



Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 31 | August 2, 2019



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## Volume 3, Issue 31

### 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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## South Asia

### India

[Any discussion on Kashmir will only be with Pakistan, bilaterally: Jaishankar](#)

August 2, 2019, The Times of India

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar made it clear to his American counterpart Mike Pompeo that any discussion on Kashmir, if at all warranted, will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally, days after US President Donald Trump offered to mediate on the Kashmir issue.

[Jaishankar Holds Bilateral Meetings with Counterparts from China, Japan; Focusses on Furthering Partnership with ASEAN Nations](#)

August 1, 2019, News 18

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military maneuvering in the region.

[Jaishankar in Thailand: Focus on 'Act East', Indo-Pacific as EAM meets 10 foreign ministers on day 1](#)

August 1, 2019, DNA India

Jaishankar, who is on a 2-day visit to Bangkok, spoke at the ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting and called the grouping a "critical element of India's Act East policy and strategy". "Acting east is also implementing our Indo-Pacific outlook and its the logical extrapolation," he said. On day 2 of his visit, Jaishankar will be participating at the 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EAS FMM) and 26th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

[India hosts Myanmar Gen US barred over Rohingya abuses](#)

July 30, 2019, Deccan Herald

India is hosting Myanmar Army's Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing for a nine-day-tour – just days after President Donald Trump's administration in Washington D.C. barred his entry to the United States for his role during the 2017 "ethnic cleansing" against the Rohingyas in Rakhine State of his country.

### [Pakistan offers consular access to KulbhushanJadhav with conditions](#)

August 2, 2019, India Today

The proposal from Pakistan comes with conditions. Pakistan wants one of their officers present in the meeting and also wants CCTV cameras installed as was the case when Jadhav's family had met him.

### [Top US official to visit India amid 'grave concerns' over aid to Pakistan'](#)

August 2, 2019, Times of India

India will host US deputy secretary of state John Sullivan this month. This will be the first high-level bilateral visit from either side since American President Trump's controversial comments on the Kashmir issue and the reported aid to Pakistan. The visit will begin on August 17. While his visit is for a forum which seeks to promote US-India strategic partnership, Sullivan is scheduled to meet with the foreign minister S. Jaishankar and NSA AjitDoyal too.

### [US working hard to help Indian economy grow under Indo-Pacific plan: Pompeo](#)

July 31, 2019, Business Standard

"Our Indo-Pacific strategy is well on its way to bearing fruit for not only them but for the United States, and we have watched these coalitions build out. We're working hard with the Indian government to provide them with opportunities to grow their economy as well," Pompeo told reporters accompanying him on a tour to the Indo-pacific region, in response to a question.

### [US approves foreign military sales to support India's C-17 transport planes](#)

July 28, 2019, Daily Excelsior

As part of its efforts to enhance India's defence capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region, the Trump Administration notified the Congress on Friday of its decision to approve foreign military sales worth USD 670 million to support India's C-17 military transport aircraft.

### [In trade war India only Asian nation growing export share](#)

August 1, 2019, The Times of India

The only major Asian economy that's grown its export share since the start of the tariff wars in 2018 is the one with the fewest trade links to China.

### [India's Africa Focus: President in Benin, Defence Minister in Mozambique](#)

July 28, 2019, DNA India

President is currently on a 3-nation tour of West African countries -- Benin, Gambia and Guinea - from July 28 to August 3. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is on a 3-day visit to Mozambique. This is the first bilateral visit by any Indian Defence Minister to the East African country. "Engagement with Africa is one of the priorities of foreign policy and we are looking at countries where high-level visits have not taken place," Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs said.

### [India urges Iran to free all its crew after nine released](#)

July 27, 2019, Money Control

Dozens of Indian crew members on ships in the Gulf have been caught up in rising tensions between Iran and the West. Iran has freed nine Indian crew members of a Panama-flagged tanker it seized this month, the Indian foreign ministry said on July 27, and it appealed for the release of three remaining crew members held from the same ship.

### [Centre to tax foreign tech firms on profits; framework being finalised: Report](#)

July 31, Money Control

The government is finalising a framework to tax foreign technology companies that have a user base of 500,000 and above and earn more than Rs 20 crore revenue, a move that will have a bearing on tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Twitter.

### [Indian IT Companies Contributed \\$57.2 Bn to US GDP in 2017, Says Harsh Vardhan Shringla](#)

July 31, 2019, News 18

India's Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla said India-based global IT services companies employ more than 175,000 workers in the US, which is 8.4 percent of employment in the computer systems design industry.

### [India Gifts 2 Fast Interceptor Boats, 44 SUVs to Mozambique](#)

July 29, 2019, Defense World

India gifted two fast interceptor boats and 44 Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) to Mozambique on July 29, to boost military cooperation between the two countries.

### [First Apaches Arrive in India](#)

July 30, 2019, AIN Online

On July 27 an Antonov An-124 heavy-lifter of Antonov Airlines arrived at Hindon Air Force Station from Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport carrying the first four Boeing AH-64E(I) Apache Guardian attack helicopters for the Indian Air Force. A second batch of four is expected in early August. According to Boeing, the deliveries are being made ahead of schedule.

### [Teams from China, other countries arrive for India leg of International Army Games](#)

July 30, 2019, The Economic Times

India is all set to host the fifth Army International Scout Masters Competition as part of the games. It will take part in this discipline for the first time.

### [India registers protest over US sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan](#)

August 1, 2019, Financial Express

The official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Raveesh Kumar said that the matter has been taken up with US ambassador in New Delhi as well as the US State Department in Washington.

### [India buys 1,000 Russian air-launched missiles](#)

July 30, 2019, TASS

Russia has inked a deal with India on the delivery of about 1,000 air-launched missiles, the press office of Russia's Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation revealed. A contract was signed with Russia on the delivery of R-27 air-to-air missiles for Su-30MKI fighter jets in the Indian Air Force. The contract is worth 15 billion rupees (over \$200 million). The purchased missiles have an extended range and will allow fighter jets to strike enemy aircraft at large distances.

### [India, Myanmar Conclude Defense Cooperation Agreement](#)

July 30, 2019, The Diplomat

India and Myanmar signed a new memorandum of understanding on bilateral defense cooperation. The agreement is slated to deepen military-to-military ties in the areas of training, maritime security, and joint surveillance. The agreement was signed during a visit by the Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

## Pakistan

### [Days after Imran visit, US resumes Pakistan aid](#)

July 28, 2019, The Times of India

The United States is reopening the military aid spigot to Pakistan within a week of Prime Minister Imran Khan meeting President Donald Trump . with the Pentagon notifying its decision to approve \$125 million worth of technical and logistics support for Pakistan F-16 fighter jets.

### [Trump's Three Missteps on Pakistan](#)

July 28, 2019, Lawfare

President Trump's remarks to the press included at least three dangerous missteps (not including his inexcusable comments on Hong Kong). His comments sent mixed messages to U.S. partners in India and Afghanistan, inflated Pakistan's role in regional diplomacy, and signaled a strong U.S. endorsement of the Pakistani prime minister when Washington should still be working to enhance its leverage with Islamabad.

### [Captain among 10 troops martyred in two attacks](#)

July 28, 2019, Dawn

Ten armed forces personnel were martyred by militants, six of them in a cross-border attack on July 27 in North Waziristan district and four others in an assault in Kech district of Balochistan on July 26.

### [Reservations on Taliban talks removed: Qureshi](#)

July 29, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that the Taliban were ready for negotiations and Pakistan was playing the role of a mediator for restoration of peace in Afghanistan. He also informed the Pakistan National Assembly that the next round of the intra-Afghan dialogue would be held in Norwegian capital Oslo

### [COAS, DGs ISI, ISPR meet PM](#)

July 30, 2019, The News

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, DG ISI Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed and DG Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Asif Ghafoor had meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan at the Prime Minister's



Office (PMO) on July 29. Overall security situation of the country came under discussion in the meeting.

#### [Kartarpur Corridor to open in November](#)

July 30, 2019, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that steps have been taken to facilitate the Sikh community through Kartarpur Corridor, which will be opened for the 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak in November.

#### [17 lose lives as army plane crashes in Pindi](#)

July 31, 2019, Dawn

17 people including five army officials and 12 civilians lost their lives when a military aircraft crashed at Mora Kalu, in Rawalpindi. The Beechcraft King Air 350 turboprop aircraft belonging to Army Aviation was on a routine training flight.

#### [Chinese nationals evacuated as Indian firing kills three in AJK](#)

August 1, 2019, The News

Pakistani officials evacuated more than 50 Chinese nationals working near the Kashmir frontier after Indian shelling killed at least three people and injured dozens.

#### [Pakistan to grant consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav](#)

August 1, 2019, The Nation

Pakistan has decided to grant consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav on August 2, 2019. The International Court of Justice's (ICJ) verdict, in the case, asked Pakistan to immediately inform Jadhav of his rights under Article 36, and grant India consular access.

## **Afghanistan**

#### [Trump wants to reduce US troops in Afghanistan by 2020 election](#)

July 30, 2019, Dawn

US President Donald Trump has ordered US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to reduce the number of US troops in Afghanistan by the 2020 election.

### [Mike Pompeo: U.S. eyes conditional Afghan pullout in talks with Taliban](#)

July 31, 2019, The Washington Times

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he hopes U.S. troops in Afghanistan are "out not only before the next election but before we land today." He walked back previous comments he made on Monday that "it's not only my expectation" to get troops out by the 2020 election, but said a successful drawdown "would be job-enhancing."

### [Taliban IED blast kills 35 civilians in western Afghanistan](#)

July 31, 2019, Long War Journal

A roadside bomb planted by the Taliban in the western Afghan province of Farah killed 35 civilians and wounded 27 on July 31. But the Taliban continues to deny responsibility for attacks that clearly target civilians.

### [2 US service members killed in Afghanistan](#)

July 31, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Two U.S. service members were killed on July 29 in Afghanistan. The members were killed in a suspected "green on blue attack," or an attack by an Afghan soldier on U.S. troops.

### [At Least 20 Killed In Attack On Afghan President's Running Mate](#)

July 28, 2019, RFERL

At least 20 people were killed in a bomb attack that followed a gunbattle at the office of President Ashraf Ghani's running mate, Amrullah Saleh. Fifty people were injured, including the vice presidential candidate, on the first day of campaigning for Afghanistan's September 28 presidential election.

### [Indian police forces seize Afghan heroin worth 13.2 billion Indian Rupees](#)

July 28, 2019, Khaama Press

The Delhi Police Special Cell has recovered over 330 kilograms of heroin during the ongoing operations which has a street value of around 13.2 billion Indian Rupees. Police also seized 130 kilograms of heroin from Navi Mumbai. The smugglers used the sea route between Islam Qala of Herat to Mumbai via Bandar Abbas of Iran.

## Bangladesh

### [Agartala Airport: India wants Bangladesh land for an expansion](#)

August 02, 2019, The Daily Star

India wants a piece of Bangladeshi land in Brahmanbaria to upgrade and expand the Agartala airport, which is set to become the third international airport in India's northeastern region by the end of this year or early next year. India, however, did not send a detailed proposal in this regard.

### [Myanmar delegation visits Rohingya camps in Bangladesh](#)

July 27, 2019, Anadolu Agency

A 15-member high-level delegation of Myanmar, led by Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu, arrived in Bangladesh's southern Cox's Bazar district to meet Rohingya refugees. "The main purpose of the visiting team is to talk with Rohingya refugees in order to convince them to return to their home country [Myanmar]", Md. Delwar Hossain, director general of South Asian Desk of Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh, said.

### [Bangladesh aims to leap beyond textiles with help from South Korea](#)

July 31, 2019, Nikkei Review

South Korea's prime minister, Lee Nak-yeon, who concluded a three-day visit to Dhaka in mid-July, told a business audience here that his country would lend its support for Bangladesh to prosper in new industries by slashing its reliance on ready-made garment exports that made up more than 80% of its overseas sales of \$40 billion for the year ending in June.

### [Tokyo moves over Rohingya issue; FM Taro Kono to visit camps](#)

July 27, 2019, The Daily Star

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono arrived in Dhaka on a two-day visit to discuss bilateral issues with special focus on Rohingya issue amid global efforts to expedite the repatriation process of the displaced people to Myanmar.

## Nepal

### [Nepal and China must address emerging flaws: Kathmandu Post columnist](#)

July 30, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

In his article, the writer says that Nepal's relationship with China is too important to be left at the hands of a few political parties, as it may compromise national interests.

### [PM Oli urges foreign investors to invest in Nepal](#)

July 28, 2019, Khabarhub

Speaking at the 'India Nepal Logistics Summit' in Kathmandu, PM Oli said that the government had created an environment that is conducive for investment in Nepal by removing all legal, institutional and procedural hurdles to ensure that investors could invest in Nepal confidently.

### [India edges China out in Nepal railway gauge battle](#)

July 30, 2019, Tribune

India, for now, has the edge in the battle for railway gauges with China in Nepal. India is building railway lines from the south of Nepal in broad gauge, while China wants to introduce a line from the north that will operate on the narrower standard gauge. Had China succeeded in building the railway line into Nepal before India, its smaller gauge would have ultimately come to the India-Nepal border. This would have shut out all future chances of connecting India and Nepal with the Indian Railways' broad gauge (1,676 mm or 5 feet 6 inches).

### [Investment, trade with India govt's top priority](#)

July 29, 2019, Himalayan Times

Inaugurating the India- Nepal Logistics Summit 2019 in Kathmandu today, PM Oli said that at a time when Nepal has been assuring a conducive environment for trade and investment in recent years, enhanced investment and trade relationship with India is crucial not just because India is Nepal's biggest trade and investment partner, but also an important route for Nepal for third-country trade.

## **Bhutan**

### [PM Modi to visit Bhutan on August 17 & 18](#)

July 30, 2019, Ne Now

Bhutan is going to be the first neighbourhood destination for Prime Minister Narendra Modi after coming to power for the second time. Modi will visit Bhutan on August 17 & 18.

## **Sri Lanka**

### [Sri Lanka gives free visa to boost tourism after bomb blasts](#)

July 31, 2019, Associated Press

Sri Lanka says it will give free one-month visas to visitors on arrival from nearly 50 countries in its latest effort to revive the island nation's lucrative tourism industry, which was badly hit by the Easter bomb attacks.

### [Was not aware of warnings about Easter Sunday attacks: Lankan president Sirisena](#)

July 31, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena claimed that he was not aware of the warnings by the Indian intelligence agencies about the Easter Sunday attacks, saying that the tragedy could have been prevented had he been kept in the loop by the concerned officers.

### [Sri Lanka takes steps to enhance naval cooperation with Russia](#)

August 2, 2019, Colombo Gazette

The Foreign Ministry said that on July 27-30, Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, made an official trip to Russia at the invitation of the Russian Defence Ministry. This was the first visit by the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy to Saint Petersburg, Russian Navy Headquarters, thus paving a symbolic milestone on the way of the development of bilateral naval cooperation.

### [SL, Japan sign defence cooperation memorandum](#)

July 30, 2019, Daily News Lk

Sri Lanka and Japan recently signed a Memorandum on Defence Cooperation which facilitates and develops cooperation and exchanges between the two countries in the field of defence on the basis of mutual interest. The memorandum

was signed by State Defence Minister RuwanWijewardene and Japanese State Defence Minister Kenji Harada, who visited Sri Lanka from July 25 to 26.

#### [Sri Lankan military personnel evaluating maritime patrol aircraft in India](#)

August 1, 2019, Sunday Times

Air Force pilots, engineers and Navy air navigators and technical officers are part of this delegation in Cochin, South India. The delegation is evaluating a Dornier 228 Maritime Patrol Aircraft which is designed in Germany and manufactured in India.

#### [Chinese help to revive Sri Lanka's tourism](#)

July 29, Daily Ft

Over 100 Chinese travel agents arrived yesterday, becoming the largest group post-Easter Sunday attacks to help revive tourism in Sri Lanka. The group consists of 107 Chinese travel agents and 12 media personnel from Beijing as well as from other parts of China and will explore Sri Lanka in a span of one week in four different groups visiting all key tourist attractions.

#### [Ethiopia, China, Sri Lanka to spur cooperation in renewable energy](#)

August 1, 2019, Colombo Gazette

As part of the trilateral South-South cooperation which was discussed on among officials from the three countries, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka are partnering with China on a trilateral South-South cooperation that will focus on enhancing access to renewable energy technologies within the global commitment to achieve the SDGs.

## **Maldives**

#### [Maldives wins bid to host Indian Ocean Island Games in 2023](#)

July 28, 2019, Maldives Independent

The Maldives has been chosen to host the Indian Ocean Island Games in 2023 for the first time in the history of the regional tournament. The games will be the first international multi-sport competition to take place in the Maldives.

[Freedom, liberty and Maldivian ownership: President Solih's Independence Day address](#)

July 27, 2019, Maldives Independent

In his first Independence Day address since assuming office, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on Friday pledged to protect fundamental freedoms and vowed to prevent foreign ownership of Maldivian territory.

[China funds renovation of Maldives foreign ministry](#)

July 30, 2019, Maldives Independent

A project was launched to renovate the foreign ministry office building in Malé with grant aid from China. Exchange of letters for the renovation project took place in December last year, a month after the new administration took office.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [U.S. pressure on WTO reform discords with facts, WTO principles: MOC](#)

August 1, 2019, Xinhua

U.S. denial of "developing country status" of some members including China in the World Trade Organization (WTO) is neither in line with the facts nor with the principles and spirit of the organization, said the Ministry of Commerce.

#### [China, EU agree to safeguard Iran nuclear deal](#)

August 1, 2019, Xinhua

China and the European Union (EU) agreed to continue safeguarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or the Iran nuclear deal, during a meeting between Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

#### [U.S. should meet China halfway to implement leaders' consensus: Chinese state councilor](#)

August 1, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged the United States to meet China halfway to implement the consensus reached by leaders of both countries and jointly push forward the bilateral ties.

#### [12th round of China-U.S. high-level trade consultations marks crucial step forward: Chinese FM](#)

August 1, 2019, Xinhua

The 12th round of China-U.S. high-level economic and trade consultations marked an important step forward in a new process, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

#### [China, U.S. to intensify trade consultations in August: MOC](#)

August 1, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese and U.S. negotiating teams will maintain close communication and intensify trade consultations at the work level in August to prepare for the meeting of chief trade negotiators from both sides in September, said the Ministry of Commerce.



[Commentary: Restart from Shanghai: More pragmatism and rationality needed for China-U.S. trade talk](#)

August 1, 2019, Xinhua

The 12th round of China-U.S. trade consultations, which was resumed after a break of more than two months, concluded on July 31, in Shanghai. In accordance with the important consensus reached at the Osaka meeting between the two heads of state, the two sides conducted frank, efficient and constructive in-depth exchanges on major issues of common concern in the economic and trade field. The two sides agreed to hold the next round of high-level economic and trade consultations in September in the United States.

[Chinese state councilor says consultations on COC in South China Sea can be concluded in time](#)

August 1, 2019, Xinhua

China believes the consultation on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea could be concluded in time as long as China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries work together and trust each other, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

[China pledges deeper ties with India, Brunei](#)

August 2, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Brunei's Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade DatoPaduka Haji Erywan bin PehinYusof on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers' meeting and other related meetings.

[China, ASEAN countries agree to forge closer ties](#)

August 1, 2019, Global Times

China and the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to forge closer ties at the China-ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting.

[China, Indonesia eye closer high-level exchanges](#)

July 31, 2019, Global Times

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Indonesian Foreign Minister RetnoMarsudi, vowing to improve high-level exchanges of the two countries.

### [China, Pakistan to enhance CPEC cooperation](#)

July 31, 2019, Global Times

China and Pakistan should implement consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and enhance strategic communication and coordination, Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan said.

### [China, India hold talks on borders ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping visit](#)

July 30, 2019, Global Times

The 14th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs was held in Beijing, and a Chinese expert said that it paved the way for realizing solid achievements between China and India in resolving their border issues and maintaining regional peace and development.

### [Foreign Ministry slams Mike Pompeo on HK](#)

July 30, 2019, Global Times

The Chinese Foreign Ministry slammed US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's comments on Hong Kong and listed examples of the US interfering in China's internal affairs in Hong Kong over the past months.

### [PLA aims to become global stabilizer in new era](#)

August 2, 2019, China Daily

The white paper, "China's National Defense in the New Era", issued on July 24 is the first systematic and comprehensive white paper on China's defense in four years, and details the new command and management system of the People's Liberation Army and its new strategic tasks and long-term development plan.

### [Tsai's provocations come at a cost: China Daily editorial](#)

July 31, 2019, China Daily

Individual travel permits to Taiwan for people from the Chinese mainland were suspended. It was a decision that came out of the blue. But in light of the current state of cross-Straits relations, it may be just the first of a series of moves.

### [Beware the designs of Libra](#)

July 30, 2019, China Daily

Facebook has released a white paper on its Libra cryptocurrency project, saying its goal is to issue a "stable currency built on a secure and stable open-source blockchain, backed by a reserve of real assets, and governed by an independent

association", which sparked heated discussions worldwide, especially in the political and financial circles.

## Japan

### [Japan officially approves removing South Korea from 'white list' countries](#)

August 2, 2019, The Japan Times

The Cabinet formally approved ejecting South Korea from the so-called white list countries entitled to receive preferential treatment in trade, likely further aggravating Japan's relations with the neighbor ahead of a trilateral meeting with the United States later in the day.

### [Japan, S. Korea lawmakers meet to ease row over trade, history](#)

August 1, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Lawmakers from Japan and South Korea met Wednesday in a bid to ease their countries' worsening dispute over trade and history, but after hugs and smiles at the beginning, they ended up repeating their demands to each other.

### [Pompeo hopes to help patch up Japan-S. Korea ties](#)

July 31, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he would encourage the two biggest U.S. allies in Asia--Japan and South Korea--"to find a path forward" from a dispute that has roiled their ties when he meets their foreign ministers this week.

### [Kang, Kono trade barbs at ASEAN after Japan's decision to revoke S Korea's preferential trade status](#)

August 2, 2019, Japan Today

South Korea Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha slammed Tokyo's "unilateral and arbitrary" decision to remove South Korea from a "white list" of countries with preferential trade status, but her Japanese counterpart Taro Kono said the move was legitimate.

### [Japan's Taro Kono urges new U.K. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to achieve orderly Brexit](#)

August 2, 2019, The Japan Times

Foreign Minister Taro Kono urged his new British counterpart Dominic Raab on Thursday to achieve an "orderly" exit from the European Union to minimize the impact on the global economy.

### [Japan resumes F-35A flights 4 months after fatal crash](#)

August 2, 2019, Japan Today

Japan resumed flights of Air Self-Defense Force F-35A stealth fighter jets Thursday, having suspended them since a fatal crash in April, the first ever reported for the aircraft.

### [Ignoring facts, Trump driven to increase Japan's pay to U.S. forces](#)

August 1, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Accurate numbers don't seem to matter. The words of experienced officials have been brushed aside. And even a highly trumpeted close relationship between two world leaders is not making a difference.

### [Bolton suggests fivefold rise in Japan's spending on U.S. military](#)

July 31, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The Trump administration is seeking up to a fivefold increase in what Japan pays to support U.S. military forces based here, a U.S. government source said.

## **Korea**

### [President Moon warns of retaliation, urges Japan to negotiate](#)

August 2, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in on Friday warned that Seoul will "resolutely take corresponding measures" against Japan's move to remove South Korea from its list of trusted trade partners.

### [Japan's broader export curbs aim for Korea's Achilles heel](#)

August 2, 2019, The Korea Times

Japan's expanded export curbs appear to target key pillars and future growth drivers of the South Korean economy, but its move could create mutually damaging situations for the closely intertwined Asian economies, depending on the scope of the measures, industry watchers say.

### [Top diplomats of S. Korea, US, Japan to meet trilaterally amid tensions over whitelist exclusion](#)

August 2, 2019, The Korea Herald

The top diplomats of South Korea and Japan faced off Friday over Tokyo's decision to remove Seoul from its list of trusted trade partners during a regional forum in Thailand.

### [Boycott of Japanese goods to intensify as Tokyo expands export curbs](#)

August 2, 2019, The Korea Times

Calls for a boycott of Japan-made goods in South Korea are expected to come to a boil as Tokyo went ahead with its threat to widen controls over exports of materials by removing Seoul from a list of trusted trade partners despite repeated calls to scrap the move.

### [Exports Drop for 8th Month Running](#)

August 2, 2019, Chosun Ilbo

Korea's exports fell for the eighth straight month in July amid falling semiconductor prices and the U.S.-China trade dispute while American appetite for imports waned.

### [FM Meets Chinese Counterpart in Bangkok](#)

August 2, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok.

### [N.Korea Keeps Firing Missiles](#)

August 2, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea continues frantically to lob missiles into the sea amid resounding silence from the U.S. The Joint Chiefs of Staff here said the North fired two more unidentified short-range projectiles at 2:59 a.m. and 3:23 a.m. on Friday from South Hamgyong Province into the East Sea.

### [Trump says he has 'no problem' with North Korea's missile tests](#)

August 2, 2019, The Korea Times

U.S. President Donald Trump said he had "no problem" with North Korea's missile tests, shortly after the regime conducted its third launch in a week.

## Southeast Asia

### [Bombs rattle Bangkok during Asean summit](#)

August 2, 2019, The Bangkok Post

At least two small bombs exploded in Bangkok on Friday morning, injuring three people, as the city hosted a regional summit also attended by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

### [India looks to Indo-Pacific amid simmering US-China trade war](#)

August 1, 2019, Live Mint

One priority for Jaishankar will be to clear pending defense agreements with the US and other equipment suppliers.

### [US 'working hard' with India to help its economy grow as part of Indo-Pacific strategy, says Secretary of State Mike Pompeo](#)

July 31, 2019, Firstpost

The US is "working hard" with the Indian government to provide the country with opportunities to grow its economy as a part of the Trump Administration's Indo-Pacific strategy, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

### [US: ASEAN must speak out on South China Sea](#)

August 2, 2019, The ASEAN Post

United States (US) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted Thursday that Washington was not asking Southeast Asian nations to "choose" between his country and rival power China, as he trailed a rebooted security and trade strategy at a Bangkok summit.

### [EU looks past ASEAN for deals and pacts](#)

August 2, 2019, Asia Times

As Federica Mogherini, the European Union (EU) high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, takes part in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum in Bangkok today (August 2), there are questions about whether the EU's commitment to working multilaterally with the bloc is paying off.

### [Philippine top brass breaks ranks to counter China](#)

August 1, 2019, Asia Times

China's push into Philippine-claimed waters has again riled the nation's top brass, bringing into sharp relief the defense establishment's skeptical view of President Rodrigo Duterte's engagement policy.

### [Myanmar softens its position on Rohingya refugees](#)

August 1, 2019, Asia Times

Amid mounting pressure, Myanmar appears to be softening its position on the repatriation of more than a million Rohingya refugees, an estimated 700,000 of whom fled to Bangladesh two years ago following atrocities committed by its security forces.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [New Round of Syria Talks Under Way in Kazakh Capital](#)

August 01, 2019, RFE/RL

Representatives of Russia, Iran, and Turkey have begun a fresh round of talks on finding a solution to the situation in war-ravaged Syria. The two-day talks kicked off on August 1 as part of the so-called Astana negotiations track, which have been held in the Kazakh capital Nur-Sultan, parallel to UN-sponsored negotiations aimed at ending the Syrian conflict, now in its ninth year.

#### [Work started on construction of railway linking Afghanistan, Turkmenistan](#)

July 27, 2019, The times of Central Asia

The Afghan Acting Minister of Transportation, Yama Yari, on July 26 inaugurated work on the construction of Aqina-Andkhoi railway in Afghanistan's Faryab province. Yari said the 30-kilometer railway will connect Aqina port with Andkhoi in Turkmenistan and that the project will cost \$30 million.

#### [Kyrgyzstan: Court upholds Askarov life sentence](#)

July 30, 2019, Eurasianet

A court in Kyrgyzstan ruled to uphold the life sentence of the imprisoned, ethnic Uzbek rights activist Azimjan Askarov. The decision dashed slim hopes that he might be freed after serving almost a decade behind bars. Askarov has been in prison since 2010, and several foreign governments and international organizations have repeatedly condemned his trial as a violation of his fundamental legal rights.

#### [Tajikistan Hands Over Dozens Of Convicts To Afghanistan](#)

July 28, 2019, RFE/RL

Tajik authorities have transferred dozens of Afghan convicts to their home country to serve their sentences there. Sayed Masoom Badakhsh of the Afghan Embassy in Dushanbe SAID that 80 inmates were handed over to Afghan authorities at the Panji Poyon-Sher Khan Bandar border crossing on July 27.



### [Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan trade hiccups force questions on EAEU](#)

July 29, 2019 Eurasianet

The purpose of the Russia-engineered Eurasian Economic Union was to bind member nations more closely. In Central Asia, this goal is proving elusive, since Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan did \$318.3 million worth of trade in the January-May period, marking a 10.5 percent drop compared to the same period in 2018. The figures were based on Kazakh government trading data.

### [Azerbaijan Rescues Nine Crew Members From Iranian Cargo Vessel As It Sinks Into Caspian Sea](#)

July 26, 2019, RFE/RL

Azerbaijan's State Maritime Agency says it has rescued nine people from an Iranian-flagged cargo vessel before it sunk into the Caspian Sea near the Azerbaijani port city of Lankaran. Two helicopters and a border patrol vessel were sent to the site of the accident on July 26 to assist in the rescue operation. No details were shared about what the vessel, the Shabahang, was transporting, or the cause of the incident.

### [Armenian Military Official Says Soldier Shot Dead From 'Azerbaijani Side'](#)

July 28, 2019, RFE/RL

An Armenian soldier was allegedly shot dead by gunfire from the Azerbaijani side, according to the Armenian Defense Ministry. Armenia alleges that "contract serviceman Arman Bulgardaryan" was shot from the "Azerbaijani side" in the northeastern part of the border of Armenia. No further details were provided. Armenia and Azerbaijan have feuded over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is populated mainly by ethnic Armenians.

## **West Asia**

### [Kuwait, Iraq to Develop Joint Oilfields](#)

August 01, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iraq has agreed with Kuwait to appoint British energy advisory firm ERC Equipoise to prepare a study for the development of joint border oilfields, according to the Iraqi oil ministry. Under the contract, ERC would conduct technical studies, such as examining reservoirs for the Ratqa and Safwan fields.

### [Saudi envoy to Yemen blames Iran for attacks in Aden](#)

August 01, 2019, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia's envoy to Yemen accused Iran of being behind an attack on a military parade in Aden on Thursday that the Iran-aligned Al Houthi militia has claimed responsibility for. He also blamed Iran for a separate attack on a police station in Aden which no one has claimed yet. Yemen's Prime Minister Maeen Abdul Malek Saeed said the attacks were coordinated under "Iran's administration".

### [Bahrain's military meeting seeks coordination over Gulf security](#)

July 31, 2019, Gulf News

Bahrain said that a meeting of world military representatives it is hosting is aimed at enhancing international coordination and "confronting" Iran's destabilising acts in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Bahrain's Foreign Minister added that such cooperation is aimed at safeguarding shipping trade and energy routes as well as enhancing stability in "this vital and strategic" region.

### [At vital moment, Lebanon paralysed by political conflict](#)

July 30, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The political repercussions of a deadly shooting in Lebanon have paralysed the government at a critical moment and risk complicating efforts to enact reforms needed to steer the heavily indebted state away from financial crisis. Two government aides were killed in a shooting a month ago. With major parties in Lebanon's national unity government involved, Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri has been unable to convene a cabinet.

### [Syrian gov't agrees to conditional ceasefire in rebel-held Idlib](#)

August 02, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Syrian government has agreed to a truce in the northwestern region of Idlib on condition that a Turkish-Russian buffer zone deal is implemented. The announcement came as talks resumed in Kazakhstan between rebel-backer Turkey and Syrian government allies, Russia and Iran.

### [Iranians say US sanctions blocking life-saving medicine](#)

July 30, 2019, Al Jazeera

With Iran's economy in free fall from "maximum pressure" American sanctions, prices of imported medicines have soared as the national currency tumbled about 70 percent against the dollar. Iran's Health Minister Saeed Namaki said budget

cuts, because of the drop in crude exports, have dramatically affected medical care access for all classes of Iranians.

#### [Rivals Iran and UAE to hold maritime security talks](#)

July 30, 2019, Reuters

Iran was to revive maritime security talks with traditional foe the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in an apparent bid to calm tensions in the Gulf, although a Gulf official described the discussions as routine and technical. The talks follow heightened political friction around the strategic waterway stemming from hostility between Tehran and Washington, the main Western ally of Gulf Arab states long wary of Iran.

#### [Turkey helps to combat terrorism in Africa: Envoy](#)

August 01, 2019, Hurriyet Daily News

Turkey is helping G5 Sahel -- an institutional framework for coordination of regional cooperation security matters in West Africa -- to combat terrorism. Without specifying the contours of cooperation, Turkish envoy in Niger, Mustafa Türker Ari, said his country was financing the joint G5 Sahel counter-terrorism force.

#### [Israel press review: Gantz vows Jordan Valley to remain under Israeli control](#)

July 31, 2019, Middle East Eye

Benny Gantz, the former army chief-turned-prime ministerial challenger, said the Jordan Valley should remain under Israeli control in any future peace agreements, during a tour of the area. The valley is an area running along the west bank of the Jordan river, is 90% in Area C, with Israel retaining control over law enforcement, planning and construction. There are 11,000 settlers and 65,000 Palestinians living in the Jordan Valley.

## United States

### [India, US to ink two key defence pacts this week](#)

August 2, 2019, Hindustan Times

India and the United States are likely to finalise two critical agreements, the Industrial Security Annexure (ISA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) – the second is a so-called foundational military agreement – in the coming bilateral Defence Planning Group (DPG) dialogue in Washington this week.

### [US, China trade meeting ends with sharp response to Trump](#)

July 30, 2019, CNBC

U.S. and Chinese negotiators wrapped up a brief round of trade talks on Wednesday that Beijing described as “constructive,” including discussion of further purchases of American farm goods and an agreement to reconvene in September.

### [Trump slaps 10 percent tariff on \\$300B more in Chinese goods](#)

August 2, 2019, CNN

The U.S. will impose an additional 10 percent tariff on \$300 billion in Chinese imports starting next month, President Donald Trump announced Thursday via tweet.

### [U.S. slaps sanctions on Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as tensions rise](#)

August 1, 2019, CBS News

Iranian officials are slamming the United States for imposing sanctions on the country's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, personally targeting Iran's highest-ranking diplomat. The move comes amid rising tensions between the two countries, which have long been at odds.

### [U.S. Ends Cold War Missile Treaty, With Aim of Countering China](#)

August 1, 2019, The New York Times

The United States on Friday terminates a major treaty of the Cold War, the Intermediate Nuclear Forces agreement, and it is already planning to start testing a new class of missiles later this summer.

### [After INF treaty's demise, U.S. seeks funds for missile tests](#)

August 2, 2019, Reuters

The United States will no longer be prohibited from having ground-launched intermediate-range missiles once it pulls out of an arms control treaty with Russia on Friday, but funds to test and develop the missiles may soon run out, officials say.

### [Discussion on Kashmir only with Pak: Jaishankar after Trump again offers to mediate](#)

August 2, 2019, ANI News

India on Friday categorically rejected US President Donald Trump's offer to act as a mediator between New Delhi and Islamabad to resolve Kashmir issue and reiterated that it is a bilateral issue.

### [The United States Can't Solve the Kashmir Dispute](#)

July 30, 2019, Foreign Affairs

Trump's offer, however ill-advised, was hardly the first U.S. attempt to intercede in Kashmir. Over the past six decades, successive U.S. administrations have tried to make headway on the dispute. Those efforts all failed—and Trump's is unlikely to turn out differently.

### [What are the US's intentions in Africa?](#)

August 1, 2019, BBC News

The United States has been losing influence in Africa - but its top diplomat to the continent wants to turn this around.

### [New U.S. Effort in Strait of Hormuz Echoes Past Clashes with Iran](#)

August 1, 2019, USNI News

There have been multiple reports in recent months of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) harassing, attacking and seizing vessels transiting the strait, which have prompted responses from both the U.S. and Europe.

### [US secretary of defence to visit New Zealand next week](#)

August 1, 2019, TVNZ

United States secretary of defence Mark Esper will be visiting New Zealand next week, Minister of Defence Ron Mark revealed.

[China is blaming the US for the Hong Kong protests. Can that really be true?](#)

August 1, 2019, CNN

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday accused the United States of influencing the increasingly violent pro-democracy protests that have rocked Hong Kong for two months.

[Taliban hopeful of reaching agreement with US in upcoming talks](#)

August 1, 2019, ANI News

The Taliban has said that it is hopeful of reaching an agreement with the United States during the crucial round of peace negotiations between the two adversaries slated to be held in Doha later this week.

[Trump says U.S. blockade or quarantine of Venezuela under consideration](#)

August 2, 2019, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday he was considering a quarantine or blockade of Venezuela, as the United States steps up pressure on President Nicolas Maduro to relinquish power.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Merkel ally calls for Europe to go it alone in the Gulf](#)

August 1, 2019, Telegraph

A key ally of Angela Merkel has called for Europe to set up its own naval taskforce in the Persian Gulf independent of the US.

#### [European Economy Slows, Raising Expectations of E.C.B. Action](#)

July 31, 2019, The New York Times

Economic growth in countries that use the euro slowed considerably in the second quarter, adding to pressure on the European Central Bank to intercede to prevent a possible recession.

#### [EU finance ministers set to vote on Europe's IMF candidate](#)

August 1, 2019, Financial Times

EU finance ministers are to vote on Europe's candidate to succeed Christine Lagarde as the next managing director of the IMF in the hope of breaking an impasse that has divided northern and southern eurozone capitals.

#### [Britain tells Iran: there will be no tanker swap](#)

July 31, 2019, Reuters

Britain on Thursday ruled out exchanging an Iranian tanker detained by Gibraltar for a British-flagged tanker seized by Iran in the Gulf.

#### [£2.1bn on no-deal preparations? It will seem like peanuts if Britain crashes out](#)

August 1, 2019, The Guardian

The £2.1bn for no-deal planning announced by the government this morning is at once a sum that is obscenely big, and hopelessly small.

#### [Britain's Boris Johnson Suffers First Leadership Blow In By-Election](#)

August 2, 2019, NDTV

Britain's Boris Johnson lost his first test as prime minister on Friday after his candidate was edged out by a pro-EU rival in a by-election that slims his parliamentary majority to one.

### [Europe has more to fear from a no-deal Brexit than Britain](#)

August 1, 2019, The Telegraph

The term "Project Fear" first came into usage during the Scottish independence referendum of 2014, when it was coined by "Better Together" as an ironic description of the campaign's own blitz of economic scaremongering. In the event, the scare tactics seemed to work; the case for independence was roundly rejected.

### [France Is Getting Serious About Its "Space Command"](#)

August 1, 2019, Slate

The French are stepping up their game in space, and it's going to involve lasers. Last week, the country's minister of Defense announced plans to weaponize its satellites with a robust active defense system. France hopes to deploy satellites equipped with cameras, lasers and maybe even guns by 2030.

### [Germany refuses to join US-led naval mission in Strait of Hormuz](#)

August 1, 2019, Al Jazeera

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas has said his country will not participate in a US-led naval mission in the Strait of Hormuz, prompting a frustrated response from Washington's ambassador to Berlin.

### [Germany and France prepared to make Britain 'suffer' at expense of EU27 to avoid backlash](#)

August 1, 2019, Express

Brexiteer and economic advisory expert Paul Gambles warned that the EU could sacrifice the wellbeing of its member-states to ensure Germany and France can force the UK to "suffer" over Brexit.

### [Germany blow: Merkel hit by economy headache as unemployment rates soar](#)

July 31, 2019, Express

The Federal Employment Agency said that 2.275million people were registered as jobless in July, 59,000 more than in June but 49,000 fewer than this time last year. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate stood at 5 percent for the third straight month but there is still cause for concern according to experts.



[Eurozone crisis: France's economy takes a hit as key industries see growth plummet](#)

July 30, 2019, Express

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi he has warned the outlook is getting "worse and worse" as he prepares to take action to address the negative economic outlook in September.

[Belgium broke law but can keep nuclear plants open, EU court rules](#)

July 29, 2019, DW

The European Union's top court ruled on Monday that Belgium can continue to run two aging nuclear reactors, despite breaking EU law by not carrying out the necessary environmental audits. By failing to carry out the environmental assessments before prolonging the life of Doel 1 and 2 nuclear reactors near the northern port city of Antwerp, Belgium infringed EU law, the court ruled.

## Russia

[Trump hails phone call with Putin as 'short but good'](#)

August 2, 2019, Tass

US President Donald Trump stated that Wednesday's phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin was short but constructive, the White House press pool informed

[Russia invites US, NATO to declare moratorium on missile deployment - senior diplomat](#)

August 2, 2019, Tass

Speaking about the restitution of participation to the agreements on control over such systems, the diplomat underlined that "nobody is taking the issue of agreements off the table"

[Britain soars to new highs in its anti-Russian policies, says Moscow](#)

August 1, 2019, Tass

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova commented on media reports on the creation by London of military units for operations in the infospace.

### [Violent Crackdowns on Russian Opposition Reveal Dangerous Policy Shift](#)

August 1, 2019, The Moscow Times

The level of confrontation between the Kremlin and the Russian opposition has increased, and along with it the scale and severity of the law-enforcement response to protests.

### [Election protest in Moscow and Erdogan's rapprochement with Russia](#)

July 29, 2019, Tass

Moscow police arrested more than 1,300 people Saturday during an unauthorized protest against the lack of opposition candidates in Moscow City Duma elections.

### [Why the Russian Government Can't Attain Economic Growth](#)

August 1, 2019, The Moscow Times

Why the Russian Government Can't Attain Economic Growth  
At first glance, the executive branch is working normally in Russia: the budget has a record surplus, inflation is at a historic low, the ruble exchange rate has untethered itself from oil prices, incentives are in place for entrepreneurs, and new ones are constantly being developed.

## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [Why Bolsonaro's Amazon Policies Could Sink Brazil's Trade Ambitions](#)

August 1, 2019, Americas Quarterly

With the ratification of a trade agreement between Mercosur and the European Union on the horizon, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has suddenly become more concerned with the Amazon – or at least with how the international community views his lack of effort to protect it. [Amazon Policies Could Sink Brazil's Trade Ambitions](#).

#### [US eyes migration deals with rest of Central America after Guatemala's](#)

August 2, 2019, Channel News Asia

The United States will seek migration deals with El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama, akin to last week's with Guatemala, to curb emigration from Central America, a senior US official said.

#### [Asylum Deal With Guatemala Is Contentious, Despite U.S. Assurances](#)

August 1, 2019, The New York Times

One week after reaching a deal that would force Guatemala to absorb Central American migrants seeking asylum in the United States, the head of the Department of Homeland Security assured Guatemalan officials that the United States would invest in the country and try to sign similar agreements with at least five other nations in the region.

#### [U.S. Details Plan to Rebuild Venezuela Under Democratic Rule](#)

August 1, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross laid out a plan including credit and investment to help rebuild Venezuela's economy under democratic rule, as Washington pushes for new leadership in the struggling nation.

#### [Trump Says He's Considering Blockade or Quarantine of Venezuela](#)

August 2, 2019, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump said he may order a blockade of Venezuela, where the U.S. has sought to depose President Nicolas Maduro.

### [Russia sending oil products to Venezuela amid petrol crisis](#)

August 1, 2019, Business Day

Venezuela used to get most of its petrol from the US and India, but after US Sanctions to Turkey, Latvia, Greece and now Russia, at great cost.

### [Illegal Migrants on Way to US Border Down 39%, Mexico Says](#)

August 1, 2019, The Daily Signal

The Mexican government says the number of U.S.-bound illegal migrants traveling through its country has decreased by 39% since May, a result of its bolstered enforcement efforts.

### [Mexico's dependence on U.S. demand spells trouble for weak economy](#)

August 2, 2019, Reuters

Under the threat of U.S. trade tariffs, Mexico's president has pledged to make his country less reliant on U.S. demand. But exports to its northern neighbor have been one of the few things driving Latin America's second-largest economy this year.

## **Africa**

### [Sudan suspends all schools after students killed during protests](#)

July 31, 2019, CNN

The government's decision to close schools came a day after children in their school uniforms took to the streets nationwide to protest the killings during demonstrations in the city of El-Obeid, where security forces opened fire to disperse demonstrators, according to opposition groups.

### [Sudan's parties to resume talks on constitutional declaration](#)

July 31, 2019, Sudan Tribune

Talks on the constitutional declaration for the transitional period are expected to resume on Thursday after the return of the negotiating delegation of the Forces for Freedom and Change from El-Obeid where five protesters were killed by the security forces.

### [Corruption trial of Sudan's al-Bashir to begin on August 17](#)

July 31, 2019, Al Jazeera

The trial of toppled Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir on corruption charges will begin on August 17, his lawyer said, after the former president failed to appear in court on Wednesday for the first session.

[The timely symbolism of a “400 years” visit to Ghana by Nancy Pelosi and black US congress members](#)

August 2, 2019, Quartz Africa

As Donald Trump marked the 400th anniversary of American democracy in Virginia, top Democrats who had stayed away from the commemoration were observing a 400th anniversary of a different kind – one inextricably linked to the founding of the United States.

[Ebola crisis: Rwanda reopens border with DR Congo amid outbreak](#)

August 1, 2019, BBC News

Rwanda has reopened its border with DR Congo, where an Ebola outbreak has killed more than 1,800 people in the past year.

[Mozambique's former civil war foes sign landmark peace deal](#)

August 1, 2019, France 24

Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi and the leader of the main opposition party Renamo on Thursday signed a permanent ceasefire agreement, designed to put an end to almost half a century of hostilities that killed over 1 million people at their peak.

[South African president accused of graft as economy suffers](#)

August 2, 2019, Al Jazeera

Cyril Ramaphosa faces off in court against his country's public protector in a case centering on a key cabinet member.

[Ramaphosa is 'last hope' for South Africa, says Chinese diplomat](#)

July 29, 2019, Times Live

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is the "last hope" for Africa's most advanced economy, but his government must turn incentive policies into laws to secure more Chinese investment, a senior Chinese diplomat told Reuters.

[Zimbabwe government hikes electricity tariffs by up to 500%](#)

August 1, 2019, Business Day

The country is without electricity for up to 18 hours a day, and the hike is expected to further push up inflation.

### [Zimbabwe's GDP to Shrink as Power Price Hikes Pile on Economic Misery](#)

August 1, 2019, VOA

Zimbabwe's economy will shrink this year due to a drought, foreign currency shortages and severe power cuts, its finance minister said, as he announced a threefold hike in electricity tariffs that will fuel already crippling inflation.

### [Once Famed for Hyperinflation, Zimbabwe Suspends Inflation Data](#)

August 1, 2019, Bloomberg

Zimbabwe, suffering the world's second-highest inflation rate, won't publish price data for the next six months as unrest mounts over surging costs and shortages.

### [Zimbabwe hits back at US over new sanctions](#)

August 1, 2019, The Zimbabwe Mail

Government has criticised the placement on sanctions of Zimbabwe's Ambassador-designate to Tanzania, Anselem Sanyatwe, and his wife Ms Chido Machona, by the United States on allegations that the former violated human rights.



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