



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.

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	13
Central & West Asia.....	21
United States.....	24
Europe & Russia.....	26
Africa & Latin America	30

South Asia

India

[Delhi to Tehran via US](#)

July 12, 2019, The Indian Express

India's gameplan in Iran-Afghanistan has been damaged because of the Trump administration's strategy.

[US House passes Green Card bill amid racist tirades against Indians](#)

July 12, 2019, The Times of India

The US House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bill that will lift an existing 7 % country cap on issuing green cards, overcoming a toxic campaign against India and Indian tech workers by protectionists who believe the new law will help them "steal American jobs".

[India set to play key role of security guarantor in Indian Ocean region: Maldives defence forces chief](#)

July 6, 2019, Economic Times

India has been providing swift help to its neighbours at times of natural calamities and security threats, and it is all set to play the key role of a "security guarantor" for peace and stability within the greater Indian Ocean region, Maldivian Defence Forces Chief Abdulla Shamaal said while speaking at an event here on 'National Security Vulnerabilities: Issues for Small States'.

[Onus on Pakistan to create environment for normal relations: Govt](#)

July 10, 2019, The Times of India

India has conveyed to Pakistan that it wants normal neighbourly relations with it in an atmosphere free from terror and the onus is on Islamabad for creating such an environment, the government said in Lok Sabha.

[Bowled Over By A Sea Of Blue](#)

July 10, 2019, The Indian Express

India and the UK are bound by ties beyond cricket. We must strive to build on them.

[India slams U.N. rights office report on J&K as continuation of 'false narrative'](#)

July 8, 2019, The Hindu

In an update of a report on Kashmir released last year by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, it claimed that 'neither India nor Pakistan have taken any concrete steps to address the numerous concerns raised.'

['India, US can make the world a better place if collaborate on energy security'](#)

July 11, 2019, ANI

United States Secretary of Energy Rick Perry stressed at the second US-India Strategic Partnership Forum that "if India and the United States are together pulling the wagon in the same direction it will make the world a better place and the future of the people collectively will become unlimited. Because the synergies that is coming together and moving forward is wonderful".

[Trump's tariff rant at India presages more trade troubles with US](#)

July 9, 2019, The Times of India

A lone Trumpian tweet twitting India on tariffs hung out on Twitter amid a raft of other rants , eliciting the usual quota of ridicule and derision for a President whose techy temperment is now a feast for trolls.

[India to decide on Huawei's participation in 5G trial based on security and economic interests](#)

July 11, 2019, Business Today

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said there are several companies that have shown interest in the trial for 5G services. He said that a committee set up to look into the matter has received inputs from different ministries and departments, and various stakeholders.

[Budget and the world](#)

July 9, 2019, The Indian Express

Resisting the temptation to print money and spend one's way to growth, the finance minister has opted for incentivising private investment and borrowing abroad.

[Battling the squeeze](#)

July 11, 2019, The Indian Express

While presenting the regular budget for the current fiscal on July 5, the finance minister made no mention of, and proposed no additional funds for, defence.

Consequently, the total outlay for defence remains at Rs 4.31 lakh crore, as proposed earlier in the interim budget presented to Parliament.

[India plans \\$10 billion bank recapitalisation, help for shadow lenders to boost economy](#)

July 7, 2019, Business Today

The Indian government on Friday announced a fresh capital infusion of about \$10 billion into debt-burdened state banks and credit guarantees to support shadow lenders in a bid to boost lending and revive the economy.

[Define your environment](#)

July 12, 2019, The Indian Express

The BJP's thumping majority has led well-meaning strategic analysts in diverse fields of finance, labour, agriculture and diplomacy to writing in editorial pages, giving suggestions on policymaking to the prime minister.

[Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems bags \\$100 million order for 1,000 Barak missile kits](#)

July 11, 2019, Economic Times

KRAS is a 49:51 ratio joint venture between Rafael Advanced Systems and Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL) with the Indian partner holding 51 per cent. KSSL is a 51 per cent subsidiary of Bharat Forge Limited.

[Key Congressional Committee seeks additional steps to enhance US-India defense ties](#)

July 11, 2019, Financial Express

Reflecting the strong bi-partisan support in the US Congress to boost Indo-US defence ties, a powerful congressional committee has passed a legislative amendment seeking additional steps to implement the Major Defense Partner designation on India, including through appropriate technology transfers. The Sherman Amendment seeks to increase the frequency and scope of exchanges between senior civilian officials and military officers of the two countries to support the development and implementation of the major defense partnership.

[Indian Army to buy American howitzer ammo for long-range accurate strikes](#)

July 7, 2019, Economic Times

The Indian Army is planning to acquire the Excalibur artillery ammunition which can strike targets more than 50 km away from the Americans under the emergency

procurement procedures. The ammunition is being acquired for units deployed along the Line of Control where artillery shelling by Pakistan is a common feature.

[Guns of Amethi: This rifle will soon equip bulk of the Indian Army](#)

July 9, 2019, India Today

India and Russia will jointly produce the AK-203 rifle at the Ordnance Factory Board plant in Korwa, Amethi. The AK-203 assault rifles is the most modern variant of the iconic AK-47 rifles. Most of these however, have not been bought from Russia but from other Warsaw Pact countries like Romania and Bulgaria.

[Make in India push: IAF quickens pace for two mega projects worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore for 170 aircraft](#)

July 8, 2019, Business Today

The project for 56 medium transport aircraft by the Tata-Airbus consortium is ready to be initiated this year while the other mega project for 114 fighter jets will take some years to take off.

[India finds permanent solution for payment of Russian arms](#)

July 9, 2019, Economic Times

A permanent solution has been found for the payment of arms purchased by India that had been stalled due to financial sanctions by the US, the Russian side has confirmed. With the resolution, Russia is confident that supplies for the S400 air defence missile system will commence within two years and all five regiments on order will be delivered by 2024.

[Defence Ministry approves Army Headquarters restructuring plans: Gen BipinRawat](#)

July 05, 2019, Zee News

The Defence Ministry has approved the proposal to restructure the Army Headquarters under which the force would be revamped to face the challenges of modern warfare. "The Defence Ministry has approved the proposal to restructure the Army Headquarters. Now we will start the implementation of the plans," Army Chief Gen BipinRawat said.

[BSF launches massive exercise to fortify anti-infiltration grid along Pak border in Punjab, Jammu](#)

July 7, 2019, Economic Times

A mega exercise to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu has been launched by the BSF, which has mobilised its entire senior field brass, thousands of troops and machinery deployed in these forward areas.

[Israeli companies dominate defence offsets in India](#)

July 8, 2019, IHS Jane

The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) has revealed details about the scope of defence offsets that are under way in the country. The information shows defence companies from Israel are engaged in nearly half of all India's offset deals. According to a list of "details of OEMs [original equipment manufacturers] having offset contracts", which was recently published by the Defence Offsets Management Wing (DOMW) - a division of the MoD's Department of Defence Production (DDP) - India has entered a total of 50 offset deals with 19 foreign defence contractors.

[0.01% - The Increase in Defence Allocation From Interim Budget as Modernisation Put on Hold](#)

July 5, 2019, News18

Out of the total allocation, Rs 3,05,296 crore (\$44.6 billion) have been earmarked for Defence Expenditure (the actual defence budget), while the rest is civil expenditure which includes pensions and miscellaneous expenses.

[India wants UN Security Council to address threats posed by D-Company, Jaish& Lashkar](#)

July 10, 2019, The Print

India told the UNSC that Pakistan-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's criminal syndicate has changed into a terror network, and required the world's focused attention. Terrorist organisations are increasingly involved in lucrative criminal activities such as trading in natural resources and human trafficking to raise funds, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said.

Pakistan

[Pakistan won't open airspace until India de-escalates](#)

July 12, 2019, The Economic Times

Pakistan has told India that it will not open its airspace for commercial flights until New Delhi removes its fighter jets from forward IAF airbases, Pakistan's Aviation Secretary Shahrukh Nusrat has informed a parliamentary committee.

[Pakistan to get \\$1.65bn net receipts out of \\$6bn IMF package](#)

July 8, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan will get net receipts of about \$1.65 billion in four years from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the \$6bn bailout as it delivers on a steep macroeconomic adjustment plan.

[IMF agreement: Electricity prices to be hiked quarterly](#)

July 9, 2019, The News

Pakistan has agreed with the IMF to further hike the electricity tariff on quarterly adjustments basis by end of the next August.

[Pak military leadership likely to be in US during PM visit](#)

July 9, 2019, The News

Prime Minister Imran Khan will likely be accompanied by Pakistan's top military brass during his official visit to the United States starting from July 21.

[White House confirms PM's meeting with Trump](#)

July 11, 2019, The News

US President Donald Trump will meet with Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House in Washington DC on July 22, the White House confirmed on June 10.

[US general calls for maintaining military ties with Pakistan](#)

July 11, 2019, Dawn

Gen Mark Milley, President Donald Trump's nominee to head the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the United States needs to maintain strong military-to-military ties with Pakistan, based on the shared interests of the two countries. He also warned at his nomination hearing that a premature withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan would be a strategic mistake.

[Experts From India, Pakistan To Meet On July 14: Pak Official](#)

July 11, 2019, NDTV

Experts from India and Pakistan will meet on June 13 at the Wagah border to discuss the draft agreement for finalising the modalities of the Kartarpur corridor and related technical issues.

[Pakistan not to open airspace until India de-escalates: official](#)

July 12, 2019, Dawn

Aviation Secretary Shah-rukh Nusrat said that Pakistan has declined a request to open its airspace until India de-escalates situation.

[World media boycotts session with Pak FM at media freedom meet](#)

July 12, 2019, The News

International media on June 11 boycotted session with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at the "Defend Media Freedom" conference as was greeted by empty seats as journalists protested over 'free speech concerns' in Pakistan.

Afghanistan

[Taliban Deny Discussing Cease-Fire, Intra-Afghan Talks With US](#)

July 6, 2019, VOA

Suhail Shaheen, who speaks for the Taliban's negotiating team, told VOA that a brief session of talks with American interlocutors was held on July 6 before the two sides agreed to pause the process in support of the upcoming intra-Afghan conference. He also acknowledged the latest discussions have made "spectacular progress."

[U.S.-Taliban talks inch America closer to withdrawing from Afghanistan](#)

July 10, 2019, NBC News

US special envoy to Afghanistan AmbKhalilzad said the latest round of U.S.-Taliban talks, which began June 29, has been the "most productive session" since they started last year. At best, these talks represent the first steps toward ending the war, but withdrawing U.S. troops would not guarantee an end to the fighting between the militants and the Afghan government.

[New air routes opened as Pakistan airspace remains closed](#)

July 10, 2019, Tolo News

The Independent Civil Aviation Authority has opened two new air routes for the flights between east and west Asia using Afghanistan's airspace. The first air route is newly-designed which crosses through China. The direction of the second air route has changed from Pakistan to Iran's airspace and it has been approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

[NATO will not leave Afghanistan until the job is done: Kay](#)

July 10, 2019, Tolo News

Acting Afghan Defense Minister Assadullah Khalid, the Resolute Support Commander Gen. Scott Miller, and NATO's Senior Civilian Representative Nicholas Kay July 10 visited Ghazni to assess the security of the central province. Addressing the meeting, Kay said NATO will not leave Afghanistan until the job is done.

[Afghan University teacher, students among IS operatives arrested in Kabul](#)

July 8, 2019, Tolo News

Afghan authorities have arrested four Islamic State (IS) operatives, including a university teacher, during a counterterrorism raid in Kabul.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh cannot bear Rohingya crisis long: ex-UN head](#)

July 10, 2019, Anadolu Agency

"It is not possible for Bangladesh to host such a large number of Rohingya for a long time," state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha news agency quoted Moon as saying while visiting a Rohingya makeshift camp in the southern Cox's Bazar district. He was accompanied by Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine and World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva.

[Xi, Hasina 'agree' Rohingyas must return to Myanmar for quick end to crisis](#)

July 6, 2019, Bd News

Hasina's visit to China comes in the backdrop of growing international pressure on Myanmar to accept the Rohingya people as their citizens to make a sustainable solution of the decades-old crisis. The two leaders agreed that this crisis can't be left unaddressed and must be resolved fast.

[Tata Motors gets order for over 200 Hexa units from Bangladesh Army](#)

July 9, 2019, Economic Times

Bangladesh is a key market for us and this order is a clear sign of Tata Motors' commitment and growing success in the market," Tata Motors Head International Business (Passenger Vehicles) Sujan Roy said in a statement. The company is exploring multiple avenues to work closely with the Bangladesh armed forces, he added.

[BSF delegation in Bangladesh for border management](#)

July 6, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

A 10-member delegation of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) led by BSF Second-in-Command (2IC) Arun Kumar Verma arrived in Bangladesh to participate in a joint training course on border handling and management. BGB and BSF will jointly participate in the border management course at the training centre. The joint training course is aimed at boosting cooperation between BSF and BGB.

Nepal

[Which way will the Tibet-Nepal railway go?](#)

July 5, 2019, Nepali Times

Feasibility report suggests drilling a train tunnel under the Himalaya, not along the river.

[Prime minister says he's in the dark. His critics aren't delighted](#)

July 11, 2019, Kathmandu Post

Last week, when asked about a letter from the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu demanding that pesticide tests for imported farm produce be revoked, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli had professed ignorance.

[India and Nepal finally agree on something: imposing tax on imported books](#)

July 11, 2019, Kathmandu Post

The Indian Budget has imposed a 5% custom duty on imported books whilst the Nepal has imposed 10% custom duty on the same. The author argues that this is one of the few places where India and Nepal align.

[The Indo-pacific strategy is a bad idea](#)

July 7, 2019, Kathmandu Post

An Oped on why Indo Pacific is a bad idea for Indo-Pacific. Reasons include USA's dubious ability to implement the scheme and political prejudice in Nepal.

[Nepal,India agree to expediate bilateral project works](#)

July 9, 2019, The Himalayan Times

The seventh meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism held in Kathmandu today reviewed the progress of bilateral projects, and agreed to expedite works by overcoming obstacles.

Bhutan

[Bhutan Known For Its Commitment And Dedication To The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation](#)

July 7, 2019, Daily Bhutan

On the sidelines during a multi-sectoral Coordination Meeting of SAARC and Regional Organisations held in Bumthang, Bhutan, the Director of DSOR remarked that Bhutan has very "good standing" among member state. The meeting, which concluded on 2 July, also adopted a Standard Operating Procedure for effective coordination between the Foreign Ministry's DSOR and other agencies. Once the document is adopted, it is expected to further strengthen Bhutan's engagement with regional organisations.

[MoSMandaviya to flag off cargo vessel from Bhutan to Bangladesh tomorrow](#)

July 11, 2019, The Asian Age

Minister of State for Shipping (Independent Charge) and Chemical and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya will flag off an inland waterways vessel containing cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh via Brahmaputra river and the Indo-Bangla Protocol Route tomorrow. This is a first of its kind movement where an Indian inland waterway is used for connecting two landlocked countries Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka

[SOFA would not lead to permanent US presence in SL, PM says](#)

July 10, 2019, Adaderana Lk

Sri Lanka is negotiating a fresh military cooperation deal with the United States, its Prime Minister announced in parliament, even as the country's president vowed to veto any agreement. PM Renil Wickremesinghe said the government was discussing a replacement for the 1995 Status of Forces (SOFA) arrangement that would allow the US military easier access to the strategically placed Indian Ocean Island.

[Inside story of how Sri Lanka fell into the ACSA-SOFA trap](#)

July 7, 2019, The Sunday Times

Opposition is mounting over the two defence related agreements between Sri Lanka and the United States, one already signed and another now pending. The first is the Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA). For almost two years it was not tabled before Parliament. Nor was there a government statement explaining the contents, on a matter of such national importance to Sri Lankans. The Sunday Times revealed that the genial former US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Atul Keshap, directed his staff that there be no media coverage or any publicity regarding the signing event. This was why there was no news release from the US Embassy in Colombo. Keshap signed on behalf of the US Department of Defence. Even for the US, therefore, the matter was one of utmost secrecy.

[India alerts Sri Lanka on boats carrying drugs from Karachi](#)

July 11, 2019, Colombo Gazette

The successful capture comes after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) shared a specific input with information about two boats carrying banned drugs from Karachi to Sri Lanka. The input which was shared with Indian authorities by NCB was consecutively forwarded to concerned Sri Lankan agencies following which a timely intervention by coast guards prevented the illegal trade.

[Sri Lanka to revive visa on arrival for 39 countries except India, China](#)

July 10, 2019, PTI

Following the Easter Sunday terror attack, Sri Lanka had suspended the visa on arrival scheme for many countries. It has now decided to revive the programme but has excluded India and China.

[US President reiterates commitment to expand counterterrorism, maritime, and border security cooperation with Sri Lanka](#)

July 10, 2019, Colombo Page

The United States President Donald Trump has reiterated to Sri Lanka's new ambassador to Washington that the U.S. would stand with Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday terror attacks and expand counterterrorism, maritime, and border security cooperation with the island nation.

[Sri Lanka Navy Commissions Former PLAN Frigate](#)

July 8, 2019, Naval News

The Type 053H2G-class frigate taken over from the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) to increase the operational capabilities of the Sri Lanka Navy arrived at the port of Colombo on July 8th 2019.

Maldives

[Maldives seeks India's support in improving civil-military ties](#)

July 8, 2019, Maldives Times

The Maldives, whose relations with India have been on an upswing since IbuSolih took over as its President last September, has sought Delhi's assistance in improving the civil-military ties in the archipelago nation.

[China, Maldives clash over mounting Chinese debt as India warms up to Male](#)

July 9, 2019, Maldives Times

Former Maldivian President Mohammed Nasheed has clashed with his country's Chinese envoy over Male's "alarming levels" of Chinese debt, which stands at \$3.4 billion, even as India has regained ground in the strategically important Indian Ocean atoll nation with the exit of pro-Beijing former president Abdulla Yameen.

[Parliament approves legal assistance treaty with India](#)

July 9, 2019, Maldives Times

The Parliament has provided its approval to the treaty between Maldives and India for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

East & South East Asia

China

[Chinese military voices strong opposition to planned U.S. arms sales to Taiwan](#)

July 11, 2019, Xinhua

The Chinese military expressed strong dissatisfaction with and resolute opposition to the United States State Department's approval of a plan to sell weapons worth about 2.22 billion U.S. dollars to Taiwan.

[China, U.S. trade teams in contact for further arrangement](#)

July 11, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese and U.S. negotiating teams will restart economic and trade consultations on the basis of equality and mutual respect in line with the consensus reached by the two heads of state on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Osaka, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said.

[China refutes joint letter criticizing Xinjiang policies](#)

July 11, 2019, Xinhua

China refuted a letter, jointly signed by 22 nations, criticizing China's policy in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

[22 nations biased on governance of Xinjiang](#)

July 11, 2019, Global Times

The West cannot represent the world. The West should do some self-examination for being exclusive and setting themselves against vast number of developing countries.

[Italy, China pledge to deepen cooperation, support multilateralism](#)

July 11, 2019, Xinhua

Italy and China held a round of high-level financial talks here on Wednesday, pledging to deepen their cooperation in the finance sector, and restating support for multilateral trade.

[No need to overreact to Iran's nuclear moves: Chinese delegate](#)

July 11, 2019, Xinhua

The international community should not overreact to Iran's recent nuclear moves because they do not incur any proliferation risks, said Fu Cong, head of the Chinese delegation at an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors meeting on Wednesday.

[China reports steady foreign investment growth in June](#)

July 11, 2019, Xinhua

China saw steady foreign investment growth in June, official data showed. Total foreign investment actually utilized climbed 8.5 percent year on year to 109.27 billion yuan last month, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

[China supports prosperity in south-eastern Bangladesh with mega rail project](#)

July 10, 2019, Xinhua

A mega-project to connect Bangladesh's top tourist destination Cox's Bazar, which borders Myanmar, with a rail network is finally underway.

[UN official reiterates importance of coordinating African initiatives with BRI to spur infrastructure dev't](#)

July 7, 2019, Xinhua

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed on Sunday reiterated the importance of coordinating continental initiatives with the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to spur infrastructure development across Africa.

[China refutes rumor of ship escort plan at Malacca Strait](#)

July 9, 2019, Xinhua

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Tuesday refuted rumours about China's planning to send warships to Malacca Strait for escorting its own vessels.

[Full text of Vice President Wang Qishan's address at the Opening Ceremony of the Eighth World Peace Forum](#)

July 8, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan addressed the opening ceremony of the Eighth World Peace Forum on Monday in Beijing.

[China to deepen military cooperation with Caribbean countries, Pacific island countries: defense minister](#)

July 8, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe on Monday said China is willing to deepen military exchanges and cooperation with the Caribbean countries and Pacific island countries under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

[China strongly opposes British intervention in Hong Kong affairs, envoy says](#)

July 8, 2019, Xinhua

China is "strongly opposed" to British intervention in Hong Kong affairs, Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming said on Sunday, criticizing some British politicians' Cold War mentality on bilateral ties.

[Don't let external forces ruin Hong Kong's future](#)

July 10, 2019, Global Times

It is necessary to prevent the collusion between the extreme opposition and Western forces such as the US from becoming an ulcer of Hong Kong politics, which will put the future of Hong Kong in serious jeopardy.

[Western countries should learn to adapt to Chinese standards](#)

July 9, 2019, Global Times

With China rapidly progressing in innovation and advanced technology, its capabilities of standardization have also been growing. This should be viewed in a positive light, as it could drive the standards in certain areas to a higher level.

[Australia, China should seek common ground](#)

July 11, 2019, Global Times

"If China catches a cold, the world gets influenza and Australia gets pneumonia."

[Messy world needs China's stability](#)

July 10, 2019, Global Times

The West's old political and economic tools can no longer solve current problems. There are disagreements on security risks and national interests. The Cold War mentality remains, but globalization demands different considerations. The line between an enemy and friend is becoming vague.

[China's economy to continue rapid expansion](#)

July 10, 2019, Global Times

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. In the past seven decades, China's GDP per capita has risen from less than \$70 in 1952 to more than \$9,700 in 2018. Why has China achieved such a rapid growth? What is China's role in today's world?

[China-Turkey ties revolve around Xinjiang](#)

July 8, 2019, Global Times

China's policies on Xinjiang are part of its internal affairs that no other country has a right to interfere with. Erdogan's remarks on the Xinjiang question are the premise and guarantee for upgrade of bilateral cooperation.

[US real focus of Tsai's trip to the Caribbean: China Daily editorial](#)

July 11, 2019, China Daily

Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen is on another overseas trip seeking to cement ties with the island's dwindling "diplomatic allies". This time to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Haiti.

[Trade deal possible if expectations realistic: China Daily editorial](#)

July 10, 2019, China Daily

Little has been revealed about what each party actually said during their latest conversation. But Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He's phone call with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Tuesday has made headlines anyway.

[US must scrap arms deal with Taiwan: Beijing](#)

July 9, 2019, Asia Times

The US State Department has approved a possible \$2.2-billion arms deal for Taiwan – angering Beijing which called for Washington to “immediately cancel” the proposal.

[Reassure HK, remind Britain SAR no longer a British 'colony'](#)

July 11, 2019, China Daily

The ongoing distress of Britain over the loss of Hong Kong as a "colony" can be attributed to some British politicians not sufficiently examining their own history and trying to incite Hong Kong residents against Beijing. So much is borne out of the evidence.

[West, Japan rebuke China at UN for detention of Uighurs](#)

July 11, 2019, Japan Today

Nearly two dozen countries have called on China to halt its mass detention of ethnic Uighurs in the Xinjiang region, the first such joint move on the issue at the U.N. Human Rights Council, according to diplomats and a letter seen by Reuters.

Japan

[Japan to eye options if U.S. seeks coalition on Middle East threats](#)

July 11, 2019, Japan Today

Japan will consider options if the United States seeks cooperation in safeguarding commercial shipping in the Middle East following recent attacks on oil tankers in the area, Japanese officials said.

[Japan urges Iran to keep nuclear deal, refrain from further action](#)

July 8, 2019, Japan Today

Japan urged Iran to follow its commitments under a 2015 nuclear agreement with major powers and refrain from further actions to undermine it, after Tehran said it had started enriching uranium above the limit set by the deal.

[Japan prepares for U.S. request to join patrols in Strait of Hormuz](#)

July 11, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japanese officials are apparently scrambling to determine how to respond to a possible U.S. request to join a military coalition to secure maritime safety in the Strait of Hormuz off Iran.

[Japan, 'surprised' by South Korean response to export control, accuses Seoul of trying to make the issue about free trade](#)

July 10, 2019, The Japan Times

The government was taken aback by the strong reaction from South Korea to its decision to tighten export controls on some chemicals to the country, a senior Japanese foreign ministry official said, calling it "quite surprising" while also accusing Seoul of unfairly trying to make the issue about free trade.

[Defense ministry says Japanese troops cannot fight in Korea](#)

July 11, 2019, The Korea Times

The Ministry of National Defense (MND) said Thursday that it would not consider allowing Japanese troops onto Korean territory under the United Nations Command (UNC). The announcement followed media reports that Japan's forces could come under the control of the UNC in the case of a war on the peninsula.

[Japan's population continues to slide even as foreign resident numbers increase](#)

July 10, 2019, The Japan Times

The number of Japanese citizens living in the country as of Jan. 1 fell by 433,239, or 0.35 percent, from a year before to 124,776,364, down for the 10th straight year, the government said.

Korea

['Seoul proposes plan to compensate forced wartime laborers](#)

July 11, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea has adjusted its proposal to settle wartime forced labor compensation claims with Japan in an attempt to normalize the strained diplomatic relations between the two countries.

[Unification Ministry partially disputes media report on arrival of NK defectors from Thailand](#)

July 12, 2019, The Korea Herald

Ministry of Unification Deputy Spokesperson Kim Eun-han said a media report on the "mass" arrival of North Korean defectors from Thailand was partially incorrect.

[S Korean leader denounces Japanese comments over sanctions](#)

July 10, 2019, Japan Today

South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday criticized comments by Japanese officials who questioned the credibility of Seoul's sanctions against North Korea while justifying Tokyo's stricter controls on high-tech exports to South Korea.

[Japan export cuts 'undesirable,' South Korea tells Pompeo](#)

July 11, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

South Korea's foreign minister told U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that Japan's export curbs against Seoul are "undesirable," the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday, as a trade row between the East Asian neighbors grows.

[Lawmaker claims Japan illegally sent strategic materials to NK](#)

July 11, 2019, The Korea Times

Rep. Ha Tae-keung of the minor opposition Bareunmirae Party (BMP) claimed that Japan sent sanctioned material to North Korea on 30 occasions over the last two decades, some of which were used in the production of nuclear weapons.

[Cheong Wa Dae proposes int'l probe into Japan's claim over S. Korea's strategic material control](#)

July 12, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea on Friday suggested a formal probe by a United Nations panel or another international organization into Japan's assertion that Seoul has been negligent in the management of strategic materials.

[N.Korean Missile 'Can Hit Anywhere in U.S.'](#)

July 12, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The U.S. Forces Korea on Thursday said North Korea's Hwasong-15 ballistic missile is capable of striking anywhere in the continental U.S.

[N.Korea Threatens Seoul Over Purchase of Stealth Fighters](#)

July 12, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea on Thursday threatened South Korea with dire consequences over the purchase of cutting-edge F-35A stealth fighter jets from the U.S.

[Is South Korea the new safe haven for Indian Swiss bank account holders?](#)

July 12, 2019, Business Standard

With Switzerland gearing up to share with India the information of Indian bank account holders, there seems to have been a massive exodus of Indian money to South Korea in the past year. Bank of International Standards (BIS) data show a 900 per cent spike in non-bank deposits in South Korean banks during 2018.

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN unites in claiming centrality in Indo-Pacific region](#)

July 12, 2019, The Jakarta Post

ASEAN has reaffirmed its central role in the vast Indo-Pacific region when its leaders endorsed at their summit in Bangkok in June their common vision of how they want the emerging region to develop under constantly changing power balances.

[ASEAN Trade Ministers persuade India to speed up talks on RCEP](#)

July 9, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

Pressure is piling up on India from other members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), especially the ASEAN, to end its stalemate with China on market opening offered under the proposed pact.

[ASEAN Defense Ministers Call for Peace, Stability in South China Sea](#)

July 11, 2019, RFA

ASEAN defense ministers on Thursday approved a declaration seeking to turn the South China Sea, a maritime region marked by tension over competing territorial claims, into a sea of peace.

[ASEAN nations strengthen cybersecurity ties through new cooperation agreement](#)

July 10, 2019, The Daily Swig

Governments across Southeast Asia have further strengthened their ties by agreeing to improve their cooperation within cyberspace.

[India hands over 250 houses for Rohingya in bid to aid Myanmar return](#)

July 11, 2019, SBS

India has handed over 250 prefabricated houses it built in Myanmar's Rakhine state as part of a broader effort to help tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to return, an Indian official said.

[Not the US, not China. India holds the cards in the Indo-Pacific](#)

July 12, 2019, SCMP

India has ties with all the major regional players and the heft to alter the balance of power, if it so wished. But a long tradition of 'strategic autonomy' is likely to see the status quo maintained, unless Beijing provokes change.

[Russia-India-China to hold Indo-Pacific consultations to build confidence](#)

July 10, 2019, The Economic Times

India, notwithstanding Quadrilateral and Japan-America-India trilateral to ensure rules-based order, is planning to involve Russia and China for the Indo-Pacific construct, and Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral will soon hold consultations to explore opportunities for the three in the Indo-Pacific region.

[South Korea and the US Indo-Pacific Strategy: At an Arm's Length?](#)

July 7, 2019, The Diplomat

The bilateral outcomes of U.S. President Donald J. Trump's visit to South Korea at the end of June were largely overshadowed by the headline-grabbing sudden U.S.-North Korea summit meeting at the inter-Korean Demilitarized Zone. The bilateral outcomes of U.S. President Donald J. Trump's visit to South Korea at the end of June were largely overshadowed by the headline-grabbing sudden U.S.-North Korea summit meeting at the inter-Korean Demilitarized Zone.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Russia's Gazprom signs 5-year natural-gas import deal with Turkmenistan](#)

July 6, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom said it has agreed to import natural gas from Turkmenistan until July 2024 as part of a deal with the country's state-owned Turkmengaz company. Gazprom said it would import up to 5.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually

[Tajikistan, China to conduct military drills in Gorno-Badakhshan province](#)

July 10, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Armed forces of Tajikistan and China will conduct joint military exercises in Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region which borders Afghanistan, Orif Nozimien, head of the press office of Tajikistan's Defense Ministry, said on July 9.

[Kazakh Interior Minister Says Police Detained More Than 100 Protesters On July 6](#)

July 9, 2019, RFE/RL

Kazakhstan's interior minister says a total of 100 protesters were detained in the Central Asian country's two largest cities on July 6. On July 9, 19 of the protesters detained in the capital, Nur-Sultan, and the southern city of Almaty were sentenced to up to 15 days in jail, while 23 were fined for taking part in unsanctioned rallies.

[Dozens Rally In Front Of Nazarbaev's Office In Nur-Sultan](#)

July 10, 2019, RFE/RL

Dozens of people from across Kazakhstan have rallied near the office of the leader of the ruling Nur-Otan party, former President Nursultan Nazarbaev, demanding the creation of a special commission to look into what they said were wrongful past court rulings.

[Kyrgyz Ex-President Refuses To Obey Subpoena In Unspecified Investigation](#)

July 9, 2019, RFE/RL

Former Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambaev has refused to obey a subpoena calling for him to report to the Interior Ministry in Bishkek for questioning in an unspecified criminal investigation. Interior Ministry officials delivered the

subpoena to Atambaev's residential compound in the village of Koi-Tash near Bishkek late on July 8.

[Supreme Court Refuses To Exonerate Uzbekistan's 'Longest-Held Political Prisoner' Freed In 2016](#)

July 10, 2019, RFE/RL

Uzbekistan's Supreme Court has rejected a request by former politician Samandar Qoqonov, who was released from prison in late 2016 after spending almost 24 years behind bars, to be exonerated of all charges against him. Qoqonov said that the court ruled on July 10 that "all charges in the case against Qoqonov had been proven" and therefore he cannot be exonerated.

[Poll shows high, but declining, support for Armenian government](#)

July 9, 2019, Central Asia News

A new poll shows declining, if still strong, support for the new authorities in Armenia, as well as increasing pessimism over the prospects of a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Azerbaijan.

West Asia

[Saudi Arabia moves to secure Yemen ports after UAE drawdown](#)

July 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia's military in Yemen moved in to secure two strategic Red Sea ports and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait after ally the United Arab Emirates substantially reduced its forces in the war-ravaged country.

[Netanyahu vows never to dismantle illegal Israel settlements](#)

July 11, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed never to dismantle Israel's illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

[Yemen's Houthis recruit 30,000 child soldiers: Minister](#)

July 11, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Yemen's Houthi rebel group has recruited more than 30,000 child soldiers since war broke out in the country, a government official said Wednesday. The Houthis sent them to conflict zones and military reservations without any training, said Human Rights Minister Mohamed Askar.

[Turkey seeks to arrest hundreds over alleged Gulen links](#)

July 9, 2019, Al Jazeera

Turkish prosecutors have ordered the arrest of nearly 200 serving military personnel and several civilians over suspected links to a network blamed by Ankara for an attempted coup three years ago. The Istanbul prosecutor's office had issued 176 warrants for serving members of the armed forces, in an operation encompassing the army, air force and navy.

[Turkish-US talks on northern Syria stall as S-400 crisis peaks](#)

July 10, 2019

As Turkey and the United States continue to spar over the imminent arrival of Russian made S-400 missiles on Turkish soil, and more recently over Turkish moves in the eastern Mediterranean, a long-running quarrel over US support for Kurdish militants in Syria seems to have been put on the back burner – for now.

[Iraq launches large-scale military operation to clear Daesh cells](#)

July 8, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The Iraqi military launched a large-scale military operation in three north-western provinces aimed at clearing the area of Daesh militants.

United States

[US offers high-level talks with S. Korea, Japan over trade spat: top official](#)

July 12, 2019, The Korea Herald

Kim Hyun-chong, deputy chief of Cheong Wa Dae's National Security Office, said Seoul and Washington are eager to have the meeting to discuss Japan's recent export curb measures against South Korea.

[Trump's Asia Gamble: Shatter Enduring Strategies on China and North Korea](#)

July 12, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The shifts were prompted by internal changes in each country, combined with Trump's unorthodox instincts and the views of his senior Asia advisers. The administration now has growing bipartisan support in Washington to widen an emerging global conflict with China and build diplomacy with North Korea.

[Kim Darroch Resigns as U.K. Ambassador to U.S. After Leaked Cables](#)

July 10, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

Britain's ambassador to the U.S. said he would resign over the diplomatic firestorm caused by the leak of secret cables in which he criticized President Trump's administration as dysfunctional.

['No longer acceptable': Donald Trump again attacks India over tariffs](#)

Jul 9, 2019, The Times of India

United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday said India has long had a "field day" imposing tariffs on American products, which is "no longer acceptable" to the US.

[Europe Is Stuck between the United States and Russia](#)

July 10, 2019, The National Interest

Is America using the Nord Stream-2 Gas Pipeline as a target for its hostility toward Russia?

[The Moment of Truth Has Come for U.S.-Turkey Relations](#)

July 12, 2019, The Washington Post

For roughly two years, the United States has been warning the Turkish government against receiving a huge Russian missile system.

[The Middle East Is Now Split Between Red States and Blue States](#)

July 8, 2019, Foreign Policy

The region has been carved up into Republican and Democratic countries, to the detriment of the United States.

[Taiwan president in U.S. after warning of threat from 'overseas forces'](#)

July 11, 2019, Reuters

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen arrived in the United States on Thursday on a trip that has angered Beijing, warning that democracy must be defended and that the island faced threats from "overseas forces," in a veiled reference to China.

[The Right Way to Deal With Huawei](#)

July 11, 2019, Foreign Affairs

The United States needs to compete with Chinese firms, not just ban them.

[President Trump will meet Imran Khan on July 22: White House](#)

July 10, 2019, Economic Times

The visit will focus on strengthening cooperation between the US and Pakistan to bring peace, stability, and economic prosperity to a region that has seen far too much conflict.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Diplomats express solidarity with UK ambassador's verdict on Trump](#)

July 12, 2019, CNN

A photo tweeted Thursday morning of ambassadors from Germany, France and the European Union with outgoing UK Ambassador Kim Darroch literally showed the other envoys standing shoulder to shoulder with their British counterpart. "Honored to host my colleagues and friends," German Ambassador Emily Haber wrote in her post.

[Why Turkey Turned Its Back on the United States and Embraced Russia](#)

July 9, 2019, Foreign Affairs

Turkey's fraught relationship with the United States has been in a downward spiral for years. Divided over an ever-lengthening list of issues, from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's authoritarian turn to the United States' refusal to extradite a Pennsylvania-based cleric accused of trying to overthrow the Turkish government, the putative allies are increasingly at odds.

[Merkel's shaking episodes fuel debate about German power handover](#)

July 11, 2019, Reuters

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's bouts of shaking at public events are firing up a debate among some of her Christian Democrats about whether she should pass power to her protege sooner than a planned handover in 2021, senior party sources say.

[France Approves Tax On Big Tech, And U.S. Threatens To Retaliate](#)

July 11, 2019, NPR

French lawmakers have approved a tax on digital companies that will affect U.S. tech behemoths known in France as "Les GAFA" – Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple. The U.S. government is already threatening to retaliate: On Wednesday, President Trump ordered a probe of the French tax.

[France fails in Brexit power grab as expert reveals no big move made to Paris](#)

July 11, 2019, Express

FRANCE has failed to lure in British business as Paris businessman Arnaud de Bresson revealed only "one third" of jobs forecasted to move due to Brexit relocated to the French capital.

[Brexit means goodbye to Britain as we know it](#)

July 11, 2019, Financial Times

What sort of Britain will emerge from the Brexit earthquake? Will it still be united? What sort of role might it play in Europe and the wider world?

[Britain says it fended off Iranian attempt to block its oil tanker](#)

July 11, 2019, Business Standard

Exactly a week after Britain seized an Iranian tanker accused of violating sanctions on Syria, London said the British Heritage tanker operated by oil company BP had been approached in the strait, main outlet for Middle Eastern oil.

[EU-U.S. trade talks: milestone reached in mutual recognition on pharmaceuticals](#)

July 11, 2019, EU News

The European Union and the United States delivered on a significant element of the Joint Statement agreed by Presidents Juncker and Trump in July 2018. The positive transatlantic trade agenda established in the Joint Statement includes a commitment from both sides to reduce barriers and increase trade in a range of sectors, including pharmaceuticals.

[India, EU hold 5th high-level dialogue on migration and mobility](#)

July 11, 2019, Economic Times

India and the EU on Tuesday held the fifth High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility here and exchanged views about ways to "realise the full potential of further strengthening cooperation" in this area, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Russia

[Russia keeps options open for Rs 45000 crore submarine race, to choose between L&T and HSL](#)

July 11, 2019, The Economic Times

The P75 I project, which will be under the Strategic Partnership model that involves an Indian company absorbing technology and building six submarines, is likely to see strong competition between Russia, Germany and France.

[India-Russia hold dialogue on enhancing bilateral ties](#)

July 10, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India and Russia discussed ways to deepen economic cooperation in areas such as agriculture and agro-processing, the small & medium industry, the digital economy and trade, banking & finance at the second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue in New Delhi.

[India Says It's Working with Russia on De-Dollarisation of Bilateral Trade](#)

July 10, 2019, Sputnik International

Ambassador Saran said the problem is not just the relatively low level of trade between India and Russia, but also the fact that India has an adverse balance of trade with Russia, which is growing.

[Putin and Ukraine's Zelenskiy Discuss Ending Conflict in Eastern Ukraine](#)

July 11, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelenskiy held their first telephone conversation on Thursday and discussed settling the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the return of prisoners, the Kremlin said.

[Russian, Georgian lawmakers to discuss ways out of current crisis in relations on July 15](#)

July 12, 2019, Tass

The head of the international affairs committee of the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, said he would meet with Georgian opposition lawmakers in Moscow to discuss the current situation in bilateral relations and ways of overcoming the crisis.

[UN, Russia can work together to create living conditions for Syrian refugees – UNHCR](#)

July 11, 2019, Tass

UN, Russia can work together to create living conditions for Syrian refugees – UNHCR
According to the UN official, many refugee camps are overcrowded, with severe living, health care and nutrition conditions

[S-400 contract with Russia vital for Turkey's security – Erdogan's party](#)

July 12, 2019, Tass

S-400 Triumf (NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler) is most advanced long-range anti-aircraft missile system that went into service in 2007

[US House of Representatives approves amendment for new anti-Russian sanctions](#)

July 12, 2019, Tass

The draft defense budget, into which the amendment was introduced, is yet to get parliamentary approval.

['We Want to Change the Course of History,' Northern Sea Route Operator Says](#)

July 11, 2019, The Moscow Times

With new, super-powerful icebreakers, the Russian Arctic route might be able to compete with the Suez Canal, the leader of the Rosatom nuclear power company says.

[How Successful Is Russia's Military Propaganda Media?](#)

July 10, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia's military media outlets have ramped up coverage in recent years but lack a coherent information policy.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[India extends \\$ 50 million package to host African Union Summit](#)

July 12, 2019, The Economic Times

India has extended a grant of \$50 million package to sub-Saharan Niger, which the French-speaking West African country has utilised to finance the high-profile African Union (AU) summit it hosted last weekend. This is the first time India has extended a grant for an AU summit.

[Police fire guns during Shi'ite protest in Nigeria capital](#)

July 11, 2019, Reuters

Police fired guns and teargas in a clash with a protesting Shi'ite Muslim group in Nigeria's capital city Abuja.

[UN chief seeks help for Sahel countries fighting jihadists](#)

July 10, 2019, The East African

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged the international community Wednesday to support West Africa's fight against violent extremism, saying the region alone could not be expected to contain the spread of jihadism.

[Closing Hydro Plant Is Zimbabwe's Answer to Getting More Power](#)

July 11, 2019, Bloomberg

Zimbabwe has proposed reducing the flow of the Zambezi River in exchange for receiving discounted power from neighboring Mozambique, people familiar with the situation said.

[Libya conflict: French missiles found on pro-Haftar base](#)

July 10, 2019, BBC

France has denied breaching a UN arms embargo after four of its anti-tank missiles were found on a base loyal to a rogue Libyan general.

[Libya asks France to explain how its arms reached Haftar forces](#)

July 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

The UN-recognised government seeks urgent answers after Paris conceded its missiles were found with pro- Haftar forces.

[Sudan ruling military council general says coup attempt foiled](#)

July 11, 2019, Arab News

Sudan's ruling military council has foiled a coup attempt, a top general announced on state television, saying that 12 officers and four soldiers had been arrested.

[Free Migrants Detained in Libya, Human Rights Officials Say](#)

July 11, 2019, VOA

Two senior human rights officials say they want the 5,600 refugees and migrants in Libyan detention centers freed and their protection guaranteed.

[Russia's endgame in Libya](#)

July 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

The escalation of conflict in Libya has exposed a great deal of foreign meddling that outside powers, both regional and global, would have preferred to keep under the radar.

[Ghana's president wants Africa-Europe relationship to change](#)

July 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

Africa must change its relationship with Europe if it wants to become self-reliant and exploit rich resources that could transform the continent, Ghana's president has said.

Latin America

[Squeezed by sanctions, Venezuela sells oil to tiny Turkish firm](#)

Reuters, July 8, 2019

With U.S. sanctions blocking Venezuela from selling oil to the United States, state-owned energy firm PDVSA has turned to several little-known buyers that include a tiny Turkish company. U.S. sanctions imposed in January in an effort to oust Maduro have driven away many customers.

[Italy court sentences 24 behind dictators' murder pact](#)

BBC, July 9, 2019

A court in Italy has sentenced 24 South American ex-officials to life in prison for illegally detaining, torturing and killing hundreds of opposition activists in the 1970s and 1980s. Among the victims - who were killed as part of Operation Condor - more than 20 were Italians. Twenty-three of the 24 defendants were

sentenced in absentia. It is doubtful whether their countries of origin will extradite them.

[Venezuela's Maduro 'optimistic' as crisis talks resume](#)

BBC, July 9, 2019

The talks between the Venezuelan government and the opposition have resumed in Barbados for resolving the country's political crisis. The Norwegian foreign ministry will act as a mediator as it did at the preliminary talks in Oslo in May. The opposition led by Juan Guaido, declared that the goal was to "negotiate a way out from the dictatorship".

[Chinese company intensifies Colombia's black market for taxis](#)

Al Jazeera, July 9, 2019

Rivaling Uber, Chinese ride-hailing app DiDi is now fighting for control of Bogota's streets. Launched in Bogota on June 4, DiDi plans to kick off in more cities over the next few months as part of a strategy to capture 30 percent of the Colombian market by December.

[Chile suffers the worst drought in 60 years](#)

Al Jazeera, July 9, 2019

Central Chile is suffering the worst drought in 60 years. That includes the capital Santiago, home to nearly half the country's population of 18 million.

[US blacklists Venezuela military agency after navy captain dies](#)

Al Jazeera, July 11, 2019

The United States has imposed sanctions against Venezuela's military counterintelligence agency, following the death of a US Navy captain after he spent a week in its custody.

[Government designates Hezbollah a terror group ahead of Pompeo visit](#)

Buenos Aires Times, July 11, 2019

Argentina confirmed that it is preparing in a decree to designate the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah as a terrorist organizations with "concrete pretensions" to carry out "attacks" in Argentina, two weeks before the 25th anniversary of the bombing of AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina).

[Brazil pension reform passes first hurdle in Congress](#)

BBC, July 11, 2019

Brazil's lower house of Congress has voted by a large majority, with 379 in favour and 131 against, to overhaul the country's generous pension system. [UNSC in Colombia to check on implementation of FARC peace deal](#)

Al Jazeera, July 11, 2019

Representatives from the UN Security Council will visit Colombia this week to check on the implementation of the landmark 2016 peace agreement that brought an end to the world's longest-running armed conflict.



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