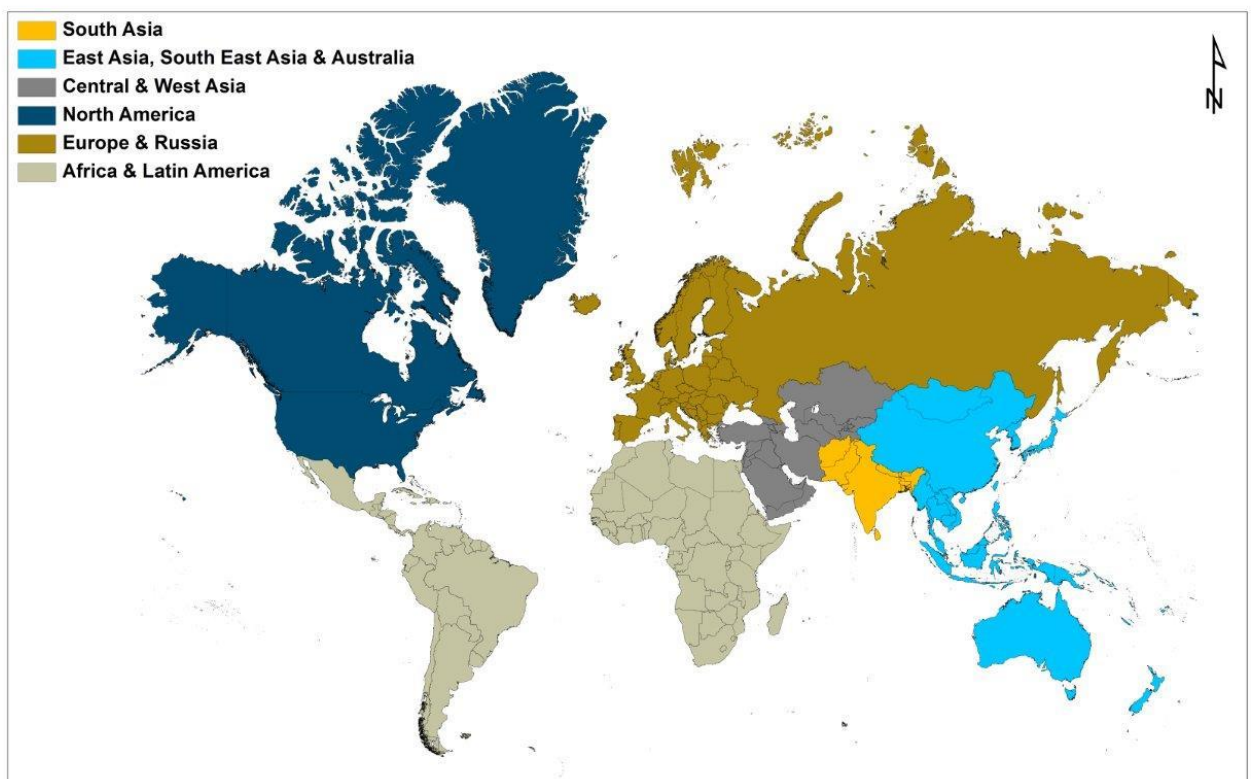




Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group  
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# **DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH**

## **Volume 3, Issue 30**

### **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

#### [When Trump meets Imran](#)

July 22, 2019, Indian Express

Talks between US President Donald Trump and a Pakistani delegation at the White House could mark an important inflexion point in the evolution of India's north-western frontiers. As Trump seeks to end America's longest war ever in Afghanistan, Pakistan has an opportunity to reset its troubled relationship with the US, rearrange its regional policy and seek reconciliation with Kabul and Delhi.

#### [After trade war, Trump wants to punish India for Russian defence purchases](#)

July 23, 2019, The Print

America is planning sanctions on India under Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA, legislation, says top US official.

#### [Eye on China, India set to kickstart 1st space war drill](#)

July 24, 2019, The Times of India

The Indian armed forces are all set to conduct the country's first-ever simulated space warfare exercise this week, which will lead to an assessment of the "imminent threats" in the expanse beyond earth and the drafting of a joint space doctrine for futuristic battles.

#### [Modi, Trump never discussed Kashmir, show official records](#)

July 24, 2019, The Times of India

There was no conversation in Osaka between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on Kashmir or mediation in the dispute, and this is borne out by official records of discussions by both the Indian and US governments.

#### [How Trump sold Kabul and New Delhi down the river](#)

July 24, 2019, The Times of India

He loves deals and thinks he has mastered the "Art of the Deal." And the deal Pakistan sucked in him into on a hot and muggy Washington afternoon was "Afghanistan exit-for-Kashmir mediation."

### [40 militant groups were operating in Pakistan: Imran Khan](#)

July 24, 2019, The Times of India

Successive governments in Pakistan did not tell the truth to the United States, in particular in the last 15 years, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Tuesday, adding that there were 40 different militant groups operating in his country.

### [IMF projects slower growth rate for India](#)

July 23, 2019, The Times of India

The IMF on Tuesday projected a slower growth rate for India in 2019 and 2020, a downward revision of 0.3 per cent for both the years, saying its GDP will now grow at the rate of 7 and 7.2 percent respectively reflecting a weaker than expected outlook for domestic demand.

### [PM Modi made no such request, says S Jaishankar on Trump's Kashmir remarks](#)

July 23, 2019, The Times of India

Putting out a categorical denial of US President Donald Trump's claim that he had been requested by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mediate with Pakistan on Kashmir issue, external affairs minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that the PM had made no such request.

### [US in damage control mode after Trump flub on Kashmir](#)

July 23, 2019, The Times of India

Trump administration mandarins, US lawmakers, and American foreign policy interlocutors began damage control measures on Monday night to mollify New Delhi after President Trump's of-the-cuff offer to mediate on the Kashmir issue touched off a firestorm in the diplomatic circuit.

### [Row erupts as Trump offers to mediate in Kashmir issue](#)

July 23, 2019, The Times of India

A furore erupted on Monday as US President Donald Trump offering to mediate in the Kashmir issue, claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked him to help in the matter. The Indian government was quick to deny that the PM had ever done so, even as the opposition launched an attack on the issue.

### [How Delhi rewound to Osaka to rebut Trump – diplomatically](#)

July 24, 2019, Indian Express

Sources said there was “absolute clarity” that Modi had not made any such suggestion during his meeting with Trump on the side-lines of the G-20 summit in Osaka on June 27.

### [Need to respond to China's growing might in Indian Ocean: Navy Chief](#)

July 26, 2019, The Times of India

The Indian armed forces will need to respond to China's rapidly-expanding military might, especially its growing naval footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), within their budget limitations and other constraints, said Admiral Karambir Singh.

### [India demands action after Imran's 'glaring admission' on 30-40K terrorists in Pakistan](#)

July 25, 2019, Times of India

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said that it was not the first time that Pakistan and its leadership had owned up to the presence of terrorists in that country who are sent to India to carry out attacks.

### [US lawmakers support India's stand on Kashmir, one of them apologises for Trump's remarks](#)

July 23, 2019, India Today

Congressman Brad Sherman an influential Democratic Congressman apologised to India's US envoy for President Donald Trump's "embarrassing" remarks on Kashmir, while several others came out in support of New Delhi's established stand against any third-party role on the issue.

### [India successfully launches world's first mission to South Pole](#)

July 22, 2019, Times of India

On July 22, 2019, India successfully launched its second Moon mission Chandrayaan-2. It is the world's first mission to the Moon's South Pole. If successful, the mission will make India the fourth nation to soft land on the Moon after the U.S., Russia and China.

### [India moves up 5 ranks to become 52nd most innovative country](#)

July 25, 2019, Business Today

India has improved its ranking on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 to reach the 52nd position, up five places since last year's rankings. The country has improved "in four of the seven GII pillars", namely Institutions, Human capital and research, Infrastructure Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs and Creative outputs.

### [India needs to grow over 8 pc a year to become USD 5-trillion economy by 2024-25: Amitabh Kant](#)

July 22, 2019, Economic Times

Niti Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant speaking at an event organised by IILM Institute For Higher Education, said that economic growth is driven by the private sector, so India needs to create right environment for the private sector investment.

### [DefExpo India-2020 to be held in Lucknow for the first time](#)

July 21, 2019, India Today

Main theme of the DefExpo India-2020 will be 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.

### [In first 50 days, Modi government spent Rs 8,500 crore on defence deals](#)

July 23, 2019, The Economic Times

According to Defence Ministry sources, the IAF has spent around Rs 8,000 crore in procuring missiles such as the Spice-2000, Strum Ataka ATGMs and a large number of spares under the emergency procurement route.

### [India, China to carry out major military exercise 'Hand in Hand'](#)

July 20, 2019, The Economic Times

The military exercise will be based on counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

### [Defence expenditure is increasing every year in absolute terms: Shripad Naik](#)

July 25, 2019, The Economic Times

"Measuring defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP creates an illusion of declined spending by ignoring the size of the Economy. If the economy grows at a faster rate, spending decreases as a percentage of GDP, but it does not mean that

the level of spending has fallen or has become inadequate," the Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

[India is keeping a close watch on China's focus on navy, says Indian Navy chief](#)

July 25, 2019, Hindu Business Line

A day after the Chinese Defence Ministry released a white paper on its military development, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said that a lot of resources have been shifted to the PLA Navy from other arms of the People's Liberation Army and India will have to "watch it carefully".

[Deal to buy 24 choppers from USA by 2019 end](#)

July 25, 2019, Deccan Herald

India is likely to sign a mega defence deal with the USA to buy 24 multi-role helicopters for the Navy at a cost of nearly Rs 17,000 crore (\$ 2.6 billion), Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh said on the sidelines of a FICCI seminar.

[Tri services exercise with Russia this year to learn Syria lessons: Air Chief](#)

July 19, 2019, The Economic Times

The armed forces are looking forward to learning from the experience of the Syria war with a large scale joint exercise planned with Russia later this year. Describing Ex Indra 2019 – which will involve the air force, army and navy – as an 'important experience', the Air Chief said that the exercise will be themed around joint anti-terrorism operations.

[Pradhan meets Saudi Arabia's Al-Falih, discusses India's concerns on oil prices](#)

July 25, 2019, The Mint

As part of India's effort to shield its consumers from any spike in global prices, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan met Saudi Arabia's energy minister Khalid A. Al-Falih in New Delhi. With the tensions escalating in the Persian Gulf, India, the world's third-largest oil importer, has upped its diplomatic efforts to ensure energy security and is closely monitoring the Strait of Hormuz situation.

[Make in India: Indian Navy commissions new Dornier-228 squadron INAS 313; why it's a big force multiplier](#)

July 23, 2019, Financial Express

Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313, the fifth Dornier aircraft squadron was commissioned into the Indian Navy on Monday, in an effort towards enhancing maritime security and safeguarding country's maritime interests. Since the geo-



political development needs constant monitoring, the Naval chief Admiral Karambir Singh emphasised the importance of India having an edge over its adversaries.

## **Pakistan**

### [Pak situation needs major shift in economic decision making: IMF](#)

July 20, 2019, The News

IMF's Resident Representative in Pakistan Teresa Daban Sanchez said "Pakistan will have to undertake key reforms on internal and external fronts of the economy in order to bring a paradigm shift in economic policy making".

### [Pakistan hires lobbying firm to improve ties with US](#)

July 21, 2019, The News

Pakistan hired a lobbying firm Holland & Knight to help advance the country's interests in the US. The firm is led by Tom Reynolds, a leading Republican and former Congressman from New York.

### [10 martyred in female suicide bombing, firing in DI Khan](#)

July 22, 2019, The News

Ten people, including six policemen and a minor girl, were martyred and over 30 people were injured in separate terror attacks in Dera Ismail Khan on July 21, 2019. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attacks.

### [Army focused on Balochistan, says ISPR](#)

July 22, 2019, The News

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Asif Ghafoor said positive results were coming from the Pak-Afghan border fencing and further work on the fencing will gradually decrease terror attacks in Pakistan.

### [Trump offers mediation on Kashmir](#)

July 23, 2019, The News

US President Donald Trump in a press conference with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said Pakistan never lied and that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted him to mediate on the Kashmir issue. He also said that "I don't want to kill 10 million people.... Afghanistan could be wiped off the face of the earth. I don't want to go that route. ... I have a plan that could win that war in a very short period of time."

### [Gen Bajwa, US military top brass discuss issues: COAS visits Pentagon](#)

July 24, 2019, The News

Pakistan Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Pentagon. He had a discussion session with Acting Secretary of Defence Richard V. Spencer and Gen Dunford. Regional security, including Afghan peace process, was discussed.

### [US may release CSF funding for Pakistan](#)

July 24, 2019, The News

Ruling out possibility of any rescheduling of foreign debt under Paris Club arrangement with the blessings of USA, Pakistan might see positive movement on release of pending funds of \$9 billion from USA in shape of Coalition Support Fund (CSF). But this could only happen if truce in Afghanistan struck successfully as Washington is expecting some 'positive outcome' by September 2019.

### [Russia, Pakistan military to hold joint drills](#)

July 26, 2019, Express Tribune

Representatives of the armed forces of Russia and Pakistan have agreed to hold the joint drills "Friendship-2019" in Russia in early October. The drills, to be held at the Molkino training range in the southern Russian Krasnodar region, will involve about 50 Russian servicemen from special forces units.

### [Afghan Taliban say ready to meet PM Imran](#)

July 25, 2019, Express Tribune

Taliban released statement saying they are ready to send their delegation to Pakistan for a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan if Islamabad extends formal invitation.

### [Pakistan's budget has lost credibility: World Bank](#)

July 26, 2019, Express Tribune

Pakistan's budget has further lost its credibility and the public finance management system has also deteriorated, according to a draft report of the World Bank that has downgraded the country's ranking on almost all 31 fiscal management-related indicators.

## Afghanistan

### [Taliban agree on partial presence of US forces in Afghanistan: former general](#)

July 21, 2019, The News

Afghan Taliban have agreed on partial presence of American Forces in Afghanistan however, the power sharing formula between the Afghan stakeholders is yet to be decided which is expected to be finalized by January next year, claims Pakistan's former secretary defence Lt Gen (retd) Asif Yasin Malik.

### [Eight killed in blast near Kabul University](#)

July 20, 2019, Dawn

Eight people were killed and dozens more wounded on July 19 when a bomb detonated near a major university in Kabul while students were waiting to take an examination.

### [No change in US commitment, Pompeo tells Ghani](#)

July 25, 2019, Tolo News

The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and President Ashraf Ghani on telephonic discussion insisted that it is the time to accelerate efforts for ending the Afghan war through negotiations. Pompeo assured Ghani that US President's South Asia strategy, including the US commitment for a condition-based drawdown has not changed, and that all the efforts of US officials, including the US Special Envoy for Afghan peace Zalmay Khalilzad, is going in that direction.

### [Efforts underway to form inclusive negotiating team: Khalilzad](#)

July 25, 2019, Tolo News

The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, on July 25 said he had productive discussions with government leaders on forming an inclusive as part of efforts for the next steps of the peace process.

### [Kabul seeks clarification on Trump talk of wiping out Afghanistan](#)

July 23, 2019, Reuters

Afghanistan called for an explanation of comments by U.S. President Donald Trump in which he said he could win the Afghan war in just 10 days by wiping out the country, but did not want "to kill 10 million people."

### [US envoy to return to Afghanistan, Qatar for negotiations](#)

July 23, 2019, France 24

US Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad will leave July 29 for the mission lasting through August 1 "as part of an overall effort to facilitate a peace process that ends the conflict in Afghanistan".

## **Bangladesh**

### [Bangladesh to receive five surplus UK C-130J airlifters by end of year](#)

July 24, 2019, IHS Jane

The 'short-bodied' C-130Js (designated C5 in Royal Air Force [RAF] service) were ordered in two batches of two and three aircraft in 2018 and earlier in 2019. The deals were initially revealed via maintenance contracts announced by Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group (ADG).

### [Bangladesh Home Minister to visit India on August 7](#)

July 21, 2019, The Hindu

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan will visit India on August 7 during which he will hold bilateral talks with Home Minister Amit Shah, who is expected to flag issues like illegal immigration and anti-terror cooperation, officials said.

### [New Bangladesh sub base could revive India tensions](#)

July 23, 2019, Asia Times

Bangladesh is close to signing an agreement with China aimed at building a permanent base for stationing and servicing the two Chinese submarines it bought for \$203 million nearly three years ago. The proposed base at Pekua, off the coast of Kutubdia Island in southeastern Cox's Bazaar, will be built with Chinese assistance primarily

### [PM to Bangladeshi envoys: Pursue political, economic diplomacy together](#)

July 21, 2019, The Dhaka Tribune

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked Bangladeshi envoys in Europe to pursue political and economic diplomacy together in the interest of Bangladesh's economic development. "We need to focus more on economic issues besides political diplomacy so that the ongoing development in Bangladesh continues," she said while speaking as the chief guest at the "Envoys' Conference," the first of its kind, in London.

### [Bangladesh seeks Australian gas, coal as it emerges economically](#)

July 22, 2019, The Financial Review

Bangladesh's high commissioner to Australia, Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, said within five years Bangladesh would have an appetite for as much as \$6.5 billion of fossil fuel imports on its journey to becoming a middle power.

## **Nepal**

### [Nepal Adopts Equitable Foreign Policy: Foreign Minister Gyawali](#)

July 21, 2019, Nepal24hours

Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said the government would pursue economic development by adopting a policy of striking balanced relations with all countries across the globe.

### [China Wishes Durable Partnership With Nepal: Envoy Yanqi](#)

July 25, 2019, Nepal24hours

Chinese Envoy to Nepal, Hou Yanqi has said China wants to have durable partnership with Nepal. She said this during a reception organized by Defense Attaché' of Embassy of China in Nepal, Liu Xiaoguang, on the occasion of the 92nd founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

### [Chinese Increasing Footprints In Nepal](#)

July 25, 2019, The Sentinel Assam

China has not only made deep inroads into Nepal, with major investments in the Himalayan country's infrastructure, it is also getting closely involved in Kathmandu's security and political architecture, with top officials from Beijing visiting Nepal regularly, experts said here. At a talk on 'An Assessment of Nepal China Relations', former Indian envoy to Nepal Ranjit Rae said while China was increasing its footprint in Nepal, "but it is not large enough to dent the nature of India-Nepal relations".

## **Bhutan**

### [PM to visit Bhutan, Jaishankar to China](#)

July 22, 2019, Times of India

PM Modi is scheduled to visit Bhutan in early August. The visit will reflect the importance New Delhi attaches to its ties with Bhutan and would reiterate the government's emphasis on its "Neighbourhood First" policy.

### [Foreign Ministry hails security coop with Bangladesh & Bhutan](#)

July 23, 2019, The Economic Times

Ministry of External Affairs has hailed India's excellent security partnership with two of India's closest neighbours Bangladesh and Bhutan and has informed Parliament that both these neighbours are regularly assisting India in controlling cross-border terror; fight insurgency in the region and transnational crimes including smuggling of fake Indian currency Notes and narcotics.

## **Sri Lanka**

### [Sri Lanka: Visa-on-arrival scheme approved for India](#)

July 25, 2019, India Today

Sri Lanka has granted approval to issue on-arrival visa to tourists from countries, including India and China, aiming to revive its flagging tourism sector after the deadly Easter bombings.

### [Sri Lanka assures UN on freedom of association and peaceful assembly](#)

July 25, 2019, Colombo Gazette

The assurance was given to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of freedom of association and peaceful assembly, Clément Nyaletsossi Voule who commenced an official country visit to Sri Lanka.

### [Sri Lanka extends emergency by a month](#)

July 22, 2019, Times of India

Sri Lankan President issued a special gazette notification extending the state of emergency by a month despite his statement in June that it will not be further extended.

## Maldives

### [Foreign minister extols China-Maldives partnership](#)

July 22, 2019, Maldives Independent

In an interview with Chinese state-run media Xinhua, Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid called the relationship "an example of how one of the smallest members of the international community can have a mutually productive and progressive relationship with one of its biggest and most powerful members."

### [Maldives, Japan conduct search and rescue exercise](#)

July 23, 2019, The Edition

The programme was conducted in the waters east of the airport island of Hulhule', Kaafu Atoll with Maldivian Coast Guard ship, 'Shaheed Ali' and a Japanese aircraft. MNDF media official Captain Azim stated that the programme involved practical training of methods to rescue victims of maritime accidents.

### [Indian govt grants US\\$ 1 mill. for MNDF Composite Training Center](#)

July 25, 2019, Avas

The center will become the main training center for MNDF upon completion. The construction agreement for the training center was signed between Defence Ministry and Alia Construction during August 2014. The training center along with the 10 radar systems gifted by the Indian government were inaugurated earlier in June during Indian PM Narendra Modi's official visit to the Maldives.

### [India, Maldives sign \\$400 million currency swap agreement](#)

July 22, 2019, WION

The swap will allow the countries to exchange currencies with pre-determined terms and conditions. The primary aim of currency swap is to avoid risks in foreign exchange market and exchange rate. As part of the package, India will provide the cash in the form of budgetary support, currency swap, and concessional lines of credit to fulfill the Maldives' socio-economic development programmes.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Article slams U.S. human rights hypocrisy over racial discrimination](#)

Xinhua, July 26, 2019

An article by the China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS) has exposed the hypocrisy of the United States on human rights as evidenced by its racial discrimination situation.

#### [China's commerce ministry responds to U.S. open letter on confronting China](#)

Xinhua, July 25, 2019

Provoking confrontation between China and the United States does not enjoy U.S. mainstream public support, while promoting win-win cooperation between the two countries conforms to the wishes of the people, said the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

#### [Commissioner's office of China's foreign ministry in Hong Kong condemns U.S. senator's remarks on Hong Kong](#)

Xinhua, July 25, 2019

The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has denounced remarks of U.S. senator Marco Rubio on Hong Kong as "absolute nonsense."

#### [China's sovereignty over Hong Kong sacrosanct: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, July 23, 2019

Both the United Kingdom and the United States have expressed concerns about the protests in Hong Kong. But as usual they have chosen to view them through a prism of their own motives. Hence, they talk of freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly, while keeping silent on the escalating violence accompanying them.

#### [China to host 12th round of China-U.S. high-level trade consultations](#)

Xinhua, July 25, 2019

The 12th round of China-U.S. high-level economic and trade consultations will be held on July 30-31 in Shanghai, the Ministry of Commerce said.



### [Washington's provocative moves in Taiwan Strait detrimental to ties with China](#)

Xinhua, July 25, 2019

A U.S. warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait in the name of "commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

### [China pledges to further cooperation with UK as new PM said "pro-China"](#)

Xinhua, July 25, 2019

China said it will further advance ties and cooperation with Britain. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks as Boris Johnson, who took office as the British prime minister, said his government would be very "pro-China" in an interview with the Hong Kong-based broadcaster Phoenix TV.

### [China, Indonesia hold forum on RMB internationalization](#)

Xinhua, July 25, 2019

A forum on the internationalization of the Chinese currency renminbi (RMB) kicked off in Indonesia's capital Jakarta, highlighting the opportunities and prospects of RMB internationalization under the Belt and Road Initiative.

### [China provides satellite data to assist India in flood relief](#)

Xinhua, July 24, 2019

China has provided satellite data to assist India with its recent flood relief efforts, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said.

### [Largest transportation infrastructure under CPEC completed](#)

Xinhua, July 24, 2019

The construction of the 392-km Sukkur-Multan Motorway under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been completed after the National Highway Authority (NHA) presented a substantial completion certification to the constructor China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC).

### [Though Iran and US don't want war, battle lines remain](#)

Global Times, July 25, 2019

Noticeably, although neither side wants war while both are trying to strike a balance to maintain a status quo in the region, with escalating tensions, the Persian Gulf has been on the brink of danger.

### [Should Beijing intervene forcefully in Hong Kong?](#)

Global Times, July 25, 2019

Would you like Beijing to be forceful, such as ordering the Hong Kong Garrison of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) to take to the streets to maintain order? Personally, I am against this idea.

### [Peace paramount in defense white paper](#)

Global Times, July 25, 2019

We need to be wary of attempts of certain Western forces to split China by utilizing the secessionists. We should be fully prepared. If needed, we would resort to force to address the Taiwan question, though we hope to realize peaceful reunification.

### [How far can US-Pakistan relations go?](#)

Global Times, July 25, 2019

Khan's trip to Washington will take ties forward, but it remains to be seen how far relations can advance.

### [China's military strong but defensive](#)

Global Times, July 24, 2019

The West led by the US should understand that China can't be intimidated. Past clashes between imperialist powers were often triggered by competing for colonies and overseas spheres of influence. But China has no colony and is not interested in seeking spheres of influence. All the challenges it faces happen in China's doorway. But it is wise to avoid squeezing a military power.

### [The US cannot strong-arm a determined China](#)

Global Times, July 24, 2019

The US is no longer the superpower it used to be, that it can freely manipulate China. Regardless of who is elected US president in 2020, as long as we hold our ground and do what we should, the US won't be able to strong-arm us anymore.

### [Defense white paper stresses China's peaceful intentions](#)

Global Times, July 24, 2019

China issued a white paper on national defense titled "China's National Defense in the New Era," the 10th white paper on national defense which the Chinese government has issued since 1998. What messages does the white paper convey? What is its significance in the context of tensions between China and the US? The Global Times talked to two Chinese experts on these issues.

### [Hong Kong opposition's pipe dream of amnesty to the mob](#)

Global Times, July 24, 2019

Hong Kong's opposition and radical protesters have ridiculed themselves by demanding that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government not prosecute lawbreaking demonstrators. We believe that the SAR government will never make concessions to them on the issue.

### [US aggression will not only hit bilateral ties, but damage global stability](#)

Global Times, July 24, 2019

If the US policy on China heads back to the old anti-Communist rhetoric, it will not only be a great retreat of the times, but also a relapse of the nightmare that Washington's hegemonic interests re-dominate China-US ties and global politics.

### [Indonesia on track with China's standards](#)

Global Times, July 24, 2019

It is inevitable that Chinese technologies and standards will rise to promote the development of the West. If Western countries shut the door on Chinese technologies and standards just because of difference in ideologies, they are staring at isolation and backwardness.

### [Can UK's choice of PM surprise China?](#)

Global Times, July 24, 2019

The term China-UK golden era 2.0 has been used lately. It is believed that further strengthening of the golden era relationship is desired by both sides and Johnson will adopt a pragmatic attitude toward China. Compared with his predecessors, he is a tough diplomat, but he has never done anything to hurt relations with Beijing. In addition, as a realistic politician, any policy adjustment is possible on his watch.

### [Washington a frog in the well: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, July 23, 2019

Antithetical to a letter published by The Washington Post on July 3 titled "China is not an enemy", an open letter released last week urged the president of the United States to stay the course on countering China.

### [US geopolitical zealots lack wisdom on China](#)

Global Times, July 23, 2019

The letter makes us realize that there are supporters of extreme stances toward China in the US. China must accelerate strengthening itself with rational foreign policies and increasing capabilities to deal with false accusations. This is the best counterattack to the letter and other similar challenges.

### [US interference in HK, Taiwan will not pay off: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, July 25, 2019

The United States again sent a warship through the Taiwan Straits. The motivation and implication seemingly explicit, since the move coincided with the release of China's white paper on its national defense policy.

### [More sober approach would benefit trade talks: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, July 25, 2019

Chinese and US trade negotiators are scheduled to resume talks in Shanghai, birthplace of the first joint communiqué between the two countries, next week, the first time they will meet since the top leaders of the two countries agreed to a temporary truce during the G20 Summit in Japan in late June.

### [White paper debunks 'China threat' theory: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, July 24, 2019

The white paper titled "China's National Defense in the New Era" released expounds on the country's national defense policy and, by explaining the practice, purposes and significance of its efforts to build a strong military, makes clear to the world that the People's Liberation Army is a staunch safeguard for national sovereignty but also world peace and development.

### [Fortune 500 shows more than numbers: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, July 23, 2019

For the first time since the debut of the Fortune Global 500 list in 1990, and arguably for the first time since World War II, a country other than the United States has the most companies on the list.

### [Abe still trying to flog a dead horse: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, July 22, 2019

It must have been a heavy blow for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when he fell short of securing a two-thirds majority in Japan's upper house election, which he needed to be able to revise the country's pacifist Constitution.

## Japan

### [Pompeo: US wants Japan to join maritime coalition](#)

July 26, 2019, NHK World

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says Japan is one of the countries that have been asked to join a US-proposed coalition to secure free navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

### [Japan moves to step up S.Korea export controls](#)

July 24, 2019, NHK World

The Japanese government says it may step up export controls on South Korea by removing the country from a list of nations entitled to simplified export procedures. The move would require exporters to obtain the Ministry's permission on individual shipments for many products. That's if they are deemed likely to be used for military purposes. Exports to countries like China and India already go through this screening.

### [South Korea to report Japan's tightening of export controls to WTO](#)

July 23, 2019, Japan Times

Seoul plans to report Tokyo over export controls at a World Trade Organization meeting. The escalation comes almost three weeks after Japan slapped export controls on three chemical ingredients used by South Korea's globally dominant chip and screen industries.

### [Abe vows to push forward constitutional change despite failure of pro-revision forces to win Upper House supermajority](#)

July 22, 2019, Japan Times

Despite a failure by his ruling coalition and its allies to maintain a critical two-thirds majority in the Upper House, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he remains eager to revise the nation's postwar Constitution, pinning his hopes on the possibility of being able to form a broad consensus with opposition parties.

### [Japan asks Russia to halt Dmitry Medvedev's planned visit to disputed island](#)

July 25, 2019, Japan Times

Japan has asked Russia to halt Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's planned visit to a disputed island off Hokkaido. The government made the request in response to a Russian media report that Medvedev is planning in August to visit Etorofu. Etorofu is one of the four Russian-held islands at the center of the two countries' territorial dispute.

### [Nissan to slash 10% of global workforce after worse-than-expected 99% profit plunge](#)

July 25, 2019, Japan Times

Nissan Motor Co. doubled its planned job losses and unveiled new production cuts after reporting a 99 percent plunge in first-fiscal quarter operating profit, hurt by an aging product lineup and a slide in vehicle sales in the U.S. and Europe. About 12,500 jobs will be eliminated at 14 loss-making factories overseas, including in Indonesia and Spain, by the end of March 2023.

## **Korea**

### [First Russian-Chinese air patrol in Asia-Pacific draws shots from South Korea](#)

July 24, 2019, The Times of India

Russia carried out what it said was its first long-range joint air patrol in the Asia-Pacific region with China on Tuesday, a mission that triggered hundreds of warning shots, according to South Korean officials, and a strong protest from Japan.

### [Seoul considers back US efforts in Hormuz](#)

July 22, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea is considering supporting Washington's initiative to form a multinational coalition to safeguard commercial shipping in the Middle East, near the Strait of Hormuz. U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton plans to visit the ministry in Yongsan, Seoul, July 24 for a meeting with Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo. "The main issues to be discussed include how to strengthen our military alliance and the joint roles in achieving complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula".

### [Huawei helped build NK's wireless network: report](#)

July 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

As the report suggests the Chinese tech giant, which uses American technology in its components, may have violated US sanctions by providing equipment to North Korea, it could lead to Washington increasing pressure on Huawei and possibly affect US-China trade negotiations as well as US-North Korea denuclearization talks.

### [S. Korea fires warning shots at intruding Russian warplane](#)

July 24, 2019, The Korea Herald

A Russian military aircraft intruded into South Korea's airspace above the East Sea twice on July 23, prompting Air Force fighter jets to fire warning shots in response. Two other Russian warplanes and two Chinese bombers also entered South Korea's air defense identification zone without prior notice. Later South Korea and Russia held a working-level meeting in Seoul to solve the matter.

### [Defense ministry dismisses Japan's claim over Dokdo, vows stern response](#)

July 24, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's defense ministry dismissed Japan's renewed territorial claim to Dokdo amid military tensions over a Russian warplane's violation of its airspace near the easternmost islets in the East Sea.

### [North Korea fires 2 short-range missiles into East Sea](#)

July 25, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea launched two short-range missiles on July 25 while North Korean military was conducting summer training.

### [Kim warns S. Korea: 'No more weapons development, military drills'](#)

July 26, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea announced On July 26 that it had tested a "new-type tactical guided weapon" that was meant to be a "solemn warning" about South Korean weapons development and its rival's plans to hold military exercises.

## Southeast Asia

### [Work resumes on Malaysia's East Coast Rail Link](#)

July 26, 2019, The Straits Times

Malaysia relaunched its East Coast Rail Link (ECRL), after a year-long suspension and following a deal to slash costs. A supplementary agreement on the financing for the ECRL will be signed (with China's Exim Bank) soon to finance 85 per cent of the project. As the cost of the project has been trimmed to RM44 billion (S\$14.6 billion), the government will pay less on interest.

### [Vietnam demands 'immediate withdrawal' of China ship in disputed sea](#)

July 25, 2019, The Straits Times

Vietnam on July 25 called for the "immediate withdrawal" of a Chinese ship in the South China Sea, as the stand-off over the disputed waters intensified. Beijing last week issued a new call for Hanoi to respect its claims to the resource-rich region - which have historically been contested by Vietnam as well as Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

### [Cambodia denies 'secret deal' allowing Chinese forces to be stationed at naval base on Gulf of Thailand](#)

July 22, 2019, SCMP

China will be able to place armed forces at a Cambodian naval base under a secret agreement the two nations have reached, The Wall Street Journal reported on July 21, although Cambodian officials denied such a deal had been struck. The agreement which gives China exclusive access to part of Cambodia's Ream Naval Base on the Gulf of Thailand is not made public yet.

### [Duterte says he allows Chinese vessels to fish in Philippine waters to prevent war](#)

July 22, 2019, SCMP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on July 22 insisted the West Philippine Sea belonged to his country, but defended his agreement with Chinese President Xi Jinping to allow Chinese fishermen to operate in the area, saying it was not a constitutional violation. Further he said this agreement would ensure there would be no war in the disputed South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing have overlapping claims.



### [Four dead in rebel attack on Thai army base](#)

July 24, 2019, The Straits Times

Four people were killed in attack by Muslim insurgents on a military outpost in Thailand on July 24. The attack comes as anger snowballs over the case of a Muslim rebel suspect who was left in a critical condition after spending several hours in army interrogation unit.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Uzbekistan begins negotiation process for accession to WTO](#)

July 25, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo was handed over the updated Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime of the Republic of Uzbekistan on July 23, which, according to the head of the organisation, marks the beginning of the official negotiation process of the country's accession to the WTO.

#### [Kyrgyzstan: Embattled ex-president flies to Russia](#)

July 24, 2019, Eurasianet

Kyrgyzstan's former president Almazbek Atambayev left the country for Russia, and has, by doing so, put a mounting political crisis on hold for now. Police had summoned Atambayev for questioning in connection with the case of a crime boss who was released from prison in 2013 before serving his full sentence. Lawmakers contended that the release was effected at his request.

#### [Heads of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan mull topical political issues](#)

July 24, 2019, Trend News Agency

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov exchanged views on issues of the bilateral agenda, international and regional policy, with reference to the press service of the president of Uzbekistan. They noted the consistent strengthening of strategic partnership and multi-faceted cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

#### [Police, Residents Clash In Kyrgyzstan Following Deadly Incident On Tajik Border](#)

July 24, 2019, RFE/RL

Police in Kyrgyzstan's southern Batken region on the border with Tajikistan say three officers have been injured in clashes with local residents as officials meet to ease tensions after a deadly incident in the area between Kyrgyz and Tajik nationals. The clashes erupted after police tried to stop local efforts to block a road connecting the Kyrgyz village of Ak-Sai with the Tajik exclave of Vorukh.

## West Asia

### [Iraq seeks Iranian assistance to curb militias' reign](#)

July 24, 2019, Al Monitor

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi visited Tehran with a high-ranking delegation including the head of the Popular Mobilization Units. He met with President Hassan Rouhani and discussed the PMU dossier and the impact of Iran-US tensions on Iraq. Rouhani reassured Abdul Mahdi that Iraq would be kept at a distance from the current tension, and that Iran would assist Iraq in bringing all PMU factions under state control.

### [Iran warns against international naval coalition in the Gulf](#)

July 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Senior Iranian officials have warned against any attempt to form an international coalition to protect Gulf shipping, with Iran's first vice president saying the move will only bring insecurity to the region. This comes after Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands and France backed the UK's proposal for a European naval force after Iran seized a British-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

### [Syria state media says possible Israeli attack in country's south](#)

July 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Syria's state media said an Israeli missile attack had targeted the country's southern province of Daraa, but reported no casualties. State news agency SANA said that the "Israeli aggression" struck Tal al-Hara hill, home to Syrian army posts, adding that it only caused material damage. No details were shared about the attack which occurred a month after Israel had targeted the same area.

### [Iran Offers to Return to Nuclear Deal Even if U.S. Doesn't](#)

July 25, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Hassan Rouhani told Emmanuel Macron that Iran is ready to return to its commitments of the 2015 nuclear deal if the US dials back sanctions, even without returning to the JCPOA. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister conveyed the offer to Macron as an alternative to the "freeze-for-freeze" plan proposed by him. In Macron's plan, Iran would stop increasing its nuclear activities and the US would hold sanctions at the current level to allow for dialogue to resume.

### [Kuwaiti, Saudi officials discuss resuming Neutral Zone oil production - KUNA](#)

July 24, 2019, Reuters

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have discussed resuming oil production in jointly operated fields in the Saudi–Kuwaiti Neutral Zone. Saudi minister of state for energy affairs visited Kuwait to continue to discuss and cooperate on the resumption of oil production in the southern [Neutral Zone] after settling required technical issues from both sides. The Neutral Zone is an area of 5770km<sup>2</sup> between the two countries' borders that was left undefined when the border was established in 1922.

### [Istanbul gives Syrians one month to return to provinces in which they are registered](#)

July 22, 2019, Reuters

Authorities in Istanbul set a four-week deadline on Monday for Syrians living without approval in Turkey's largest city to return to provinces where they are registered or face forced removal to those regions. Istanbul's new mayor has said that a total of 1 million Syrians live in the city compared with Interior Ministry figures showing 500,000 are registered.

### [UAE: Arab coalition is preparing for 'next phase in Yemen'](#)

July 22, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthi group is preparing for the next phase in the war in Yemen, the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs announced. He said that the Arab coalition is preparing for the next phase with its political and military tools and is determined to achieve its strategic objectives, adding that the coalition was "repelling attempts to change the balance of power in the region."

### [Israel: Netanyahu ally accused of filling justice ministry with loyalists](#)

July 24, Middle East Monitor

Israel's Justice Minister has been accused of attempting to stack the country's Justice Ministry in favour of Prime Minister Netanyahu, after he fired the ministry's long-time director general in order to install a Netanyahu loyalist. His appointment was seen as politically motivated, given his long-time support of Netanyahu and the fact that, unlike many others, he supports legal changes that would grant acting prime ministers immunity from indictment.

### [UAE calls on global community to end suffering of Palestinian people](#)

July 24, 2019, Khaleej Times

The UAE has called on the international community at the UN Security Council quarterly Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, to uphold its responsibilities to ending the suffering of the Palestinian people and establishing an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital - in accordance with relevant international parameters and the Arab Peace Initiative.

### [On hard road to reform, Lebanon may need old friends](#)

July 23, 2019, Reuters

Heavily indebted Lebanon has passed a budget seen as a "first step" towards fixing its public finances, but still has much to do to steer the country away from crisis. Investors are waiting to see if Gulf Arabs will offer a lifeline and provide some breathing space. Lebanon has one of the world's heaviest public debt burdens, after years of big budget deficits rooted in waste, corruption, and sectarian politics.

### [Saudi Arabia urges UN to halt 'flagrant Israeli violations'](#)

July 25, 2019, Arab News

Saudi Arabia has called on the UN and the global community to halt what it described as continuing flagrant Israeli violations against the Palestinian people. The Kingdom's permanent representative to the UN, told a UN administrative meeting that there could be no justification for continued conflict in light of the willingness of Arab countries to achieve a comprehensive peace with Israel based on the Arab peace initiative and international legitimacy resolutions.

### ['Rogue state': Bahrain dissidents seek action against government](#)

July 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Leaders of Bahrain's opposition in exile have branded the nation a "rogue state" following revelations that the government may have hired al-Qaeda operatives to murder dissidents. Several opposition figures gathered outside Bahrain's embassy in London following a documentary broadcast on the country's attempts to stifle anti-government organising among its Shia majority.

### [Turkey's removal from F-35 program not finalised; refund unclear: officials](#)

July 25, 2019, Reuters

Turkey's removal from the F-35 jet program is not finalised and Ankara only remains suspended for now, Turkish military officials said, adding that it was

unclear whether Turkey would be refunded for its investments in the project. The U.S. said that it was removing Turkey from the F-35 program, a move long threatened and expected after Ankara began accepting delivery of the advanced Russian S-400 missile defense system.

[Yemen accuses UNICEF of funding Houthi summer camps](#)

July 24, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Yemeni government sources have accused the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) of funding summer sectarian camps for the Houthi movement. The Yemeni National Army's website quoted private sources saying that the UN organisation is behind the funding of summer camps held by the Houthi militias in Sanaa, and the rest of the areas under the movement's control.

## United States

### [President Trump vetoes bills that would have blocked Saudi weapons deal](#)

July 24, 2019, USA Today

President Donald Trump vetoed three bills aimed at blocking his administration from selling American-made weapons to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The measures, if undertaken, would have stopped an imminent shipment of 124,000 precision-guided missiles and the fuses to detonate them, among other items.

### [Sixteen U.S. Marines arrested on suspicion of human trafficking](#)

July 25, 2019, Reuters

Sixteen U.S. Marines from the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the United States, were arrested at their base in Southern California on suspicion of drug-related offenses and the smuggling of undocumented migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border.

### [US government death penalty move draws sharp criticism](#)

July 26, 2019, BBC

The US federal government's move to resume executions after a 16-year hiatus has drawn sharp criticism from rights groups and leading Democrats. Attorney General William Barr directed the Bureau of Prisons to schedule the execution of five inmates after adopting an updated execution protocol.

### [Pompeo: Turkey should not make Russian missile defense system 'operational'](#)

July 25, 2019, CNN

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo indicated a softening in US' position on its sanctions for Turkey over its purchase of the S-400 Russian missile defense system, stressing that the country should not make the missile defense system "operational."

### [FBI Chief Says China Is Trying to 'Steal Their Way' to Dominance](#)

July 23, 2019, Bloomberg

FBI Director Christopher Wray told senators that China is engaging in a sweeping effort to steal its way to economic dominance, with more than 1,000 investigations underway on intellectual property theft "almost all leading back to China." China poses a severe counterintelligence threat to the US by stealing their way up the economic ladder.

### [Trump Says He Could Win Afghanistan 'In a Week' But For Deaths](#)

July 22, 2019, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump said he could end America's longest-running war "in a week," except that it would cost too many lives. The U.S. opened a new round of talks with the Taliban last month aimed at ending the war in Afghanistan, which began after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He claimed that U.S.' could win the 'war' in which it is trying to help Afghanistan's government reclaim control of the country from the Taliban and Islamic State, "in a week," but that 10 million people would die.

### [Trump Enlists Pentagon on Rare-Earth Magnets Amid Chinese Threat](#)

July 23, 2019, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump invoked the 69-year-old Defense Production Act and ordered the U.S. Defense Department to spur the production of super-strong magnets made with rare-earth minerals neodymium and samarium used in consumer electronics, military hardware and medical research, amid concerns China will restrict exports of the products.

### [Trump administration starts paying \\$14.5 billion to farmers hurt by the trade war](#)

July 25, 2019, CNN

The Trump administration will begin paying \$14.5 billion to farmers hurt by the US-China trade war by the end of August. It's the second round of aid the administration will pay out as negotiations with Beijing continue past the one-year mark. Farmers received about \$10 billion in aid last year.

### [Julián Castro Introduces Major Platform For Indigenous Peoples](#)

July 26, 2019, Huffpost

Democratic presidential candidate Julián Castro introduced a policy proposal aimed at boosting the strength and sovereignty of Native American communities. His People First Indigenous Communities platform seeks to address some of the major disparities that indigenous communities face in health care, education and economic opportunity compared to the total U.S. population.



## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Boris Johnson will be UK's new Prime Minister](#)

July 23, 2019, CNN

Hardline Brexiteer Boris Johnson has won the UK's Conservative Party leadership contest and will take over from outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May. Johnson, a former mayor of London and British foreign secretary won 66% of votes with the total turnout of 87.4%.

#### [TV interview sheds light on UK's China relations under Boris Johnson](#)

July 26, 2019, CNN

In an interview with Hong Kong Chinese television network Phoenix Television, the newly elected UK leader hints that he might be more amicable to China. Under pressure to deliver Brexit and an economic revival, the Chinese President Xi Jinping, as against the President Trump, might see a warmer welcome in London.

#### [U.K. Oil Tankers Flee Persian Gulf as Tensions Rise Over Hormuz](#)

July 23, 2019, Bloomberg

Iran's threat to seize a British ship in retaliation for the arrest of the Grace 1 off Gibraltar has effectively closed the world's most prolific oil region to U.K. carriers. The tankers in the Persian Gulf, all registered in the Isle of Man, a self-governing British crown dependency, fled from the Persian Gulf due to Iranian harassment.

#### [Spanish MPs fail to back Sanchez as prime minister in second vote, raises prospect of new elections](#)

July 25, 2019, Euro News

Acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez lost a second parliamentary vote to be confirmed on the job after his party failed to secure a deal with the left-wing Podemos. Spanish MPs rejected appointing Sanchez as prime minister in the first and the second poll raising the possibility of fresh elections. The Podemos leader, however, would still like to be part of the government and would like to negotiate further.

### [Italian PM stands by League over Russia funding scandal amid protest by coalition partners](#)

July 24, 2019, Euro News

Italy's prime minister Giuseppe Conte has stood by Matteo Salvini's League party amid accusations it sought illicit funds from Russia. Italian magistrates said that they had opened an investigation into possible international corruption following media reports the League had sought millions of euros via a secret Russian oil deal.

### ['Essential for survival of free press': France becomes first country to adopt EU copyright reform](#)

July 24, 2019, Euro News

France became the first country to adopt the copyright reform passed by the European Parliament in March that ensures media get paid for their original content by tech giants such as Facebook and Google. The European Commission said the aim of the reform is to protect the bloc's cultural heritage and ensure publishers and artists get fair compensation from web giants.

### [Ilze Juhansone to serve as interim EU Secretary General](#)

July 25, 2019, New Europe

Latvia's former permanent representative to the European Union, Ilze Juhansone, has been named interim Secretary-General of the European Commission, following the departure of Martin Selmayr.

### [Macron says some EU countries have agreed to a new migrant mechanism](#)

July 23, 2019, New Europe

French President Emmanuel Macron announced late on Monday that 14 of the 28 members of the European Union have agreed to a new "solidarity mechanism" proposed by Germany and France to allocate migrants and refugees across the bloc.

### [Spain bolsters bilateral support to Morocco to stem migration](#)

July 22, 2019, New Europe

In a bilateral policy initiative, the Spanish government will add €30 million to the EU's €140 million in funds dispersed to Morocco to curb irregular migration. According to figures released by the Spanish Interior Minister, irregular migration from Morocco to Spain fell by 27% in 2018. Spain will also procure equipment worth €26 million that will be donated to Morocco.

## Russia

### [Russian diplomats to hold another meeting with crew of detained vessel in North Korea](#)

July 26, 2019, TASS

Diplomats from the Russian Embassy in North Korea will hold another meeting with the crew of the Russian Xiang Hai Lin 8 fishing vessel, which was detained by North Korea last week. The Russian vessel flying the flag of South Korea was detained on July 17 when it was on its way from the South Korean port of Sokcho to the Sea of Japan for crab fishing. According to North Korean authorities, the Russian ship had been detained for the violation of a "50-mile zone."

### [Russia files note of protest with US Department of State over Kuznetsova's visa issue](#)

July 26, 2019, TASS

The Russian Embassy in the United States has filed a note of protest with the US Department of State demanding to stop a discriminatory policy regarding an issuance of visas for Russian participants of international sports tournaments. It is seen by the Russians as an instrument to obstruct the participation of Russian athletes in major sports tournaments.

### [Austria's Interior Ministry puts Russian national on wanted list on suspicion of espionage](#)

July 25, 2019, TASS

Austria's Interior Ministry has put Russian national Igor Zaitsev on the international wanted list on the suspicion of spying for Russia. Zaitsev, 65, is suspected of disclosing state secrets, secret espionage activities against Austria, and intentional divulgence of military secrets.

### [Trans Arctic expedition's final stage starts from Vladivostok](#)

July 25, 2019, TASS

The Trans Arctic 2019 expedition's fourth and final stage began as the Professor Multanovsky left the port of Vladivostok. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered to allocate almost 870 million rubles (\$13 million) in 2019 for scientific studies and monitoring of the Arctic environment during the Trans Arctic 2019 expedition.

### [Crew of detained tanker are returning home from Ukraine – Russian embassy](#)

July 25, 2019, TASS

On July 25, the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) stated that it had detained Russia's Nika Spirit tanker at the port of Izmail. According to Ukrainian border guards, the Nika Spirit flying the Russian flag was identified through its IMO number as the Neyma tanker that had been used to shut the Kerch Strait. Ten sailors from the Russian tanker detained in Izmail port will be taken to Moscow but the vessel will remain in Ukraine.

### [Turkey's First S-400 Shipment Arrives as a Second Is Planned for Ankara](#)

July 25, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia has completed delivery of the first shipment of its S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems to Turkey and a second shipment is now being planned. Turkey began taking delivery of the advanced Russian air defence system earlier this month, prompting the United States to remove Turkey from the F-35 jet programme over security concerns. Washington has offered to sell Ankara its Patriot defense systems, but Turkey has said that the U.S. offer was not as viable as the Russian

### [German Investment in Russia Reaches Its Highest Level in a Decade](#)

July 25, 2019, The Moscow Times

German corporates invested more than €3.3 billion (\$3.7 billion) in Russia last year, reaching the highest levels in a decade. Bilateral trade between France and Russia also grew by 11% to \$17 billion last year and French firms currently have \$20 billion invested in Russia. While France and Germany remain committed to keeping Russia in check politically, friendly corporate relations between the countries are also being encouraged.

### [ISS mission blasts off into space from Baikonur Cosmodrome](#)

July 20, 2019, RT

Russia's Soyuz MS-13 rocket took off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, carrying the three crew members of the Expedition 60-61 to the International Space Station (ISS). The crew will spend 201 day in orbit and return to Earth in February 2020. During that time, they are expected to conduct experiments ranging from testing a natural disaster forecast and relief system, to studying the cosmic radiation levels on board the space station. They will also welcome the first astronaut from the United Arab Emirates in early September.

## Africa & Latin America

### Africa

#### [Global response to Ebola underfunded: UN](#)

July 20, 2019, Al Jazeera

Health officials are struggling to contain an Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak an international public health emergency. However, no measures have been undertaken by the UN Security Council to address the issue.

#### [Ethiopia's water problem: Excessive fluoride treated with bones](#)

July 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

In Ethiopia, 16 million people are being affected by the excessive addition of fluoride to water and toothpaste making it toxic in nature. High fluoride levels in water cause teeth discolouration and in extreme cases, bone decay.

#### [The puzzling 'mass migration' of Ugandans to India](#)

July 25, 2019, BBC

The latest census data of 2011 on migration to India says the number of people from Uganda living in India has risen rapidly, from 694 in 2001 to 151,363 in 2011. The sudden rise in the number of Ugandans in India can be attributed to either a major mistake in the census data or one of the most remarkable unreported sociological phenomenon of the time.

#### [Ecowas countries agree to fight pirates together](#)

July 25, 2019, BBC

West African regional group Ecowas's member states have agreed to join forces to fight against pirates in the Gulf of Guinea after 10 Turkish sailors were kidnapped off the coast of Nigeria earlier this month. The Gulf of Guinea is the most dangerous sea in the world for piracy with a total of 73% of all sea kidnappings and 92% of hostage-takings occur in the Gulf of Guinea off Nigeria, Guinea, Togo, Benin and Cameroon, according to the IMB.

#### [Libya boat mishap 'worst Mediterranean tragedy' of 2019 - UNHCR chief](#)

July 25, 2019, Africa News

At least 116 migrants are missing and another 132 were rescued by Libyan coast guards and local fishermen after a wooden boat capsized off the coast of Komos,

a town east of the capital Tripoli. Deaths in the Mediterranean have been a major result of attempts by migrants to cross into Europe usually aboard unfit and overcrowded boats and other means. Libya has been a main transit point for migrants predominantly from sub-Saharan Africa seeking entry into Europe. About 164 people died on the route between Libya and Europe in the first four months of 2019.

#### [Ethiopia-Eritrea peace: Two gold medals, twin pacts and two regions](#)

July 25, 2019, Africa News

Two decades of hostilities ended in July 2018 when Ethiopia and Eritrea agreed to end a military and diplomatic standoff sparked by a border war. Two deals have been signed in 2019 between the countries to put an end to the conflict. Both countries have been honoured by major players in the Gulf Region who continue to exert diplomatic, economic and security influence on countries in the Horn of Africa region.

#### [DR Congo ethnic violence stopping refugee returns: UN](#)

July 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Deteriorating security conditions in Congo are interrupting the return process and causing new displacements. Violence and disease have displaced hundreds of thousands of people in the northeast Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the threat of new clashes is stopping civilians from going back to their homes.

#### [Tanzania grants Chinese firms licences to build gold refineries](#)

July 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Tanzania awarded licences for the construction of a mineral smeltery and two gold refineries to Chinese firms, as part of government efforts to generate more revenues from the nation's mining industry.

#### [Mogadishu mayor wounded, officials killed in suicide attack](#)

July 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

At least six people have been killed and the mayor of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, wounded in a suicide attack inside his office, officials said, only hours after a visit by the newly appointed United Nations envoy to the premises. Al-Shabab, the al-Qaeda-linked armed group fighting to overthrow Somalia's UN-backed government, claimed responsibility for the attack.

### [Tanzanian maize and flour to help Kenya combat shortages](#)

July 26, 2019, Africa News

Tanzania will sell neighbouring Kenya one million tons of maize and flour within a year to help curb a food shortage. A meeting between Tanzanian President John Magufuli and his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta in Dar es Salaam will take place this month to fight the drought in parts of Kenya which has hit the production of its staple crop, maize.

### Latin America

#### [Venezuelan jet 'aggressively shadowed' US military plane: US](#)

July 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

The US military accused a Venezuelan fighter aircraft of "aggressively" shadowing a US Navy EP-3 Aries II plane over international airspace, in yet another sign of the increasing hostility between the two nations. US President Donald Trump's administration has repeatedly used sanctions in an effort to oust Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whose 2018 re-election has been deemed illegitimate by the United States and most Western nations.

#### [US immigration: Mexico steps up migrant crackdown](#)

July 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Trump administration has been leaning hard on Mexico to stop Central American migrants from making their way to the United States. Mexico hopes it has met conditions of a July 22 deadline on a deal that will remove the threat of tariffs on Mexican exports to the US.

#### [Lima Group seeks global pressure on Venezuela's Maduro](#)

July 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Lima Group on July 23 began its 15th meeting in Argentina's capital with a message of support for opposition leader in Venezuela Juan Guaido and a request for democratic elections in the country. Venezuela's political turmoil is threatening regional peace and global security, and thus the international community urged to make a "huge effort to re-establish" democracy in the South American country.

### [Guatemala president seeks to unblock US migration deal](#)

July 24, 2019, BBC

Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales has filed an appeal against a court ruling blocking a deal to reduce the number of asylum seekers reaching the US border. This comes after US President Donald Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Guatemalan goods. The deal with the US would define Guatemala as a "safe third country", and migrants en route to the US would have to apply for asylum in Guatemala

### [Japanese Ambassador receives Order of the Liberator General San Martín](#)

July 24, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

Japan's Ambassador to Argentina, Noriteru Fukushima received the Order of the Liberator General San Martín, the nation's highest decoration with the grade of Grand Cross for his work to strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations.

### [New US sanctions target Venezuelan food subsidy scam](#)

July 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United States Treasury Department has imposed sanctions on a vast corruption network for importing and distributing food in Venezuela used to fill the pockets of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro with overvalued contracts, including the government's food subsidy programme.

### [Firearms from US used in 7 out of 10 high-impact crimes and rising](#)

July 25, 2019, Mexico News Daily

Firearms from the United States are used in seven out of every 10 high-impact crimes committed in Mexico. Between fiscal years 2012 and 2017, Mexican authorities seized and sent to the ATF for verification a total of 98,654 weapons, of which 69,140 or 70% – were traced to an origin (manufacture or legal importation) in the United States.

### [Islamic State claims aid workers' kidnap in northeast Nigeria](#)

July 25, 2019, Reuters

Islamic State's West Africa branch claimed responsibility for kidnapping six aid workers in northeast Nigeria. The group has carried out a number of attacks in the northeast over the last few months, including on military bases.



[Yemen's Houthis attack Saudi Abha airport with drones, Houthi TV says](#)

July 26, 2019, Reuters

Yemen's Iranian-aligned Houthi militia attacked Abha airport in Saudi Arabia on July 25 with drones, the Houthis' Al Masirah TV said.



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