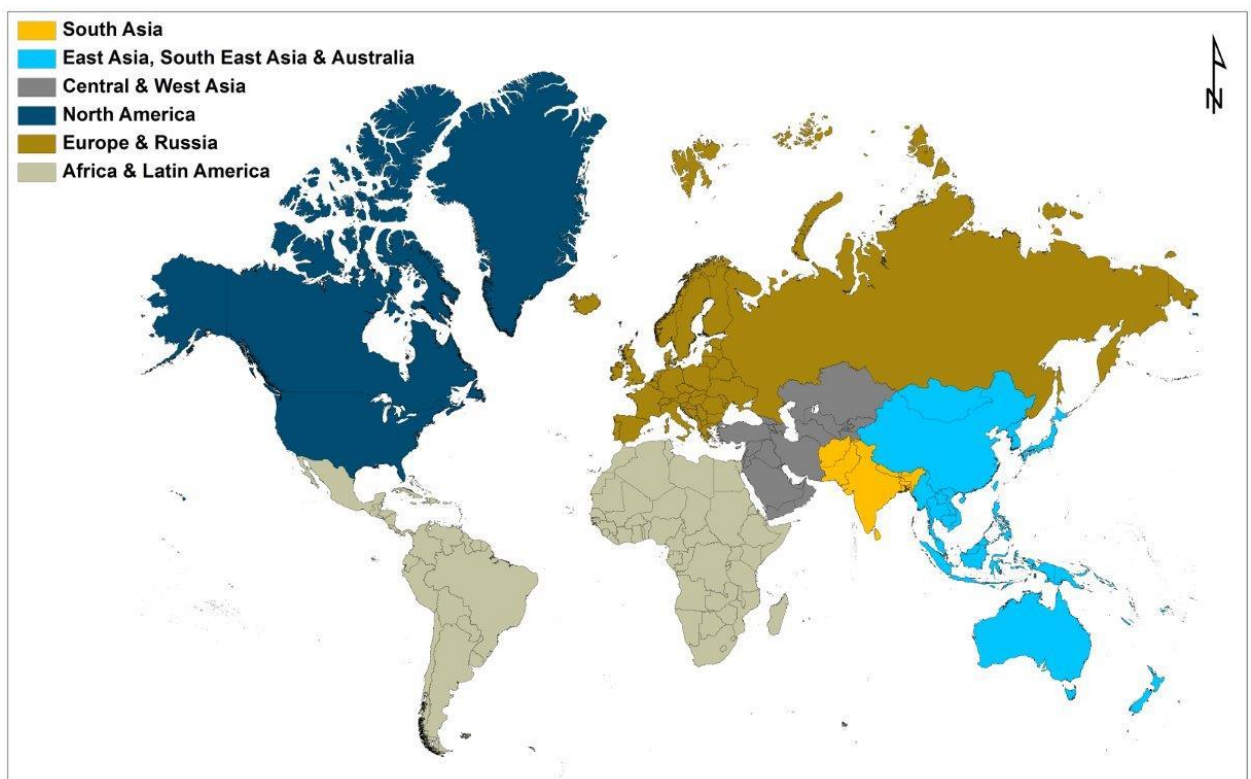




Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 32 | August 9, 2019



# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

## Volume 3, Issue 32

### ABOUT US

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

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

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## Contents

South Asia .....	1
East & South East Asia .....	11
Central & West Asia .....	19
United States .....	23
Europe & Russia .....	25
Africa & Latin America .....	29

## South Asia

### India

#### [J&K to lose special status, Centre to directly rule Ladakh](#)

August 6, 2019, The Times of India

In a historic decision, the Modi government changed the terms of engagement with Jammu and Kashmir by doing away with the special status the state enjoyed under Article 370, scrapping Article 35 A and splitting the sensitive border state into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

#### [Decision on J&K expected to be challenged in SC](#)

August 6, 2019, The Times of India

The Modi government passed a resolution seeking to undo Article 370 with simple majority, even as it was widely believed that the article could be "scrapped" only by a Constitution amendment bill needing a two thirds majority.

#### [Article 370 revoked: US says it's India's 'internal matter' in a blow to Pakistan](#)

August 6, 2019, Business Today

The United States has said India's decision to revoke Article 370, which gave a special status to Kashmir, was the country's "internal matter" and called for peace in the region.

#### [PM Modi reaches out of J&K with promise of early polls, restoration of statehood](#)

August 9, 2019, The Times of India

Jammu and Kashmir will not remain a Union Territory for long once the pace of development picks up, and the people of the region will get the opportunity to elect MLAs and a chief minister soon in a fair and transparent manner, PM Modi said.

#### [India briefs UNSC, other countries on scrapping of special status to J&K](#)

August 05, 2019, Live Mint

The briefing to diplomats comes in the backdrop of Pakistan condemning the Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's move to bifurcate the region into Jammu and Kashmir, which will have a legislature, and the Ladakh region without a legislature.

### [Space for Manoeuvre: Kashmir and International Politics](#)

August 8, 2019, The Economic Times

On August 05, the President of India issued an order which declared that all the provisions of the Constitution would apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Through this order, the Government of India revoked the special autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir.

### [China warns India of 'reverse sanctions' if Huawei is blocked](#)

August 06, 2019, Live Mint

India is due to hold trials for installing a next-generation 5G cellular network in the next few months, but has not yet taken a call on whether it would invite the Chinese telecoms equipment maker to take part, telecoms minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said.

### [Andhra Pradesh Set to Host International Diplomatic Outreach Summit to Pave Way for Foreign Investments](#)

August 09, 2019, News18

The diplomatic outreach programme will be held in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and will be attended by representatives of over 35 nations.

### [India may say no to RCEP pact if its demands on services, goods are not met](#)

August 03, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India may say no to a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact it is negotiating with 15 others including the 10-country ASEAN and China if it doesn't get what it is seeking, especially in the area of services where offers have been "disappointing", a government official has said.

### [Rupee logs worst fall of 2019 on yuan plunge, Kashmir](#)

August 05, 2019, The Economic Times

The domestic currency cracked as concerns over US-China trade war sent Chinese yuan below 7 a dollar level. The weakness is intensified by uncertainty over Kashmir issue, poor high frequency economic data, and escalation in foreign outflow.

[Too many reforms by Modi govt slowed down GDP growth: NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant](#)

August 03, 2019, Business Today

The NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant recommended that the government need to give a thrust to major structural reforms as was done earlier. He espoused an array of policy decisions to revive the economy.

[India behind UK, France as 7th largest economy in the world in 2018: World Bank](#)

August 02, 2019, Business Today

India saw its GDP rise from \$2.65 trillion in 2017 to \$2.72 trillion in 2018, but it wasn't enough to maintain its lead against the UK and France.

[India Inc seeks Rs 1 lakh crore in meet with FM Sitharaman to revive growth](#)

August 08, 2019, Business Today

After meeting with FM Nirmala Sitharaman, industry leaders said that the government has assured them to take action soon to boost economic growth.

[India test-fires Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile](#)

August 04, 2019, The Economic Times

The state-of-the-art missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the India Army. The air defence system, QRSAM, was test-fired at 11.05 am from a mobile truck-based launch unit at complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.

[India to step up indigenisation in defence sector, says Rajnath Singh](#)

August 03, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

Addressing the 50th year Golden Jubilee celebrations of Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL), Rajnath Singh said the modernisation of the armed forces is top on Government agenda where Bharat Dynamics, as a missile maker and other defence equipment, will play a major role.

[India, US agree on collaboration in defence sector](#)

August 03, 2019, India Today

An understanding in this regard was reached during the 15th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) in Washington. The Indian side was led by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra. The US was led by the Undersecretary of Defence for Policy, John Rood.

### [In its largest ever export order, OFB to supply 50,000 Bofors shells to UAE](#)

August 03, 2019, The Economic Times

An order worth Rs 315 crore (\$45.75 million) contract was received last month, adding to an earlier order for 40,000 shells that finalized in 2017.

### [OFB gets 2 lakh requests for BhabhaKavach from armed forces](#)

August 02, 2019, The Economic Times

Talking to IANS, Additional General Manager of Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur, V.K. Chaudhary, said: "The BhabhaKavach has received overwhelming response from the armed forces and so far we have got requests for around two lakh jackets.

### [India to embark on Rs 10,000-cr project to replace Mi-17 copters](#)

August 05, 2019, The Economic Times

The Indian Multi Role Helicopter (IMRH) plan will involve a tough development program, that will include multiple destruction tests to prove the sturdiness of the design before it can be certified for military use.

### [Defence Ministry clears acquisition of 2 BrahMos supersonic missile batteries for Navy](#)

August 08, 2019, India Today

To give a boost to indigenisation, the Defence Acquisition Council (Dac), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded approval for procurement of indigenous Software Defined Radio and Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries for the Indian Navy.

## **Pakistan**

### [Pak Navy shifts air defence battalion from Manora to Ormara](#)

August 3, 2019, The News

Pakistan Navy has completed shifting of its 21st Air Defence Battalion from Karachi to Ormara to fulfil operationally designed tasks. The 21st air defence battalion of Pakistan Navy was raised in Manora, Karachi about a decade ago and now it has been shifted to its permanent location at Ormara.

### [Pakistan urges Korean companies to participate in CPEC](#)

August 4, 2019, The News

Pakistan has urged the Korean companies to participate in CPEC related projects and also proposed for establishment of exclusive economic zone for Korean companies under this mega project.

### [Indian military to form new battle formations along Pak border](#)

August 4, 2019, The News

Aiming to further strengthen its ability to carry out swift strikes during wars, the Indian army is going to raise Integrated Battel Groups along the borders with Pakistan by October.

### [India ups military movement on Pak border](#)

August 5, 2019, The News

India enhanced military deployment at the Line of Control (LoC). Also put Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) on high alert in Jammu and Kashmir. The IAF fighter aircraft have been patrolling over Kashmir as part of the operational alert.

### [Pakistan shared details of CPEC loans with IMF: official](#)

August 6, 2019, Dawn

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that it had full access to borrowing and maturity terms of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and its loans were manageable.

### [PM forms team to explore response over Kashmir issue](#)

August 7, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan constituted a high-powered seven-member team to explore legal, political and diplomatic response to be given to India over developments in Kashmir. The team includes Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the attorney general for Pakistan, the foreign secretary, director-general of the Inter-Services Public Relations and Prime Minister's Special Envoy Ahmer Bilal Sufi.

### [US asks Pakistan to extend FATF scope to economy](#)

August 8, 2019, The Express Tribune

The United States has urged Pakistan to expand Financial Action Task Force (FATF) safeguards to informal sectors of economy amid its concerns over slow progress on implementation of 27-point Financial Action Plan.



### [NAB arrests Maryam Nawaz in Chaudhry Sugar Mills case](#)

August 8, 2019, The Express Tribune

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested opposition leader Maryam Nawaz from Lahore's KotLakhpat Jail where she was visiting her incarcerated father, former premier Nawaz Sharif.

### [Qureshi says Pakistan 'not looking at military option' over Kashmir dispute](#)

August 8, 2019, The Express Tribune

Pakistan is not looking at a military option over Kashmir, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said after India abrogated article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Afghanistan

### [Afghan troop numbers drop sharply in crackdown on 'ghost' soldiers](#)

August 3, 2019, The News

There has been a sharp drop in the size of Afghanistan's National Defense Security Forces in the past few months due to changes in the way troops are counted and an effort to reduce the number of so-called "ghost" soldiers.

### [Afghanistan's fruit exports increase by 30 percent](#)

August 5, 2019, Tolo News

Afghanistan has exported 255 tons of fresh fruit so far this year to India, Europe and some Arab nations, making 30 percent increase compared to the same period in 2018.

### [Peace deal in Afghanistan closer than ever before, says NATO chief](#)

August 6, 2019, Reuters

NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that there was a real chance for peace in Afghanistan as U.S.-Taliban peace talks continue in Qatar.

### [Taliban threatens Afghan Election](#)

August 6, 2019, Tolo News

Taliban in a statement has warned members of the public to avoid attending election campaign gatherings as they have ordered their fighters to target campaign rallies throughout the country and prevent the "fake" process of elections.

## [America and the Taliban inch towards a peace deal in Afghanistan](#)

August 7, 2019, The Economist

The US special envoy to Afghanistan Amb. ZalmayKhalilzad on August 5 said that the Taliban and the US had made “excellent progress” towards an agreement that would allow America to bring its troops home. What was left, he said, were “technical details” and “steps and mechanisms” for implementing it.

## **Bangladesh**

### [Dhaka-Delhi home minister-level talks in Delhi Wednesday](#)

August 06, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

They will have broader discussions on security-related matters of mutual interests during the next round of Home Minister-level meeting to be held in New Delhi on August 7, officials said. Issues related to counterterrorism, capacity building and increased cooperation between security agencies, border management, countering illegal activities like fake currency, drug and human trafficking, Rohingya and consular issues are likely to be discussed at the meeting.

### [Bangladesh seeks world engagement for Rohingya repatriation](#)

August 02, 2019, Daily Star

Bangladesh has sought comprehensive engagement of the international community, particularly Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in creating a conducive environment in northern Rakhine state and help repatriation and reintegration of the Rohingya refugees. “If the Rohingya crisis remains unresolved for long, it may seriously undermine the security and stability of the entire region,” Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said at the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok

### [Belt and Road Initiative: Perspective from Bangladesh](#)

August 07, 2019, Daily Star

The Daily Star and Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) jointly organised a roundtable titled “Belt and Road Initiative: Perspective from Bangladesh” on July 24, 2019. Find the summary of the event in the link.

## **Bhutan**

### [Narendra Modi to inaugurate Mangdechhu project on Bhutan visit](#)

August 09, 2019, Live Mint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the 720 mega watt (MW) Mangdechhu hydropower project when he visits Bhutan on 17-18 August to underline the NDA government's emphasis on India's "neighbourhood first" policy, as well as the country's special relationship with the strategically located Himalayan nation.

### [US Deputy of State to visit India, Bhutan.](#)

August 09, 2019, ANI

In Thimpu, Deputy Secretary Sullivan will explore expanding and deepening ties with the government and the people of Bhutan, a press statement from the State Department said.

## **Nepal**

### [Basic strength of India-Nepal relationship is truth and mutual respect: Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwala](#)

August 03, 2019, Himalayan Times

Bharatiya Janata Party's Foreign Affairs Department In-charge, Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwalaspeaking at an interaction programme on "Nepal Bharat Cooperation: Prospects and Challenges in Present Context" in Kathmandu this evening, Dr. Chauthaiwala said bilateral relations can be taken forward based on pragmatism and deepening civilization connect. He said a section of people in Nepal think that India has a kind of design to overwhelm or dominate Nepal's polity.

## **Sri lanka**

### [Sri Lanka PM says creation of Ladakh as a Union Territory is India's internal matter](#)

August 06, 2019, Colombo Page

"The creation of Ladakh and the consequential restructuring are India's internal matters," Wickremesinghe said in a Tweet."I understand Ladakh will finally become a Union Territory. With over 70% Buddhist it will be the first Indian state with a Buddhist majority," the Prime Minister noted.

### [Sri Lanka President commences state visit to Cambodia](#)

August 07, 2019, Colombo Page

President Sirisena's first state visit to Cambodia aims to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. During his stay President Sirisena will have a royal audience with Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia. He will also attend a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.

### [Sri Lanka to host 1st IORA Maritime Safety & Security Working Group meeting](#)

August 06, 2019, Adaderanalk

This Meeting will finalize the Work Plan for two years, advancing the IORA Action Plan (2017-21) with the Member States towards developing a regional agenda.

### [EU offers to help counter violent extremism in Sri Lanka](#)

August 03, 2019, The Tamil Guardian

Federica Mogherini, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, met with Sri Lanka's Foreign Affairs Minister TilakMarapana in Thailand and expressed the EU's solidarity with Sri Lanka following the Easter Sunday bombings. The European Union (EU) expressed its willingness to support Sri Lanka in countering violent extremism and to support improvements in coordinating the country's counter terrorism efforts.

### [11th Annual General Meeting of Indo-Lanka Chamber of Commerce & Industry held in Colombo](#)

August 02, 2019, All India Radio

Chief guest High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Mr. Taranjit Singh Sandhu appreciated the contribution of Indo-Lanka Chamber towards strengthening of India- Sri Lanka bilateral relations. He noted that the cornerstone of India's foreign policy, "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikasaurSabkaVishwas" was not just for India, but approach towards the whole world, and remains most significant in its neighbourhood.

## **Maldives**

### [Maldives' former Vice-President who fled to India brought back](#)

August 05, 2019, The Hindu

A former Vice-President of Maldives who was arrested after fleeing to neighbouring India to avoid questioning over the alleged embezzlement of state

funds has been brought back to Maldives. India refused entry to former Vice-President Ahmed Adeb who arrived by boat at Tuticorin port.

#### [Vice President of the EU Commission arrives in Maldives](#)

August 08, 2019, Avas

Mogherini met with Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and senior officials from the Foreign Ministry. She paid a courtesy call on President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at the President's Office. Mogherini is scheduled to address at the Maldives Parliament.

#### [Maldives backs India's decision on Article 370, bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir](#)

August 07, 2019, India today

The Maldives considers the decision taken by the Government of India regarding Article 370 of the Indian Constitution as an internal matter," the Maldives government said.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China to nurture platform economy growth](#)

August 8, 2019, Xinhua

China will take a series of measures to support the development of the platform economy as the country aims to leverage internet-based technologies and services to boost economic growth.

#### [Commentary: Bottom line on Hong Kong brooks no challenge](#)

August 5, 2019, Xinhua

The bottom line of the "one country, two systems" principle brooks no challenge. Black-clad, masked protestors removed the Chinese national flag from a flagpole in TsimShaTsui of Hong Kong and later flung the flag into the water Saturday, an unforgivable, lawless act that has blatantly offended the national dignity, is an insult to all Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots, and must be severely punished in accordance with law.

#### [China is modernizing PLA to handle new security threats: official](#)

July 31, 2019, Xinhua

China is devoted to modernizing its defense forces to enhance its capacity to handle new security threats, said Wang Yang, military attache at the Chinese Embassy in Kenya late on Tuesday.

#### [China sets to further boost consumption](#)

July 31, 2019, Xinhua

The State Council's executive meeting on Wednesday, chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, identified a number of measures in boosting consumption of goods and in culture and tourism to better meet public needs and further unleash potential in final demand.

#### [Xi stresses focusing on reform to strengthen military](#)

July 31, 2019, Xinhua

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed concentrating efforts to implement the strategy of strengthening the military through reform to advance the cause of building a strong military in the new era.

### [Xi's article on CPC self-reform to be published](#)

July 31, 2019, Xinhua

An article by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on the self-reform of the Party will be published Thursday in the 15th issue of the Qiushi Journal this year.

### [Defense ministry holds reception to celebrate PLA founding anniversary](#)

July 30, 2019, Xinhua

A reception was held by the Ministry of National Defense on Tuesday to celebrate the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which falls on Aug. 1.

### [US Asia missile plan ill-conceived](#)

August 8, 2019, Global Times

The move revealed that the US is trying to reach two goals by quitting the deal - aiming at Russia, since the country failed to comply with the INF treaty in the eyes of the US, and boosting its Indo-Pacific Strategy via placing missiles in the region.

### [Persistent riots in Hong Kong unacceptable](#)

August 7, 2019, Global Times

US Senator Tom Cotton released a statement Tuesday warning Beijing against launching "a violent crackdown" on protesters in Hong Kong. He urged the US government to prepare sanctions against China. Other US lawmakers expressed a similar view.

### [Revocation of INF treaty may fuel unprecedented weapons proliferation](#)

August 7, 2019, Global Times

The US officially withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty on Friday. The demise of the pact will intensify the US-Russia arms race, increase the risks of confrontation in the Eurasian region and undermine international weapons of mass destruction (WMD) non-proliferation and arms control mechanisms.

### [India needs to peacefully resolve conflict with Pakistan](#)

August 7, 2019, Global Times

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday introduced a measure to scrap the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. The decision triggered Pakistan's dissatisfaction and has added much uncertainty to

regional conditions. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has vowed to fight India's Kashmir move.

### [US Indo-Pacific Strategy will lead to chaos](#)

August 6, 2019, Global Times

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Saturday revealed his plan to place ground-based intermediate-range missiles in Asia. It is widely believed that US allies in Asia-Pacific, including Japan, South Korea and Australia, would be the country's first option for missile deployment.

### [New US tariffs cannot Trump China](#)

August 6, 2019, Global Times

US President Donald Trump's rash measure of imposing a new 10 percent tariff on Chinese goods on top of the 25 percent already levied threatens to hurt the US economy. It may also create a major blowout in international financial markets. In addition, this attempt to play hardball with the Chinese side in these all too important discussions could totally poison the atmosphere for amicable talks with China on any issue in the future.

### [India's move on Kashmir to have far-reaching impact](#)

August 8, 2019, Global Times

The Indian government's decision to scrap the special status of Jammu and Kashmir could have disastrous consequences for Kashmir's economy.

### [China's upbeat trade performance proves US taking wrong approach: China Daily editorial](#)

August 8, 2019, China Daily

China's trade data for July came as a surprise for those that were predicting a continual weakening of the country's exports following the escalation of the China-US trade dispute.

### [India should avoid recklessly complicating boundary issues: China Daily editorial](#)

August 8, 2019, China Daily

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party stripped the disputed Kashmir region of its seven-decade autonomy and special status on Monday. But both Pakistan and China have voiced opposition, saying it's illegal, and several other governments have appealed for caution on New Delhi's



part. Because it is not, as the Indian Foreign Ministry claimed, a simple internal affair of India's.

### [Yuan depreciation is market's response](#)

August 9, 2019, China Daily

The yuan weakened beyond 7 per US dollar on Monday for first time since 2008 driven by market forces and escalating Sino-US trade conflicts. But the yuan does not have much room for further depreciation, because the fundamentals of China's economy are good, the yuan's value is basically stable and China's foreign exchange reserves are high.

## Korea

### [Tourism from Japan to Fall Sharply](#)

August 9, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Visitors from Japan, a mainstay of Korea's tourism industry, are expected to go elsewhere amid an escalating spat between the two neighbors.

### [S.Korea, U.S. to Practice Stabilizing N.Korea](#)

August 9, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The current joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises involve simulations of stabilizing North Korea after it has been occupied and conventional warfare has come to an end.

### [Japan OKs 1st Export to Korea Under New Trade Curbs](#)

August 9, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Japan said Thursday it has granted the first permit for a Korea-bound shipment of chemicals for use in high-tech materials under Tokyo's new export requirement that has increased tensions with Seoul.

### [N.Korea Shows off New Missile Technology](#)

August 8, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Alongside images of a new Iskander-class short-range KN-23 missile, the North's official Korean Central News Agency claimed, "The missile flew over the capital area and the central inland region and hit a target island in the East Sea with pinpoint accuracy."

### [N.Korea Threatens to Take 'New Path'](#)

August 7, 2019, The chosun Ilbo

North Korea fired another two projectiles into the East Sea on Tuesday that are presumed to be short-range ballistic missiles and slammed ongoing U.S.-South Korea military drills.

### [US expert agrees with South Korea's description of North Korean rockets as SRBMs](#)

August 7, 2019, The Korea Times

The guided rockets that North Korea claimed to have fired in recent weeks are no different from missiles, a U.S. expert said Tuesday, endorsing South Korea's assessment that what the communist nation fired were short-range ballistic missiles.

### [US scraps visa waiver for South Koreans with record of North Korea visit](#)

August 6, 2019, The Korea Times

The United States is no longer waiving visas for South Koreans and other foreign nationals with records of a visit to North Korea since March 2011, Seoul's foreign ministry said.

## **Japan**

### [Nagasaki observes 74th anniversary of A-bombing](#)

August 9, 2019, Japan Today

Nagasaki marked the 74th anniversary Friday of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city in World War II, with Mayor Tomihisa Taue calling at the annual memorial ceremony on the Japanese government to immediately sign a U.N. treaty banning nuclear weapons.

### [Japan's economy grows faster than expected on new imperial era holidays](#)

August 9, 2019, Japan Today

Japan's economy grew at a faster-than-expected clip in the second quarter, official data showed on Friday, helped by celebrations to usher in a new imperial era.

### [Japan may send ships to patrol off Yemen instead of Strait of Hormuz](#)

August 9, 2019, Japan Today

Japan may send vessels to patrol off Yemen rather than joining a U.S.-led coalition to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions with Iran, government sources said.

### [Pentagon chief urges Japan to consider joining Strait of Hormuz coalition; raps China](#)

August 7, 2019, Japan Today

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper has urged Japan to consider taking part in a coalition to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz as Washington struggles to garner support for its efforts to counter Iranian activities in the strategically key sea lane.

### [U.S. says Japan, S Korea 'soul searching' needed](#)

August 9, 2019, Japan Today

A senior U.S. official says that Japan and South Korea need to do some "soul searching" about political decisions that have damaged relations between the two U.S. allies in recent months and called for calm words from their leaders.

### [Trade war may escalate to currency war, hurting Japan](#)

August 8, 2019, Japan Today

The tit-for-tat U.S.-China tariff battle is likely to escalate to a currency war, as many financial market participants have begun to believe Beijing may have started to push down the country's currency intentionally to boost exports.

### [Japan says S Korea export curb not retaliation for court rulings](#)

August 8, 2019, Japan Today

Japan's government spokesman says his country's downgrading of South Korea's trade status is not intended as retaliation for disputes over court rulings ordering Japanese companies to pay compensation for their treatment of Korean laborers during World War II.

### [As loved ones in China disappear amid crackdown, Uighurs in Japan speak out](#)

August 8, 2019, The Japan Times

As the global outcry over China's crackdown on the Uighurs grows, members of the same ethnic minority in Japan are calling for help out of desperation to discover what has happened to their families back home.

## Southeast Asia

### [US accuses China of 'predatory economics', destabilising Indo-Pacific](#)

August 4, 2019, Business Standard

China is destabilising the Indo-Pacific, U.S. Defence Secretary Mark Esper said on Sunday, charging Beijing with predatory economics, intellectual property theft and "weaponising the global commons"

### [Indo-Pacific security should also be a European affair](#)

August 8, 2019, The Strategist

The region is of critical strategic significance to the EU, and yet the report is devoid of any mention of the EU or of European undertakings in the Indo-Pacific.

### [Australia and ASEAN Push Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking](#)

August 7, 2019, The Diplomat

Last week in Thailand at the ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne launched a new collaboration with ASEAN to attempt to counter human trafficking throughout Southeast Asia. The ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Initiative is a 10-year \$54 million investment that is intended to enhance the criminal justice systems of ASEAN countries in their response to human trafficking, an issue that remains persistent in the region. The investment continues Canberra's commitment to practical cooperation with ASEAN countries combined with a focus on values it considers important.

### [Foreign minister urged unity for future sustainable growth on ASEAN's 52nd anniversary](#)

August 9, 2019, Vietnam News

Over the past five decades, member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have put forward huge efforts to realise the spirit of the 1967 Bangkok Declaration: "For a Southeast Asian region of peace, freedom and prosperity".

### [Can Indonesia Reclaim Its Dominance of Southeast Asian Strategic Policymaking?](#)

August 6, 2019, CFR

For the latter half of the twentieth century, after the United Nations officially recognized Indonesian independence in 1949, Indonesia dominated regional politics in Southeast Asia.

### [EU should expand maritime activity in Southeast Asia as China looms](#)

August 9, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

On August 5, there was a sign of blossoming international relations even as global hostilities in trade, currency and diplomacy intensified: the EU and Vietnam signed a historic defense agreement -- the first in Southeast Asia.

### [Beware Myanmar's New Information War](#)

August 8, 2019, The Diplomat

An internet blackout imposed by Myanmar's government in parts of conflict-ridden Rakhine and Chin states has now been in place for nearly two months. It's raising deep concerns about the safety of civilians in a region where researchers have already documented gross human rights violations by the military. The measure also harks back to the tight control of information under junta rule and is the latest in a long line of attacks on free speech.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Kyrgyz Ex-President 'Taken Into Custody' As Troops Storm Compound](#)

August 9, 2019, Central Asia News

Kyrgyz special police forces have stormed the residential compound of Almazbek Atambaev and reportedly arrested him following a night of violent clashes with his supporters that left one officer dead and dozens injured. The arrest comes after an earlier failed attempt to apprehend the 62-year-old, who faces five counts of criminally abusing his office when he was Kyrgyzstan's president from 2011 to 2017.

#### [Kazakhstan halts introduction of internet surveillance system](#)

August 7, 2019, Reuters

Kazakhstan has halted the implementation of an internet surveillance system criticized by lawyers as illegal, with the government describing its initial rollout as a test. State security officials said its goal was to protect Kazakh users from "hacker attacks, online fraud and other kinds of cyber threats."

#### [Tajikistan: Russia hinders independent Tajik news website](#)

August 5, 2019, Eurasianet

Media regulators in Russia have included one of Tajikistan's last remaining sources of independent news into its registry of extremist websites, prompting suspicions that Moscow is assisting Dushanbe in extinguishing the dying embers of a free Tajik press.

#### [Medvedev vows Russia will continue providing support to Kyrgyzstan](#)

August 9, 2019, Tass

Russia plans to continue providing support and aid to Kyrgyzstan, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said at a meeting with Kyrgyzstan's President Sooronbay Jeenbekov.

### [Russia may resume cooperation with Kyrgyzstan on hydroelectric power plants – official](#)

August 9, 2019, Tass

Russia may resume cooperation with Kyrgyzstan on hydroelectric power plants if Russia's RusHydro company receives compensations, First Deputy Chief of the Russian Government Staff Sergey Prikhodko said.

### [U.S., European Countries Call On Russia To Withdraw From Georgian Territory](#)

August 9, 2019, RFE/RL

The United States and five European countries have marked the 11th anniversary of the five-day war between Russia and Georgia and urged Moscow to withdraw its military forces to the positions held before hostilities broke out. In a joint statement issued on August 8, the UN ambassadors of the United States, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Poland, and Britain expressed support for Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

### [UAE calls for restraint by India, Pakistan; seeks dialogue over Kashmir](#)

August 8, 2019, Khaleej Times

The UAE has reacted to the developments in the sub-continent, calling for restraint over the Kashmir dispute. The UAE has said that it is monitoring with concern the developments in Jammu and Kashmir, and is calling for all parties in the conflict to exercise restraint. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, stressed "the need to use dialogue for maintaining peace, security and stability in the region."

### [Israel approves 2,300 new homes for settlers in West Bank: NGO](#)

August 6, 2019, Al Jazeera

Israel has advanced plans for more than 2,300 illegal settlement homes in the occupied West Bank, the latest in a surge of such approvals since US President Donald Trump took office. Israel's Higher Planning Committee issued the approvals while meeting over the past couple of days. The 2,304 housing units are at various stages in the approval process.

### [Bahrain urges Iran to stop maritime navigation threats](#)

August 8, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Bahrain urged Iran in a statement "to stop issuing threats and committing any acts that may cause tensions" in the Arabian Gulf and the region. The statement by Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Ministry was issued in response to the statements of the

Iranian foreign affairs ministry, who condemned Bahrain's hosting of an international military gathering that discussed the current situation in the region.

### [Turkey expresses concern over India's Kashmir move](#)

August 6, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Turkey expressed concern that India's unilateral decision to revoke Article 370 of the Constitution which grants special status to the disputed Kashmir valley is likely to increase the prevailing tensions. The Turkish Foreign Ministry expressed wish in a written statement that the problem would be resolved within the framework of the relevant UN resolutions, through dialogue and by considering the legitimate interests of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and India.

### [Iraq close to pipeline deal with BP and Eni, rather than Exxon - sources](#)

August 8, 2019, Reuters

Iraq is close to reaching a deal with oil majors BP and Eni for an export pipeline project that was initially planned as part of a mega-deal with U.S. energy giant ExxonMobil, according to five senior Iraqi oil officials. Under the proposed \$400 million agreement, British company BP (BP.L) and Italy's Eni ENI.NI would run the scheme to build two seabed oil pipelines for Iraq's southern exports through the Gulf.

### [Kuwait's customs installs at border 'monitoring devices'](#)

August 9, 2019, Arab Times

Director General of Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) Jamal Al-Jalawi said radioactive monitoring devices, to be installed at border crossings, would help prevent entry of banned materials into the country. These devices enhance protection of the country from radioactive and nuclear materials, as well as early detection of any radioactive threat.

### [Bahraini activist feared becoming a 'second Khashoggi' after fracas at London embassy](#)

August 8, 2019, Middle East Eye

A Bahraini activist who scaled the country's embassy in London has said he feared becoming a "second Khashoggi" after allegedly being attacked by embassy staff. Moosa Mohammed climbed to the top of the Bahraini embassy on 26 July to protest the executions of Bahrainis Ali al-Arab and Ahmad al-Malali, who were executed following what rights groups have said were confessions extracted through torture.



### [At least one killed in renewed clashes in Yemen's Aden](#)

August 8, 2019, Middle East Eye

At least one person was killed in Aden in renewed clashes between southern separatists and presidential guards, highlighting divisions within local forces battling the country's Houthi rebels. The clashes in the southern Yemeni city come one day after fighting killed at least two.

### [Turkey will not let Syria safe zone agreement be delayed: foreign minister](#)

August 8, 2019, Reuters

Turkey will not let plans for safe zone in northeast Syria to stall over negotiations with the US, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said after Washington and Ankara announced plans for a joint headquarters. NATO allies have been discussing a safe zone near the Turkish frontier that would be free of fighters and heavy weapons, but Turkey wants it to extend more than twice as far into Syria as the US has proposed.

### [Syrian government gains ground from rebels in northwest](#)

August 8, 2019, Reuters

Syrian government forces seized territory from insurgents in northwestern Syria, state media and a war monitor said, building on advances since the military declared an end to a brief ceasefire earlier this week. The Russian-backed army operations resumed on Monday after the government accused Turkey of not abiding by commitments in the truce.

## United States

### [United States becomes latest country to issue travel advisory over Hong Kong protests](#)

August 8, 2019, CNN

The United States has become the latest country to issue a travel warning over Hong Kong's ongoing protests, which have at times turned violent and seen parts of the city brought to a standstill.

### [There has been no policy change on Kashmir, says United States](#)

August 9, 2019, The Tribune

The United States on Friday said there is no change in its policy on Kashmir and called on India and Pakistan to maintain calm and restraint.

### [What's at Risk if the U.S. Stumbles Into a Currency War](#)

August 7, 2019, The New York Times

When the United States declared China a currency manipulator on Monday, long-building trade tensions between the world's two largest economies spread to the combustible realm of currencies – with potentially huge consequences for the global financial system should the escalation continue.

### [US fighter jets intercept Russian bombers near Alaska](#)

August 8, 2019, CNN

US and Canadian fighter jets intercepted two Russian long-range bombers off the coast of Alaska Thursday, according to the North American Aerospace Defense Command, which released images of the encounter.

### [U.S. Sanctions Turn Iran's Oil Industry Into Spy vs. Spy](#)

August 8, 2019, The New York Times

Since President Trump imposed sanctions on Iranian oil sales last year, information on those sales has become a prized geopolitical weapon – coveted by Western intelligence agencies and top secret for Iran. And the business of selling Iranian oil, once a safe and lucrative enterprise for the well connected, has been transformed into a high-stakes global game of espionage and counterespionage.

### [European stocks to outperform the US for the rest of 2019, strategist says](#)

August 8, 2019, CNBC

Both European and U.S. equities have experienced a sell-off in recent days on the back of growing tensions between the United States and China. The ongoing trade war is weighing on global growth and some traders don't expect any sudden uptick in economic activity.

### [U.S. and Turkey Avert Showdown Over Syria](#)

August 8, 2019, Foreign Policy

The United States and Turkey have reached an agreement to establish a safe zone in northeastern Syria, narrowly preventing an impending Turkish military offensive against U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in the war-racked country that would have potentially pitted two NATO allies' forces against each other.

### [J-K briefing: Foreign minister S Jaishankar meets US special envoy](#)

August 7, 2019, Hindustan Times

United States special envoy for Afghan reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad was on Tuesday briefed by Indian interlocutors on New Delhi's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, people familiar with developments said.

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

August 1, 2019

India's Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar is set to meet US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in Bangkok amid trade war tensions and the U.K's looming Brexit deadline.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [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 infopace.

#### [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 ar Europe and Russia

#### [Hindu Nationalists Head Off a Cliff in Kashmir](#)

August 6, 2019, Bloomberg

Long on a roll, right-wing nationalists finally seem to be overreaching. Evidence came from two different sources this week: India and Britain.

### [Italy's Matteo Salvini calls for fresh elections as coalition fractures](#)

August 9, 2019, The Guardian

Matteo Salvini, Italy's deputy prime minister and the leader of the far-right League party, has called for a snap election, urging the prime minister to reconvene parliament to confirm that the coalition government is no longer viable.

### [German recession fears after big decline in industrial production](#)

August 8, 2019, The Guardian

German industrial production has suffered its biggest annual decline in nine years after the escalating trade war between the US and China took its toll on exports.

### [Raab says Brexit will bring 'huge series of upsides' for UK trade](#)

August 6, 2019, The Guardian

Brexit will bring "a huge series of upsides" for the UK in international trade, Dominic Raab has promised at the start of a symbolically important trip to North America, during which he will press the White House about the need for a rapid deal.

### [Royal Navy ship shadows Russian vessel through Channel](#)

August 7, 2019, The Guardian

A Royal Navy patrol ship has been deployed to shadow a Russian ship through the Channel. Portsmouth-based HMS Forth had just returned to UK waters from her first foreign port visit when she was scrambled to monitor the Russian patrol ship Vasily Bykov.

### [Pakistan v India: Why India's scrapping of Article 370 could spark devastating Kashmir war](#)

August 5, 2019, Express

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi rushed through a presidential decree that abolished a crucial article of the nation's constitution concerning the Kashmir region, which has been at the centre of tensions between Pakistan and India since partition in 1947. However, Mr Modi's shock move could increase the chance of conflict with Pakistan.

### [Trump criticizes French president for sending Iran 'mixed signals'](#)

August 9, 2019, Yahoo News

President Donald Trump on Thursday accused his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron of getting in the way of US policy and sending "mixed signals" to Iran.

### [Inside Europe: A loophole in the EU's sanctions against Russia](#)

August 9, 2019, DW

Officials in several Central European countries have been left red-faced amid reports that Russia had flown a shipment of 10 armoured vehicles across the EU in defiance of EU sanctions. The shipment from Kaliningrad to Serbia was flown by a civilian air cargo firm, and passed through the airspace of 3 EU member states.

### [Germany: Bundeswehr grounds 'Tiger' helicopters due to technical faults](#)

August 7, 2019, DW

The German military has suspended all flights involving the aircraft. The grounding comes on the heels of two fatal incidents involving faulty German military aircraft in the past two months.

### [No deal Brexit CRISIS: Terrified Ireland pleads for EU emergency aid ahead of October 31](#)

August 8, 2019, Express

IRELAND will require an European Union bailout to fend off an economic shock caused by a no-deal Brexit, the country's financial services minister has pleaded.

## **Russia**

### [Russian Military Unveils Stealth Drone's Maiden Flight](#)

August 8, 2019, The Moscow Times

A new Russian military drone equipped with stealth technologies has taken flight for the first time, according to footage published by Russia's Defense Ministry.

### [Russia regrets cancellation of talks between Venezuelan government, opposition](#)

August 9, 2019, Tass

Moscow regrets that the planned round of negotiations between Venezuela's government and the opposition in Barbados has been cancelled, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a commentary.

### [Medvedev hopes that situation in Kyrgyzstan will remain within legal framework](#)

August 9, 2019, Tass

Detention of former Kyrgyz president Almazbek Atambayev is an internal affairs of the Central Asian country but Moscow is following the situation and hopes it will develop in the framework of the law, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry

Medvedev said after arriving to Kyrgyzstan to take part in the meeting of heads of government of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states.

#### [Russia develops ties with Georgia despite opposition from the West – diplomat](#)

August 9, 2019, Tass

Russia's acting envoy to the UN Dmitry Polyansky said that "we are trying our best to develop bilateral cooperation, trade, ties between people".

#### [Putin Can't Afford to Speed Up Russia's Economy](#)

August 7, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Russian president would rather sit on his hands than risk disturbing the fragile political balance that ensures his power.

#### [Russian PM expects EAEU countries to reach final agreements on tariffs](#)

August 9, 2019, Tass

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev expects members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to reach final agreements on tariffs at Friday's meeting of the EAEU Intergovernmental Council in Kyrgyzstan.

rested 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

### Africa

#### [Malawi's constitutional court begins hearing a presidential election petition](#)

August 8, 2019, All Africa

Constitutional Court on Thursday (August 8) in Malawi started hearing a presidential election petition challenging the re-election earlier this year of Peter Arthur Mutharika.

#### [Uganda, Rwanda, DR Congo must fight Ebola together](#)

August 7, 2019, Observer

Ebola has exacted a heavy death toll on Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for a long time.

#### [Rwanda, Congo discourage border crossing](#)

August 9, 2019, The Philadelphia Tribune

Rwanda and Congo are discouraging travel across their border to prevent further spread of the highly contagious Ebola virus.

#### [Push in US to stop Kenya's bid for UN sanctions on Shabaab](#)

August 9, 2019, Daily Nation

The group of former top US State Department officials, joined humanitarian figures on Wednesday in urging the United States to block Kenya's bid at the UN Security Council.

#### [Millions in Zimbabwe facing starvation after severe droughts, UN food agency says](#)

August 7, 2019, CNN

More than two million people in Zimbabwe are facing starvation after a severe drought that affected food harvests, the World Food Programme said in a report. g starvation after severe droughts, UN food agency says.

#### [South Africa's economy is in a perilous state and is running out of time to get fixed](#)

August 7, 2019, Quartz Africa

South Africa's public finances are in a perilous state. There are four main reasons for this. First, economic growth is low or non-existent. Second, tax revenue collection is repeatedly below forecasts. Third, debt levels have risen rapidly and are now at their highest levels in the post-apartheid era. Fourth, the poor



performance of state-owned enterprises is necessitating large-scale government support.

## Latin America

### [In Mexico, thousands more names added to border wait lists](#)

August 9, 2019, AP News

The Cameroonian men who share 10 mattresses on the floor of a third-floor apartment above a barber shop walk every morning to the busiest U.S. border crossing with Mexico, hoping against all odds that it will be their lucky day to claim asylum in the United States. Their unlikely bet is that a sympathetic Mexican official will somehow find a spot for them.

### [US border detentions plunge in July after Mexico deal](#)

August 9, 2019, Yahoo News

US southern border detentions plunged for the second straight month in July after a deal with Mexico to block Central American migrants, the Department of Homeland Security announced

### [Brazil's Bolsonaro extols convicted torturer as a 'national hero'](#)

August 9, 2019, Reuters

Brazilian far-right President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday that an Army officer who was convicted of torture during the country's 1964-1985 military dictatorship was a "national hero."

### [Colombia to grant citizenship to children of Venezuelan parents](#)

August 6, 2019, Al Jazeera

Colombia has said it will grant citizenship to more than 24,000 children born in the country to parents from crisis-hit Venezuela since 2015, as well as to those who will be born over the next two years, in a move aimed at preventing them from being stateless.

### [Venezuela's Maduro halts talks with opposition after US sanctions](#)

August 8, 2019, Al Jazeera

Negotiations scheduled in Barbados on Thursday and Friday shelved as Caracas blames US president for latest impasse.

[US sanctions on Venezuela likely to add to people's woes](#)

August 7, 2019, Al Jazeera

In the past, the US imposed sanctions on Venezuelan individuals linked to Maduro's government and on PDVSA, Venezuela's state oil company, accusing them of serious human rights abuses, drug trafficking and corruption.



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