil in Balochistan, will come on stream in 2025-26. The Government of Pakistan will have 60 percent shares and Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) 30 percent and OMV 10 percent.

[Oil supply, on deferred payment, begins from Saudi Arabia](#)

July 2, The News

Pakistan started receiving monthly oil supplies worth \$275 million from Saudi Arabia with effect of July 1, 2019. These supplies will continue over the next three years, with a total value of \$9.9 billion.

[PM Imran to meet Trump on July 22, confirms FO](#)

July 4, The Express Tribune

Pakistan Foreign Office on July 4 confirmed that Prime Minister Imran Khan will meet US President Donald Trump on July 22. The two leaders would review bilateral relations as well as discuss regional and international issues. This will be the first visit by Prime Minister Imran to the US since his party won the elections in July last year.

[ICJ to announce KulbushanJadhav verdict on July 17](#)

July 4, The Express Tribune

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is set to announce its verdict in the Indian spy KulbushanJadhav case on July 17.

Afghanistan

[Pakistan to give Afghans full access to Torkham crossing](#)

June 30, 2019, Tolo News

Pakistan has vowed to extend the access of Afghans to Torkham Crossing from 12 hours to 24 hours, President Ashraf Ghani acknowledged at a meeting with Afghan investors in Pakistan during his two-day visit on June 28. Normally, the Torkham gate is opened for Afghan investors and travellers from 8 am to 8 pm – for 12 hours a day.

[Taliban bombers kill 19, including Afghan election workers](#)

June 30, 2019, Al Arabiya

Taliban bombers targeting a district center in southern Afghanistan, Maruf district, have killed at least 19 people, including eight election workers on June 29.

[Uzbekistan pledges \\$45M for Afghan power transmission project](#)

July 1, 2019, Tolo News

The Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov in a meeting with Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah in on July 1, vowed to provide \$45 million for a power transmission project in Afghanistan.

[Taliban Bombing Kills 6, Wounds Scores in Downtown Kabul](#)

July 1, 2019, The Diplomat

Taliban killed 6 people and wounded more than hundred in downtown Kabul on July 1. At least 26 children were among the wounded.

[U.S. Envoy, Taliban Begin New Round Of Afghan Peace Talks In Qatar](#)

July 2, 2019, RFERL

Seventh round of peace talks between US and Taliban started on June 29, in Doha. This round of talk is expected to focus on working out a timeline for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and on a Taliban guarantee that militants will not plot attacks from Afghan soil.

[Trump would leave 'strong intelligence' in Afghanistan](#)

July 2, 2019, Tolo News

The US President Donald Trump said that he would leave an intelligence presence in Afghanistan, though he has long hoped for a full withdrawal of US military presence from the country.

[Germany, Qatar to co-host intra-Afghan talks next week](#)

July 2, 2019, Tolo News

As part of their efforts to support the peace process in Afghanistan, Germany and Qatar will convene an Intra-Afghan Dialogue Conference to be held in Doha on 7 and 8 July, 2019.

[IS Militants Pose Major Threat In Afghanistan](#)

July 2, 2019, RFERL

Army General Austin Miller, the top U.S. and NATO military commander in Afghanistan, described the IS affiliates in the country as "a problem to all of us." He concurred with recent reported intelligence assessment that IS militants could plan and stage attacks in Europe and the United States.

Bangladesh

[PM: Many things could be learnt from China](#)

July 4, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Noting that there are many things that could be learnt from China, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh is advancing by maintaining good relations with all countries, including neighbours.

[US envoy: Bangladesh one of world's great success stories](#)

July 2, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller has said Bangladesh is one of the most valued partners of the United States and one of the world's great development success stories.

[Dhaka, Beijing sign nine deals including Rohingya aid](#)

July 4, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh and China have signed nine instruments in different sectors ranging from aid for the Rohingyas and economic and technical cooperation, investment, power, culture and tourism.

[Hasina-Keqiang talks begin](#)

July 4, 2019, The Independent

The bilateral talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang began at the Great Hall of People in Beijing this morning.

[PM places 5-point proposal for making any Indo-Pacific initiative a success](#)

July 2, 2019, The Independent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday placed a five-point proposal, including creation of an environment of peace and fair competition by all countries staying away from rivalries, to make any Indo-Pacific initiative a success.

[China's BRI, debt trap diplomacy and Bangladesh](#)

July 3, 2019, The Independent

While the BRI is gradually turning into a massive force that might re-shape the world economy, a country like Bangladesh must consider many aspects before taking a step forward

[Many things could be learnt from China: PM](#)

July 3, 2019, The Independent

Noting that there are many things that could be learnt from China, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said Bangladesh is advancing by maintaining good relations with all countries including neighbours.

[India at the centre of Bangladesh's foreign policy: PM's adviser](#)

July 3, 2019, BDNews24

Dr.GowherRizi, PM's advisor re-affirmed India's central place in foreign policy of Bangladesh but also said that other neighbours were also important.

Nepal

[China's rise will help Nepal](#)

July 1, 2019, Kathmandu Post

China is enhancing its connections with the world in order to maintain its economic stability. Nepal can gain from it.

[To sustain political stability, cohesion within the Nepal Communist Party is necessary](#)

June 30, 2019, Kathmandu Post

The Communist Party of Nepal is facing challenges from all sides, some of which threatens its cohesion and therefore, the future of the party.

[All parties should be one on foreign policy: PM Oli](#)

June 30, 2019, The Himalayan Times

PM Oli said all political parties and individuals of the country should be one on foreign policy issues.He also said that Nepal should play its role to promote understanding within the SAARC so that its activities could be put back on track.

[Highway from Delhi to Nepal-China border to pass through Saptari](#)

July 3, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Deputy Prime Minister and health and population minister Upendra Yadav of the federal government has said the government has thought of developing a national highway linking Delhi of India to the Nepal-China border in the north through Saptari.

[Nepal's ICPD progress remarkable but hurdles remain](#)

July 3, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Nepal, which has played a significant role in advancing the programme of action adopted during the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, has still a long way to go before it can claim to have lived up to the commitments pledged in Cairo, according to stakeholders.

[From the Kathmandu Press: Thursday, July 4, 2019](#)

July 4, 2019, Online Khabar

Gorkhapatra reports that Nepal and China have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations by holding regular high-level visits.

Bhutan

[PM Modi to visit Bhutan next month](#)

July 3, 2019, Kuensel Online

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Bhutan on a two-day visit next month, according to the foreign minister DrTandiDorji.

[A Peek Into The Proposed Draft Of Bhutan's Foreign Direct Investment Policy 2019](#)

July 3, 2019, Daily Bhutan

The articles outlines major changes in the FDI policy of Bhutan. The primary focus is the policy which will allow small manufacturers to get investments from foreign actors.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka will become 'US War Hideout' if agreement is enforced -wimal](#)

July 03, 2019, Onlanka

MP Wimal Weerawansa says that the US Ambassador should clarify what is the necessity for the SOFA Agreement, which he claims contains clauses that could "potentially lead to war hideouts" in Sri Lanka, if there is no intention to set up military camps in the island.

[MPs from Sri Lanka hold talks in Russia](#)

July 3, 2019, Colombo Gazette

The 2nd International Forum "Development of Parliamentarism" was held in Moscow on the initiative of the Russian State Duma on 01-02 July 2019.

[Sri Lanka deploys 61 troops to South Sudan](#)

July 3, 2019, Colombo Gazette

A new contingent of 61 Army personnel including 11 officers left this morning (3) for South Sudan to serve in the SRIMED Level 2 Hospital in Bor, South Sudan as part of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

[EU assists Sri Lanka's conflict affected returnees to resettle in North and East](#)

July 5, 2019, Colombo Page

The European Union is funding a 24-month 8.1 million euro program aimed at assisting Sri Lanka to make a transition from post-conflict assistance to reconstruction and development rebuilding the lives of conflict affected returnees in North and East.

Maldives

[How South Asia can continue as world's fastest growing sub-region](#)

July 1, 2019, Maldives Times

Outlines ways in which South Asia can continue as the world's fastest growing region.

[Maldives optimistic about 'warm ties' with Singapore](#)

July 1, 2019, Maldives Times

Two MoUs were signed between Maldives and Singapore. One agreement is aimed at improving air connectivity, establishing greater commercial links and facilitating social liaison between the two countries. The second is designed to enhance cooperation between the two countries' foreign ministries.

East & South East Asia

China

[U.S. must lift all additional tariffs for agreement with China: commerce ministry](#)

July 4, 2019, Xinhua

Because the Sino-U.S. economic and trade frictions were triggered by the U.S. imposition of additional tariffs on Chinese goods, all those tariffs must be lifted if the two countries could reach an agreement, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said.

[Chinese ambassador urges Britain to reflect on words and deeds on Hong Kong affairs](#)

July 4, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming urged the British side to seriously reflect on its wrongful remarks and actions on Hong Kong and stop at once any types of interference in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs.

[Xi-Trump meeting important in removing trust deficit between China, U.S.: Chinese official](#)

July 3, 2019, Xinhua

The recent meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump was an important step in removing the trust deficit between the two countries, a Chinese official has said here.

[China warns of long road ahead for deal with US after ice-breaking talks](#)

June 30, 2019, The Times of India

China and the United States will face a long road before they can reach a deal to end their bitter trade war, with more fight ahead likely, Chinese state media after the two countries' Presidents held ice breaking talks in Japan.

[Xi, Turkish president hold talks, agreeing to deepen strategic cooperation](#)

July 2, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday, pledging more efforts to promote strategic cooperation between the two sides and work for sound bilateral ties.

[China's economy stable and sound in first half of 2019: premier](#)

July 2, 2019, Xinhua

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2019, also known as the Summer Davos Forum, in the city of Dalian, Li said main economic indicators of the period were kept within an appropriate range and met expectations.

[China welcomes DPRK, U.S., South Korea leaders' meeting at DMZ](#)

July 1, 2019, Xinhua

China on Monday said it welcomed the recent trilateral meeting among leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and the Republic of Korea in Panmunjom truce village.

[Commentary: China, U.S. should jointly expand consensus, narrow differences](#)

June 30, 2019, Xinhua

As China and the United States agreed to restart economic and trade consultations, the world's two largest economies finally returned to the right track to solve their trade issues.

[China's CPC applauded for new concept of global governance](#)

July 1, 2019, Xinhua

China, under the effective leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) which marks its 98th anniversary on Monday, has become a key major force in upholding multilateralism and improving global governance, and received widespread support, party representatives and experts worldwide have said.

[End of globalization with Western characteristics](#)

July 4, 2019, Global Times

We know it is the US approach to simplifying the world, limiting the ability of the US to adapt to a deeply changing world. In spite of the author's forecast of democratic decline (surely Western), inter-state relations are smoothly becoming democratic thanks to an increasing degree of multipolarity.

[Will Kim-Trump DMZ meet set doves cooing?](#)

July 4, 2019, Global Times

If Kim goes to the US, he must realize that he is dealing with a powerful adversary. However, the third Kim-Trump summit will not materialize until a new and greater political compromise is struck.

[Divergence in fundamental interests determines US-Russia ties](#)

July 3, 2019, Global Times

However, what mainly determines ties are fundamental interests of the two major powers. No matter who the US leader is, American interests will be paramount. So will be Russia's interests.

[Trump's rant against Japan treaty may be a ripple, but will prompt security rethink](#)

July 3, 2019, Global Times

Trump's claim is only a ripple that can hardly shake the foundation of the Japan-US alliance. But this ripple will certainly prompt Japan to seriously consider measures it deems necessary to safeguard its security. Japan-US relations will last for a long time, but the security treaty may still be tweaked.

[India should stop using 'China threat' to build up its military](#)

July 2, 2019, Global Times

Indian media should be aware that India's real challenges are its laggard military technologies, severe dependence on foreign imports of weapons and incomplete industrialization and modernization, rather than the "threat" from China, a fabricated excuse.

[How significant is the 'Truce of Osaka'?](#)

July 2, 2019, China Daily

Call it the "Truce of Osaka". Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed, as expected, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka on Saturday to stand down from the escalation of economic conflict between the United States and China. That is certainly good news. While it beats the alternative of expanded tariffs and company-specific sanctions, it leaves one obvious unanswered question: what comes next?

[Engaging with China would serve US better: China Daily editorial](#)

July 4, 2019, China Daily

Even if the outcome of the bargaining in the soon-to-be-resumed trade talks between the United States and China produces a long-awaited deal, it is unlikely to correct the course of their overall relations, which has shown increasing signs of deteriorating lately. Unless the latest trade war cease-fire agreed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in Osaka, is taken as an opportunity to reboot their relationship.

[Moment in DPRK may hold promise of progress: China Daily editorial](#)

June 30, 2019, China Daily

It may have been a relatively hastily-arranged meeting. But it was probably more productive than the two leaders' well-prepared rendezvous in Hanoi, Vietnam, four months ago.

[China says Turkey president offered support over restive Xinjiang](#)

July 2, 2019, Reuters

Turkey recognizes the fact that the people of China's Xinjiang lead happy lives, Chinese state media on Tuesday cited Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan as saying, a region where China has been running a controversial de-radicalization scheme.

[China takes lead in BCIM with ₹2L cr offer to Bangladesh](#)

July 5, 2019, The Times of India

China is taking a lead in the BCIM corridor by extending a \$31 billion funding package for infrastructure development in Bangladesh. A series of agreements were signed between the two countries during Bangladesh PM Sheik Hasina's ongoing visit to Beijing.

Japan

[Russia protests over G20 map it says showed disputed islands as Japan's](#)

July 5, 2019, Japan Today

Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a formal diplomatic protest to Japan after accusing Tokyo of circulating a map at its G20 summit showing a disputed island chain as Japanese territory, the ministry's spokeswoman said.

[N. Korea's Kim 'notes' Japan's offer of talks, Xi tells Abe](#)

July 5, 2019, Japan Today

Chinese President Xi Jinping has told Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has "taken note" of Abe's offer to hold a bilateral meeting without preconditions, a diplomatic source said.

[Japan to restrict exports to South Korea over issue of wartime labor](#)

July 1, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan on July 4 will start restricting exports of chemical products used to manufacture semiconductors and electronic devices to South Korea as a countermeasure in the dispute over Korean wartime laborers.

[Japan looks to turn up the heat on South Korea with stricter export controls on more items](#)

July 3, 2019, The Japan Times

Japan is considering imposing stricter export controls on more items bound for South Korea, government sources said Tuesday, in an apparent effort to raise pressure on Seoul to help resolve a bilateral dispute over compensation for wartime labor.

[Abe wins, no matter what Trump does](#)

July 3, 2019, The Japan Times

In recent days, there have been unsubstantiated reports that U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed frustration with the Japan-U.S. alliance to those close to him. The story first came out of Bloomberg News and then was repeated widely by Japanese media outlets.

[Abe: Trump not going to jettison Japan-U.S. Security Treaty](#)

July 1, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that U.S. President Donald Trump is not considering scrapping the longstanding Japan-U.S. Security Treaty although he shook the status quo by saying it is “unfair” and needs to be changed.

[Opposition rises in Yamaguchi against missile defense system](#)

July 4, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya’s apology tour here was greeted with anger that raised further doubts about the government’s plans to deploy land-based Aegis Ashore missile interception systems.

[Warship shows Japan’s plan to expand military role](#)

July 3, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

One of Japan's largest warships, the helicopter carrier Izumo, offers a glimpse of where its Self-Defense Forces are headed: For the first time, troops from a newly formed amphibious brigade participated in an extended naval deployment.

[Time to end BOJ's grand experiment?](#)

July 4, 2019, The Japan Times

Central banks are back on the center stage of the global economic policy debate. The U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank now appear ready to ease monetary policy – in a turnaround from just some months ago when people were looking for “exit” and additional rate hikes.

[Campaigning for July 21 upper house election kicks off in Japan](#)

July 4, 2019, Japan Today

Official campaigning began for Japan's House of Councillors election, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeking to maintain political stability to press ahead with the first-ever Constitutional revision and a planned consumption tax hike.

[Constitutional revision one of key issues in July election, says Abe](#)

July 1, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is pitching his pet project of constitutional revision as one of the overriding issues in the Upper House election to be held July 21.

Korea

[S. Korea warns of retaliatory steps against Japan's export curbs](#)

July 4, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea delivered a stern warning to Japan regarding restrictions on exports of high-tech materials to Korea, calling Japan's decision a breach of international law and vowing "corresponding steps" if necessary.

['Tokyo's export curb to backfire on Japanese firms'](#)

July 2, 2019, The Korea Times

Tokyo's decision to tighten the rules for exports of materials needed for semiconductor and display manufacture to Korean companies is causing concern among Japanese firms, which ship such items to Samsung, LG and other Korean IT firms, industry analysts said.

[Korea says Japan violates WTO rules](#)

July 4, 2019, The Korea Times

The government said late Thursday that Japan has violated World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, adding it would file a complaint with the organization.

[Korean consumers set to boycott Japanese products](#)

July 3, 2019, The Korea Times

Japan's move to tighten the rules for exports of key industrial materials to Korea is triggering a consumer boycott of Japanese products, raising concerns for Toyota, Honda, Uniqlo and other Japanese companies operating here, according to industry official.

[2nd inter-Korean summit set precedent for DMZ meeting: Kim](#)

July 4, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said that his second summit with President Moon Jae-in had set a precedent for his meeting with US President Donald Trump at the DMZ on Sunday, it was revealed.

[Trump's DMZ meeting with Kim kicked diplomacy back into gear](#)

July 1, 2019, CNN

By taking a few steps across the military demarcation line, Trump kicked the stalled US-North Korea diplomacy back into gear.

[Trump Proposes U.S. Liaison Office in Pyongyang](#)

July 4, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

U.S. President Donald Trump proposed an American liaison office in Pyongyang to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un when they met in the border truce village of Panmunjom

[Complete Denuclearization Must Remain Goal of Any N.Korea Deal](#)

July 1, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The agenda of U.S.-North Korea talks must remain the scrapping of all North Korea's nuclear weapons. Otherwise there is no good reason for the leader of the most powerful country in the world to meet the dictator of some dismal backwater three times in the space of a year.

[DMZ meeting lifts Moon's approval rating](#)

July 4, 2019, The Korea Times

Support for President Moon Jae-in rose to an eight-month high, powered by Sunday's historic encounter between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in the heavily fortified border separating the two Koreas, a local pollster sai.

[Main opposition floor leader accuses Moon administration of abusing democracy](#)

July 4, 2019, The Korea Herald

Main opposition Liberty Korea Party Floor Leader Na Kyung-won has accused the Moon administration of "abusing democracy to achieve absolute power," continuing the conservative bloc's attack of President Moon Jae-in.

Southeast Asia

[US welcomes 'ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific'](#)

July 3, 2019, Business Standard

The United States welcomed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Outlook on the Indo-Pacific adopted during a leader's summit in Thailand's capital city Bangkok on June 23.

[Ocean's eleven](#)

July 3, 2019, The Indian Express

At the 34th ASEAN summit in Bangkok, the leaders of the 10-nation grouping finally came out with their positions on the Indo-Pacific region in a document titled 'ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific'. While ASEAN has not spelt out what it considers to geographically constitute the region, there appear to be several similarities between the Indian and ASEAN approaches to this critical subject.

[ASEAN seeks concrete cooperation on Indo-Pacific concept](#)

July 5, 2019, The Jakarta Post

Following the adoption of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific last month, the bloc now expects to talk with external partners, mainly at the East Asia Summit (EAS), about concrete cooperation, a senior official at the Foreign Ministry has said.

[China scoffs at military content in Indo-Pacific, urges India to act independently on Huawei](#)

July 1, 2019, The Times of India

Even as India and others insist that Indo-Pacific only stands for peace and security, China warned against attempts to sow 'discord' in the region, saying that nobody should play into the hands of countries which were driven solely by their own strategic interests.

[UN official likens Rohingya living conditions to Nazi concentration camps](#)

July 4, 2019, The Guardian

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar are living in concentration camps and urban ghettos like those in Nazi-occupied Europe, a UN investigator has said.

[Thailand wants to restrain surging baht](#)

July 5, 2019, The Star Online

Thailand's central bank is fretting over how to cool the world-beating surge in the baht just as the US keeps a watchful eye out for signs of unfair currency policies.

['State-in-waiting': Papua's rebels unite against Indonesia rule](#)

July 5, 2019, Al Jazeera

Independence groups say they are ready to 'take over our country' amid rumbling conflict in far east of the archipelago.

[Philippines faces call for UN investigation into war on drugs killings](#)

July 5, 2019, CNA

More than two dozen countries formally called on Thursday (Jul 4) for a United Nations investigation into thousands of killings in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs, activists said.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Tajikistan and Belarus become strategic partners](#)

July 01, 2019, Asia Plus

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko signed an agreement on strategic partnership. Besides, Dushanbe and Minsk signed nine cooperation agreements. The two countries constructively cooperate in a regional format, in the framework of the CIS, SCO, and CSTO.

[Tajik parliament speaker calls for formation of new forms of inter-parliamentary cooperation](#)

July 02, 2019, Asia Plus

Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloyev, Speaker of Tajikistan's upper chamber of parliament, is participating in the 2nd International Forum "Development of Parliamentarism" in Moscow. He noted that globalization processes require formation of new forms of inter-parliamentary cooperation.

[Turkmenistan opens new synthetic gasoline plant](#)

July 01, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov on June 28 took part in the opening ceremony of a new plant for production of gasoline from natural gas, which was built in Turkmenistan's Ahal Velayat province.

[Gazprom Reaches Five-Year Gas Deal With Turkmenistan](#)

July 03, 2019, RFERL

Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom says it has agreed to import gas from Turkmenistan until July 2024 as part of a deal with the state-owned Turkmengaz company. Gazprom said it would import up to 5.5 billion cubic meters of gas annually. The two state companies had previously signed a 2.5-month agreement for 1.2 billion cubic meters of gas that ran until the end of June.

[Foreign Workers At Kazakh Oil Field Evacuated After Brawl](#)

June 30, 2019, RFERL

Hundreds of Jordanian and Lebanese workers at a major oil and gas project in western Kazakhstan have been evacuated after a brawl broke out between foreign and local employees. Tensions at the site have been rising due to discrepancies in

working conditions. This is at least the second outbreak of fighting with foreign workers at the massive oil field over the past two decades.

[EU Officials Pressed To Demand Release Of Jailed Kyrgyz Rights Defender Askarov](#)

July 02, 2019, RFERL

Eight international human rights organisations and media-freedom watchdogs have urged EU foreign-policy chief Federica Mogherini and EU officials to advocate for the immediate release of Kyrgyz human rights defender Azimjan Askarov from prison. The call comes ahead of an EU-Central Asia ministerial meeting in Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek, on July 7.

[Police Detain Azerbaijani Opposition Leader After Fundraiser](#)

June 28, 2019, RFERL

Police in Baku briefly detained the leader of the opposition Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan (AXCP), Ali Karimli, before letting him go amid allegations he was trying to undermine public stability. Dozens of AXCP members have been arrested, and some imprisoned, in recent years on what their supporters have called trumped-up charges.

[Armenia and Azerbaijan agree to limited exchange of detainees](#)

July 01, 2019, Eurasianet

Armenia and Azerbaijan have exchanged two detainees, a small step in overcoming one of the persistent irritants to advancing peace talks between the two sides. The exchange was announced by both sides on June 28, and was facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

[Uzbekistan Pledges \\$45 million for construction of power transmission line in Afghanistan](#)

July 03, 2019, AKIpress

Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov met Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah on July 1 in Balkh Province and promised to provide \$45 million for construction of power transmission line in Afghanistan. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interests as well as economic relations between the two countries.

West Asia

[Syria Calls Israeli Strikes 'State Terrorism'](#)

July 02, 2019, Al Jazeera

Syria has accused Israel of committing "state terrorism" after Israeli air strikes killed at least 15 people, including children. Israeli air strikes near Damascus and in Homs province killed nine, mostly foreign pro-government fighters and six civilians. Syria's foreign ministry filed a complaint to the United Nations Security Council over the attack demanding accountability.

[Iraq PM Orders Shia Popular Mobilisation Forces To Merge With Army](#)

July 03, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi issued a decree on Monday ordering the powerful Shia Popular Mobilisation Forces to fully integrate into the armed forces or join political groups. The decision was made in the service of the public's interest and based on the powers granted to him by the constitution. In Iraq, the prime minister is the Commander-in-Chief.

[Lebanon Calls For Calm After Minister Shot At](#)

July 02, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Lebanese President Michel Aoun yesterday issued orders to restore calm in the Mount Lebanon governorate after the State Minister for Refugee Affairs Saleh Al-Gharib's convoy was shot at. Two government officials died after Al-Gharib's convoy came under fire as it passed through the mountain village of Qabr Shamoun close to Beirut.

[Diplomatic Crisis Between Jordan, UAE](#)

July 02, 2019, Middle East Monitor

A diplomatic spat has erupted between Jordan and the UAE after Abu Dhabi banned a Jordanian member of parliament from using its airport for a transit flight. Huda Al-Atoum was among an official delegation of Jordanian parliamentarians who were on their way back to Jordan from a conference in Japan via the UAE when she was asked to leave Abu Dhabi airport immediately.

[Netanyahu: Israel Preparing For Wide Scale Campaign In Gaza](#)

July 03, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Israel wants to restore calm to the South, but at the same time is preparing for a wide-scale military campaign inside the Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. His comments came after he convened a security cabinet meeting at the IDF Gaza Division headquarters to discuss the situation in the Strip, followed by a meeting with local and regional council heads.

[Saudi state defence firm pens deal with South Africa's Paramount](#)

July 03, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabian Military Industries and South Africa's Paramount Group have signed a collaboration agreement as part of the Gulf kingdom's efforts to develop its own domestic defence industry. Currently heavily dependent on imports, Saudi Arabia, the world's third-largest defence spender, is seeking partnerships with the goal of localising half of its military spending by 2030.

[Israeli missile strike kills four civilians, Syrian state media says](#)

July 01, 2019, Middle East Eye

Israeli warplanes fired missiles targeting Syrian military positions in Homs and the Damascus outskirts in an attack that killed at least four civilians, and wounded another 21, Syrian state media said. The Syrian military said Syrian air defences confronted the attack, which was launched from Lebanese airspace.

[Iranian State TV Puts Responsibility On Europe To Protect Economy, Save Nuclear Deal](#)

June 30, 2019, RFERL

Iranian state TV has said it is up to Europe to protect Iran from U.S. sanctions and prevent it from reducing its compliance with the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement signed with world powers. The P5+1, including U.S. allies U.K., France and Germany have said they will continue to honour the agreement, after unsuccessfully urging Washington to remain a part of the accord.

[Turkey offers to mediate between US, Iran](#)

July 04, 2019, AP News

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he is willing to mediate between the United States and Iran to ease tensions over Iran's nuclear program. Erdogan said he had discussed the issue of a possible mediation with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of a G-20 meeting. Abe asked the Turkish leader

whether Turkey and Japan could act together, to which Erdogan responded that he would be willing to meet with Iran's leaders.

[Iran's breach of uranium limits complicates nuclear deal](#)

July 02, 2019, AP News

Efforts by world powers to preserve a 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran grew more complicated Monday with confirmation that Tehran had breached the pact's limitations on stockpiles of low-enriched uranium. European signatories to the nuclear deal have warned of consequences, but have not yet said what they might be.

[UAE denies ownership of weapons found in Libya](#)

July 03, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has denied ownership of weapons found in Libya after a senior US senator demanded an investigation of reports that American-made missiles were seized at a base belonging to renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar. The UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the denial, adding that Abu Dhabi reaffirmed its commitment to the UN Security Council's arms embargo on Libya.

[Lebanon says issues still pending over sea border talks with Israel](#)

July 03, 2019, Al Jazeera

Lebanon insists any demarcation of its sea boundary with Israel be implemented only as part of a wider package including the land border, and wants this in writing, the parliament speaker said on Wednesday. Settling the maritime dispute could help both countries exploit offshore energy reserves.

[Iran says it could consider talks with U.S. only if sanctions lifted and Khamenei permits](#)

July 04, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iran's intelligence minister has said Tehran and Washington could hold talks only if the U.S. ended its sanctions and Iran's top authority, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, gave his approval. In reaction to U.S. sanctions, which have targeted its main foreign revenue stream in the shape of crude oil exports, Iran has scaled back its commitment to the nuclear deal.

United States

[Trump's Fighter Jet Sale to Taiwan Advances Despite China's Protests](#)

July 3, 2019, Foreign Policy

The Trump administration's plan to sell more than 60 new F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan is now moving forward after longer-than-anticipated negotiations, paving the way for a deal that is sure to prompt fresh protests from China only days after Washington and Beijing agreed to restart trade talks.

[Why Iran just violated part of the 2015 nuclear deal](#)

July 1, 2019, Vox News

Iran has officially broken part of its commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal – following through on its month-long threat and further raising tensions with the United States.

[Iran Is Rushing to Build a Nuclear Weapon – and Trump Can't Stop It](#)

July 1, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump says he wants to make sure Iran never acquires nuclear weapons. His policy, however, is having the opposite effect: It is giving Tehran a powerful incentive to go nuclear, while at the same time making it increasingly difficult for the United States to prevent that.

[U.S. upgrades Ukrainian ports to fit American warships](#)

July 3, 2019, Unian

The upgrades come after last November's incident where Russian warships fired on and seized three Ukrainian navy vessels in the Kerch Strait.

[Former Defense Secretary Slams Trump for Politicizing 4th of July: 'It Is Not His Military'](#)

July 4, 2019, Newsweek

Former Secretary of Defense Willam Cohen criticized President Donald Trump for attempting to politicize the 4th of July through his controversial Salute to America event to mark Independence Day on Thursday.

[Trump's surprise meeting with Kim is over. For Pompeo, the real work has just begun.](#)

July 1, 2019, The Washington Post

As the TV spectacle of President Trump's first visit to North Korea fades, his top diplomats are left with the same daunting challenge that bedeviled them before: a hostile dictatorship that views its expanding nuclear arsenal as critical to its survival.

[Trump administration lays broad legal grounds for military strike on Iran](#)

July 3, 2019, The Washington Post

As it has contemplated military action against Iran, the Trump administration has opened the door to virtually every legal authority it might use to justify an attack, from tying Iran to al-Qaeda, to President Trump's assertion that it would not involve American ground troops and "wouldn't last very long."

[US actions hurting relations with China, 100 academics, policy advisers say in open letter to Donald Trump](#)

July 4, 2019, South China Morning Post

Signatories, including former assistant secretary of state for east Asian and Pacific affairs Susan Thornton, say they are 'deeply concerned about the growing deterioration' of ties between the two countries.

[Pakistan PM Imran Khan to meet US President Donald Trump for talks on improving ties](#)

July 4, 2019, The Times of India

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will meet US President Donald Trump in Washington later this month, its foreign office said on Thursday, a visit that could help to ease tensions between the two countries.

[Europe, China playing a 'big currency manipulation game': Donald Trump](#)

July 4, 2019, Business Standard

US President Donald Trump's latest accusation of currency manipulation has foreign-exchange analysts' game-planning the administration's next move.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU leaders pick Germany's Ursula von der Leyen to lead European Commission](#)

July 3, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Ursula Von der Leyen would be the European Commission's first female president. The European Parliament needs to confirm the nominations for the four top jobs in the EU.

[From the EU to Trump: Where does Ursula von der Leyen stand?](#)

July 5, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Germany's defense minister has been at Angela Merkel's side since 2005. No stranger to global affairs, she's set to become the next European Commission president. So how does she view Europe's most pressing challenges?

[New EU Parliament Chief quick to lash out at Britain as he claims Brexit is 'painful'](#)

July 3, 2019, Express

In his first address to the newly-formed European Parliament, President Sassoli claimed imagining London far away from the other European capitals was a "painful" concept to accept. The former European Parliament Vice-President, now chief of the European Union institution, claimed he respected Britons decision to vote for Brexit but that the upcoming negotiations with the new British Prime Minister will have to be conducted "in a reasonable way".

[Merkel ally chides German Social Democrats over stance on EU Commission chief](#)

July 4, 2019, Reuters

Germany's Social Democrats risk harming the coalition government in which they serve and triggering an EU constitutional crisis by opposing the nomination of Ursula von der Leyen to head the European Commission, a top German conservative said on Thursday.

[Oil tanker bound for Syria detained in Gibraltar](#)

July 4, 2019, BBC News

Royal Marines have boarded an oil tanker on its way to Syria thought to be breaching EU sanctions, the government of Gibraltar has said.

[Three nations stage F-35 drills over southern Italy](#)

July 4, 2019, Defense News

Italian F-35s flew training flights with American and British F-35s over southern Italy on Tuesday, ending a busy few days for joint training by nations flying the stealth fighter.

[Iran summons UK ambassador in tanker seizure row](#)

July 5, 2019, BBC News

Iran has summoned the British ambassador in Tehran to complain about what it says was the illegal seizure of an Iranian oil tanker.

[No-deal Brexit risks breaking up UK, warns Theresa May](#)

July 4, 2019, The Guardian

Theresa May has said leaving the EU without a deal would have “undoubted consequences” for the future of the UK, amid deepening concerns within her own party over how a no-deal Brexit could boost support for Scottish independence.

[Germany says it will stand in 'full solidarity' with Ireland over Brexit](#)

July 4, 2019, The Guardian

Germany will stand fully in “solidarity” with Ireland over Brexit, the country’s president has said, and look to “underpin rather than undermine” the peace process that has kept the border with Northern Ireland invisible in the past 20 years.

[Future of British Union Becomes Battleground for No-Deal Brexit](#)

July 5, 2019, Bloomberg

Boris Johnson, the front-runner to replace Theresa May as British prime minister, said delivering Brexit would be key to keeping the U.K. together, just hours after May warned her successor not to put the union at risk with a no-deal Brexit.

[Turkey's S-400s to be loaded on planes Sunday in Russia: Haberturk](#)

July 5, 2019, Reuters

The first of the Russian S-400 defense systems that Ankara has purchased will be loaded on to cargo planes on Sunday and arrive in Turkey sometime next week, privately-held broadcaster Haberturk reported.

[Turkey announces 'trilateral summit' on Syria with Russia and Iran](#)

July 5, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Turkey announced a meeting in August that will be a “trilateral summit” between Ankara, Tehran and Moscow. This is the latest in numerous meetings the three countries have had on Syria that began with a ceasefire in 2016.

[Erdogan: US scrapping F-35 jet deal with Turkey would be robbery](#)

July 5, 2019, Al Jazeera

Ankara faces new strains in US relationship over upcoming delivery of Russian S-400 missile system.

Russia

[Su-27 fighter jet intercepts US spy plane near southern Russian border](#)

July 5, 2019, Tass

A Russian Su-27 fighter jet of the Air Force in the Southern Military District was scrambled to intercept a US Boeing P-8 Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft approaching Russia’s border, the Defense Ministry said.

[Under Pressure From Trump, OPEC Embraces Putin](#)

July 3, 2019, The Moscow Times

When Vladimir Putin announced at the weekend that OPEC would extend oil production cuts, broadcasting a deal before the group had even met to approve it, the move angered some member nations.

[Russia Confirms Submarine Hit by Deadly Fire Was Nuclear-Powered](#)

July 4, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin disclosed on Thursday for the first time that a secret military submarine hit by a fatal fire three days ago was nuclear-powered, prompting Russia's defense minister to assure him its reactor had been safely contained.

[Protest against Washington's sanctions staged near US Ambassador's residence in Moscow](#)

July 4, 2019, Tass

Dozens of people are staging a protest against the US sanction policy near the residence of the US Ambassador in Moscow, where the Independence Day reception is scheduled to begin soon.

[Russian Foreign Ministry sends protest to Japan for marking Kurils as Japanese](#)

July 4, 2019, Tass

According to Ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, such actions by the Japanese side "negatively affect the atmosphere of the Russian-Japanese relations"

[Putin, Pope Francis discuss situation in Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine](#)

July 4, 2019, Tass

he situation in Syria, Venezuela and Ukraine was among the topics of Russian President Vladimir Putin's 50-minute meeting with Pope Francis, the Holy See said in a press office communique.

[Putin says hopes for Italy's help in resumption of normal Russia-EU relations](#)

July 4, 2019, Tass

Russia hopes that Italy will take efforts to help resume normal relations between Russia and The European Union, Russian President Vladimir Putin said after talks with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

[Is Putin Winning Against Liberal Democracy?](#)

July 3, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Russian president's ideological flexibility gives him the upper hand in a post-modern world.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Sudan military council, opposition reach power-sharing agreement](#)

July 4, 2019, CBC

Sudan's ruling transitional military council and a coalition of opposition and protest groups reached an agreement to share power during a transition period leading to elections, setting off street celebrations by thousands of people.

[Libyan Interior Minister says government mulling releasing all migrants](#)

July 4, 2019, Libya Observer

The Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha said Thursday that his government is considering closing migrants' detention centers and releasing all the migrants for the safety of their lives, following the massacre in Tajoura, where Khalifa Haftar's airstrikes took the lives of 35 and injured over 100 migrants.

[US prevents Security Council resolution condemning airstrike on migrants center in Libya](#)

July 4, 2019, Libya Observer

The UN Security Council could not agree in a closed session on Wednesday on condemning an airstrike that hit migrants' detention center in Libya's Tajoura in eastern Tripoli, which killed and injured dozens.

[Africa's largest economy is finally backing the continent's plans for a single free trade market](#)

July 3, 2019, Quartz Africa

Nigeria—the continent's largest economy and most populous country—will finally sign the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement which aims to boost intra-Africa trade and create the world's largest trading bloc.

[Garissa University attack: Tanzanian and Kenyans get long sentences](#)

July 3, 2019, BBC News

A court in Kenya has sentenced a militant Islamist to life in prison for his role in the 2015 Garissa University College attack, which left 148 people dead.

[Zimbabwe dollar: A prominent legal group says it's illegitimate](#)

July 3, 2019, Al Jazeera

A Zimbabwean lawyer backed by a prominent legal group has challenged the government's decision to revert to the Zimbabwe dollar and outlaw the use of U.S., South African and European currencies.

[DR Congo president calls Ituri violence 'attempted genocide'](#)

July 3, 2019, Al Jazeera

President Felix Tshisekedi described interethnic bloodshed in DRC's northeast as "attempted genocide" after scores of people were killed and tens of thousands displaced.

[Closure of Eritrea's only refugee camp worries UNHCR](#)

July 5, 2019, Africa News

The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, is appealing to Eritrea not to close the country's only refugee camp, which incident will affect largely Somali inhabitants.

[As Somalia fumes at Guinea, Somaliland 'begs' for international recognition](#)

July 5, 2019, Africa News

Within hours of Somalia's severing of all diplomatic ties with Guinea, Somaliland – who are at the center of the rift between Mogadishu and Conakry responded by appealing for international recognition.

Latin America

[Venezuela crisis: US announces sanctions against Maduro's son](#)

June 28, 2019, BBC

The United States has announced new sanctions against the son of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The sanctions will freeze any US assets Nicolasito has and bars US firms and individuals from working with him. US government stated that they were punishing him for serving his father's "illegitimate regime". "Maduro relies on his son Nicolasito and others close to his authoritarian regime to maintain a stranglehold on the economy and suppress the people of Venezuela."

[U.S. Agents Announce Thousands of Weapons Seized In 'Operation Patagonia Express'](#)

June 28, 2019, NPR

A massive international operation in three countries arrested 25 people and seized thousands of weapons and their components. In total, authorities in the U.S., Argentina and Brazil have seized "5,300 firearms and components, 167 explosives/ordinances and 15 silencers from the transnational criminal organization," according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

[South American trade bloc signs 'historic' trade deal with EU](#)

June 29, 2019, Al Jazeera

The European Union and South American bloc Mercosur have agreed to the draft of a free-trade treaty, ending almost 20 years of negotiations. The EU is already Mercosur's biggest trade and investment partner and its second-largest partner for trade in goods. In terms of tariff reduction, this could be the EU's most lucrative trade deal to date, with the savings potentially four times greater than for deals with Canada and Japan combined.

[Venezuelan migrants risk discrimination for new life in Chile](#)

June 30, 2019, Al Jazeera

Chile is closing its doors for Venezuelans escaping the economic and political chaos in their country. The Chilean government has changed its rules to stop more Venezuelans arriving as tourists. Some Venezuelans are resorting to walking through minefields in the desert border between Chile and Peru to find sanctuary.

[Argentina energy crisis: La Plata goes without power for days](#)

July 1, 2019, Al Jazeera

An energy crisis on the outskirts of Argentina's capital has left many without power for days. Residents of La Plata blame the electricity cuts on the utility company for not investing in the area. But solving the country's energy problems may require a major overhaul.

[Mexico hail: Ice 1.5m thick carpets Guadalajara](#)

July 1, 2019, BBC

Six suburbs in the Mexican city of Guadalajara were carpeted in a thick layer of ice after a heavy hailstorm. The ice was up to 1.5m (5ft) thick in places, half-

burying vehicles. Civil protection machinery was deployed to clear streets in the city of five million located north of the capital, Mexico City.

[Mercosur eyes trade deal with United States after securing EU accord](#)

July 4, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

Argentina and Brazil, the two largest members of the Mercosur, are talking about a potential trade deal with the world's largest consumer market. President Mauricio Macri revealed that his government is talking with Brazil about a potential US free-trade deal, less than a week after landing one with the European Union.

[UN report: Venezuela death squads kill young men, stage scenes](#)

July 5, 2019, Al Jazeera

Venezuelan security forces are sending death squads to murder young men and stage the scenes to make it look like the victims resisted arrest. The report by United Nations human rights Chief Michelle Bachelet, showed a "shockingly high" number of extrajudicial killings. Victims held that killings were authorized by Maduro government aimed at "neutralising, repressing and criminalising political opponents and people critical of the government".



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