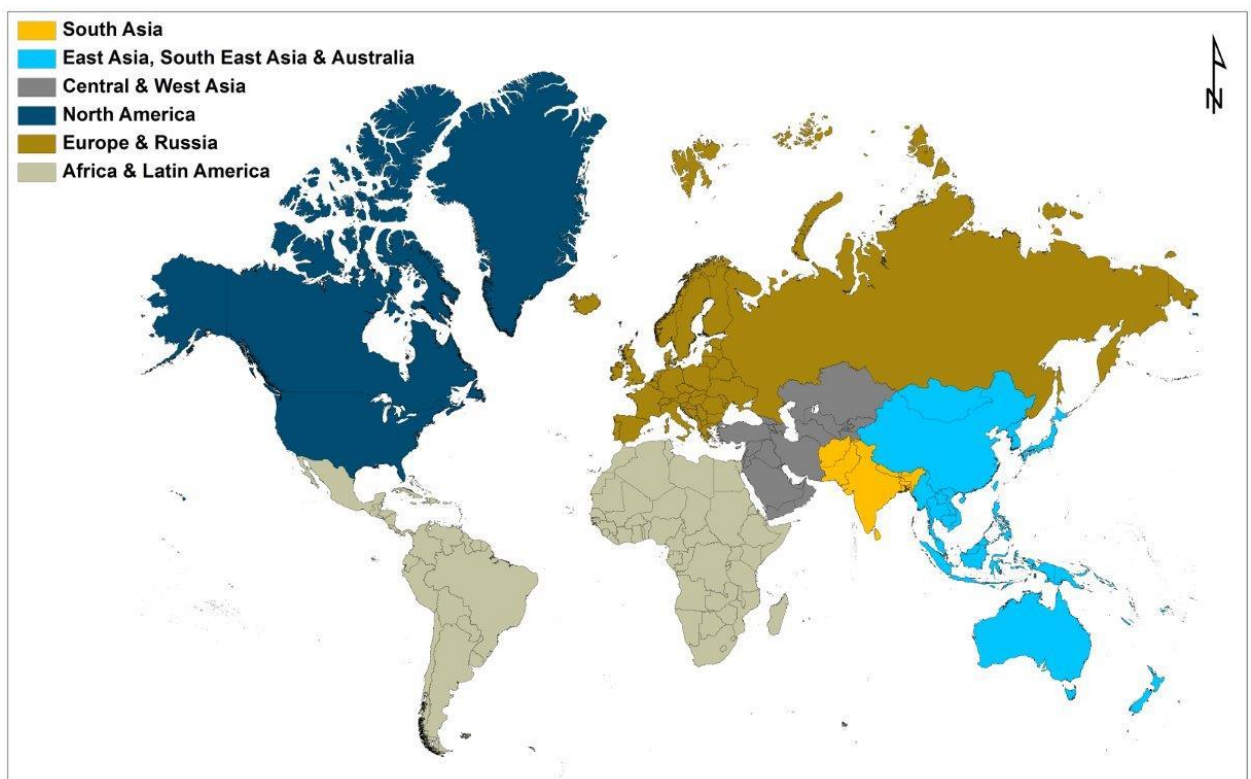




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Volume 3, Issue 33

ABOUT US

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

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

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Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at angana@dpg.org.in.

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South Asia

India

[PM Narendra Modi's mega announcement: India will now have Chief of Defence Staff](#)

August 15, 2019, India today

PM Narendra Modi Independence Day speech: The three armed forces of India will now have a post of Chief of Defence Staff that will integrate the operations of the three forces-the Army, Navy and Air Force.

[Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces major changes during Independence Day speech](#)

August 15, 2019, Gulf News

Modi calls for population control and announces creation of Chief of Defence Staff post.

[Face reality, stay out of our internal matters: India tells Pakistan on Article 370 move](#)

August 9, 2019, India today

Raveesh Kumar went on to say that Pakistan's move shows signs of nervousness as they feel that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will now "nullify" its stand on Kashmir.

[J&K: Army kills 3 Pak soldiers in retaliatory fire, denies claims on Indian casualties](#)

August 15, 2019, India today

Calling as "fictitious", the Indian Army also denied the Pakistan military's claim of killing five Indian soldiers during a cross-border firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K.

[India cancels Samjhauta Link Express from Delhi to Atari](#)

August 11, 2019, Economic Times

"Consequent to Pakistan's decision to cancel Samjhauta Express running between Lahore and Atari... The link express train running between Delhi and Atari also stands cancelled," Northern Railway CPRO Deepak Kumar said.

[Future of India-China ties depends on mutual sensitivity to each other's core concerns: S Jaishankar](#)

August 12, 2019, Economic Times

The future of the India-China relationship will depend on "mutual sensitivity" to each other's core concerns, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday as he underlined the need to "exploit" the positive outcomes of the Wuhan Summit to take bilateral ties to a new level and build strong public support in both societies.

[Boundary talks soon, China looking at an 'early harvest'](#)

August 14, 2019, The Times of India

India and China will hold the next round of boundary talks - the first since the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir and defanging of Article 370 -between the two representatives , NSA AAjit Doval and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, in the coming weeks. They would also be taking place before the informal summit between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in October.

[China promises to address India's concern over ballooning trade deficit](#)

August 12, 2019, Economic Times

India has repeatedly voiced concern over the trade imbalance which last year crossed a whopping USD 57.86 billion over USD 95.5 billion total bilateral trade.

[Global economy may face recession in 9 months, but not India: Morgan Stanley](#)

August 12, 2019, Live Mint

Escalation in trade tension between the two largest economies – US and China – is the chief factor nudging the world economy towards a recession.

[HAL pitches for 4 more squadrons of Su-30MKI](#)

August 14, 2019, Economic Times

State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has pitched for an order to manufacture four additional squadrons of the Su-30 MKI jets to quickly meet gaps in fighter squadron strength but the air force seems to be only keen on ordering replacements for aircraft that have been lost in accidents.

[India stressing on increasing export of defence equipment to friendly countries: Defence ministry official](#)

August 10, 2019, India today

The country is already exporting defence equipment to various friendly nations, including the US and those in the Middle-East, South Asia and Africa.

[India's defence industry production was worth Rs 80,000 cr last year: Rajnath Singh](#)

August 10, 2019, DNA India

Addressing CEOs of top Defence and Aerospace companies at a roundtable with the theme 'Make in India in Defence Industry', Singh said defence companies have huge opportunities in contributing to the domestic market.

Pakistan

[CPEC Authority okayed for fast tracking projects](#)

August 9, 2019, The News

The National Development Council (NDC) of Pakistan approved the constitution of CPEC Authority for ensuring fast track implementation of CPEC projects.

[Pakistan closes Samjhauta Express, Kartarpur project continues](#)

August 9, 2019, The News

Pakistan Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed announced that Pakistan had closed the Samjhauta Express train service with India. Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi also clarified that Pakistan's commitment to build Kartarpur Corridor will continue unaffected by recent lows in bilateral relations with India.

[Pakistan deploying fighter jets to Skardu near Ladakh, India watching closely](#)

August 13, 2019, Economic Times

The Indian intelligence agencies along with the Air Force and Army are keeping a close watch on the movement of the Pakistani Air Force as they can see almost the entire length and breadth of Pakistan.

[China supports Pakistan on Kashmir](#)

August 10, 2019, The News

China said the Kashmir issue was a dispute left from the colonial history and it should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreement, a statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry said after a meeting between Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

[Discussion on Kashmir in UNSC will be landmark diplomatic achievement: FM Qureshi](#)

August 15, 2019, The Nation

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says discussion on Kashmir in the United Nations Security Council after four decades will be a landmark diplomatic achievement.

[US cuts Pakistan's aid by \\$440 million](#)

August 16, 2019, The Express Tribune

The United States has further cut Pakistan's aid by \$440 million, bringing down its commitments under Kerry Lugar Berman Act to just \$4.1 billion, which is slightly over half of the total amount that Washington had promised to give nine years ago.

Afghanistan

[Taliban Say Afghan Peace Talks With U.S. 'Long and Useful'](#)

August 12, 2019, RFERL

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the negotiations in the Qatari capital, Doha, ended on August 12, adding, "It was long and useful. Both sides decided to consult with their leaders/seniors for the next steps."

[Kashmir issue could affect Afghan peace talks, says Pakistan's Ambassador to U.S.](#)

August 13, 2019, Khaama Press

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed Khan has said the issue in Kashmir could affect the Afghan peace talks. Ambassador Khan said the redeployment of troops from the bordering regions with Afghanistan to Kashmir frontier could complicate peace talks with the Taliban.

[No changes in U.S. forces operations in Afghanistan: U.S. Military](#)

August 13, 2019, Khaama Press

The U.S. military in Afghanistan has rejected the reports suggesting that the U.S. forces have drawn back operations against the militant groups in the country.

[Special Forces arrest Khalifa Daud, Haqqani network's key member in Kabul](#)

August 14, 2019, Khaama Press

The Afghan Special Forces arrested a key Haqqani terrorist network member during an operation in Kabul city. The detained Haqqani network member has been identified as Sardar Mohammad alias Khalifa Daud. He was responsible for

facilitating the supply of weapons, munitions and military kits to Taliban and other militants.

[Ghani orders release of ex-CEO Of Kabul Bank](#)

August 14, 2019, Tolo News

President Ashraf Ghani has ordered the release of Khalilullah Frozi, the ex-CEO of Kabul Bank, who is accused of having a key role in the collapse of the bank that once Afghanistan's largest financial institution.

[Pentagon Report Finds Shortcomings in Afghan Air Force](#)

August 14, 2019, Tolo News

A new report by the Pentagon's Office of Inspector General has found that the Afghan ground controllers trained by the US and NATO cannot appropriately direct airdrops and lack the ability to properly coordinate attack missions by the Afghan Air Force (AAF) and the issue has increased the risk of civilian casualties and fratricide.

Bangladesh

[Myanmar, Bangladesh agree fresh bid to start Rohingya repatriation next week: Reuters](#)

August 15, 2019, Bd News

Myanmar and Bangladesh have agreed to start a fresh attempt next week to repatriate thousands of Rohingya Muslims who fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

[India-Bangladesh Home Ministers' Meet: Can We Save Bilateral Ties?](#)

August 10, 2019, The Quint

The 7th round of the Home Minister-level confabulation, with respective delegations, took place in New Delhi on 7 August, co-chaired by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, and his Bangladeshi counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan.

[RAB chief warns against trouble over Kashmir issue](#)

August 10, 2019, New Age Bd

'Kashmir issue is internal issue of India. We do not have comment on it. And the number of ultra-Islamists is a few and they are under round the clock our surveillance,' Benazir told reporters at the RAB media centre in reply whether Kashmir issue would fuel Bangladeshi extremism.

Bhutan

[PM Modi to visit Bhutan on August 17-18; hydropower, RuPay rollout, defence ties high on agenda](#)

August 10, 2019, India today

Modi, during his second visit to the country after his 2014 trip, will call on Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and hold delegation-level talks with his counterpart Lotay Tshering.

[Top US diplomat visits Bhutan, calls for rule-based order in Indo-Pacific region](#)

August 14, 2019, Economic Times

The deputy secretary of state, who visited Bhutan's capital Thimphu from August 12 to 13, is the highest-ranking American diplomat in two decades to visit this nascent Himalayan democracy.

Nepal

[Nepal-India Relations Interconnected And Interdependent: Minister Gyawali](#)

August 14, 2019, Nepal 24 Hours

In his address to an interaction program organised here today on the eve of India's 73rd Independence Day at the local Reports Club, he said prosperous India could be an opportunity for Nepal as well.

[Nepal Army is amending laws so it can get into commercial activities](#)

August 10, 2019, Eleven Myanmar

Eyeing projects with high returns, the Army wants to invest the billions it has in its welfare fund in hydropower projects.

[China provides security gears to Rasuwa police](#)

August 15, 2019, Khabarhub

Arjun Bhandari, Chief District Officer of Rasuwa, said various assistance materials such as helmet cap, torch, binocular, night vision camera and shield were provided to Nepal Police and Armed Police Force.

Sri Lanka

[Kashmir episode further dims chances of devolution of power to Sri Lankan Tamils](#)

August 12, 2019, LankaWeb

What is happening in India now in regard to federalism and devolution of power to Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) region could further dims prospects of Sri Lankan Tamils' getting power devolution beyond what they have been given de facto under the 13th Amendment of the Sri Lankan constitution.

[Sri Lanka keen to resume ferry service with India: Minister](#)

August 14, 2019, India today

There was a ferry service between the tip of South India and to the northern part of Sri Lanka. But, the service was abandoned.

[Sri Lanka wartime defence chief Gotabaya Rajapaksa launches presidential bid](#)

August 11, 2019, Reuters

Sri Lanka's main opposition party named a hardline former defence chief as its presidential candidate on Sunday, seeking to capitalise on public clamour for a decisive leader after deadly Easter day bombings.

[Sri Lankans Up in Arms Over US Military Pacts](#)

August 15, 2019, The Diplomat

A proposed Status of Forces Agreement with the the US is stirring up political controversy in Sri Lanka.

[National security strategy, a top priority for Sri Lanka](#)

August 16, 2019, Daily Ft

At its most fundamental level, national interest is generic and easy to define: all states seek to preserve their political autonomy and their territorial integrity, which are described as national interests.

[Pakistan assures will extend unconditional support to Sri Lanka](#)

August 14, 2019, Colombo Gazette

Pakistan says it has always extended unconditional support to Sri Lanka at all fora and continues to do so, especially with regard to Sri Lanka's national security and territorial integrity.

[First Meeting of IORA Maritime Safety, Security Working Group Held in Colombo](#)

August 12, 2019, Tasnim News

The first meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Maritime Safety and Security Working Group was held in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo, with an Iranian representative in attendance.

Maldives

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

August 14, 2018, Africa News

The choice of the Maldives came at the end of the 10th edition of the games (JIOI Maurice 2019) which took place in Mauritius between, July 19 – 28, 2019. The first edition took place in 1979 and it takes place every 4 years. It pools together island nations and territories of Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Mayotte, Réunion and the Maldives.

East & South East Asia

China

[China urges Japan to honor its commitment, take actions to win Asian neighbors' trust](#)

August 15, 2019, Xinhua

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Japan

[Japan surpasses China as largest non-U.S. holder of Treasuries --data](#)

August 16, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan overtook China as the largest non-U.S. holder of Treasuries in June, after raising its holdings to a nearly three-year high, according to data released by U.S. Treasury department Korea.

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August 15, 2019, The Japan Times

Since July 25 alone, North Korea has test-fired three new short-range ballistic missile systems, indicating that it has been busy boosting its subregional capabilities since leader Kim Jong Un met with U.S. President Donald Trump at the Korean demilitarized zone in June.

[South Korea to remove Japan from preferred trade list](#)

August 12, 2019, Japan Today

South Korea said that it has decided to remove Japan from a list of nations receiving preferential treatment in trade in what was seen as a tit-for-tat move following Tokyo's recent decision to downgrade Seoul's trade status amid a diplomatic row.

[South Korea's Moon Jae-in offers to 'join hands' with Japan if Tokyo chooses dialogue](#)

August 15, 2019, The Japan Times

South Korean President Moon Jae-in struck a conciliatory tone towards Japan on Thursday, offering to "join hands" if Tokyo chooses dialogue as relations between the two countries dip to fresh lows.

[Japan-S Korea rift may change regional economic, security structures](#)

August 16, 2019, Japan Today

Escalating tensions between Japan and South Korea, both key U.S. allies in East Asia, could change long-standing economic and security structures in the region across the board, possibly benefiting China and North Korea, according to foreign affairs experts.

[Caught in the trade war: Resurgent yen poses risk for Japan Inc](#)

August 12, 2019, Japan Today

Japan Inc is caught in the crossfire of the trade war between the United States and China, as a resurgent yen threatens to sap profits and complicate the economic outlook.

[Japan, African nations to voice concern over excessive debt at TICAD](#)

August 16, 2019, Japan Today

Japan plans to include "concern" over excessive debt in the declaration for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development later this month, government sources said, a move aimed at calling out China's lending practices in the region.

Korea

[Trump turns USFK into 'transactional' army](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) is under attack not by enemy but by its own commander-in-chief, President Donald Trump. Trump is prioritizing the size of the bill host Korea pays toward upkeep and is indulging himself in an unwarranted bromance with the head of the enemy.

[North Korea fires two unidentified projectiles into East Sea: JCS](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea fired two unidentified short-range projectiles into the East Sea on Friday, South Korea's military said, the sixth such launch in about three weeks.

[Moon Strikes Conciliatory Note Toward Japan](#)

August 16, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

President Moon Jae-in struck a conciliatory tone toward Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday. "We will gladly join hands if Japan takes the path of

dialogue and cooperation," Moon said in a speech marking the 74th anniversary of Korea's independence from Japan.

[North Korea says it has no intention to talk with South Korea](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea said Friday that Pyongyang has no intention to talk with South Korea again, calling it a "senseless" hope to expect talks to be resumed when Seoul's joint military exercise with the United States is over.

[Seoul to toughen inspections of waste imports from Japan](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea will strengthen its environmental and health safety inspections for battery, tire and plastic waste imported from Japan, the government said .

[N.Korea Promotes Scores of Military Scientists](#)

August 14, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has promoted 103 military scientists for contributing to weapons development including a new multi-rocket launcher and short-range ballistic missile.

Southeast Asia

[Indonesia president formally proposes relocating capital to Borneo](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Friday formally proposed to parliament a plan to move the country's capital from Jakarta, on the crowded island of Java, to Kalimantan on the island of Borneo.

[US diplomat calls for rule-based order in Indo Pacific region after Bhutan visit](#)

August 14, 2019, The Asian Age

Deputy Secretary of State John J Sullivan made a trip to Bhutan this week, during which the US underscored the importance of protecting and enhancing a rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

[US Indo-Pacific strategy divisive in nature](#)

August 14, 2019, China Daily

Over the past decade, the US has deepened cooperation with its military allies and moved closer to the goal of deploying about 60 percent of its navy in the Asia-Pacific as part of its "Asia rebalance" strategy, the brain-child of former US president Barack Obama.

[Why ASEAN's Indo-Pacific outlook matters](#)

August 12, 2019, The Strategist

The outlook then got an airing at the ASEAN Regional Forum meetings in Bangkok. The document 'provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions' and resembles an Indonesian-conceived plan.

[Boosting Asean's stature in pivot to regional democracy](#)

August 16, 2019, The Straits Times

The recent meet-up among Asean leaders (namely foreign ministers) in Bangkok represented an opportunity for the countries to consolidate regional matters and, more importantly, solidify regional diplomacy.

[Expanding ASEAN's Indo-Pacific role](#)

August 15, 2019, East Asia Forum

The 34th ASEAN summit in Bangkok last June took place in a global economic environment that is in a state of uncertainty. While the summit identified some key issues of reform and made progress on its Indo-Pacific policy, ASEAN needs to take bolder action to promote regional cooperation and integration.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

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[South Korea to remove Japan from preferred trade list](#)

August 12, 2019, Japan Today

South Korea said that it has decided to remove Japan from a list of nations receiving preferential treatment in trade in what was seen as a tit-for-tat move following Tokyo's recent decision to downgrade Seoul's trade status amid a diplomatic row.

[South Korea's Moon Jae-in offers to 'join hands' with Japan if Tokyo chooses dialogue](#)

August 15, 2019, The Japan Times

South Korean President Moon Jae-in struck a conciliatory tone towards Japan on Thursday, offering to "join hands" if Tokyo chooses dialogue as relations between the two countries dip to fresh lows.

[Japan-S Korea rift may change regional economic, security structures](#)

August 16, 2019, Japan Today

Escalating tensions between Japan and South Korea, both key U.S. allies in East Asia, could change long-standing economic and security structures in the region across the board, possibly benefiting China and North Korea, according to foreign affairs experts.

[Caught in the trade war: Resurgent yen poses risk for Japan Inc](#)

August 12, 2019, Japan Today

Japan Inc is caught in the crossfire of the trade war between the United States and China, as a resurgent yen threatens to sap profits and complicate the economic outlook.

[Japan, African nations to voice concern over excessive debt at TICAD](#)

August 16, 2019, Japan Today

Japan plans to include "concern" over excessive debt in the declaration for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development later this month, government sources said, a move aimed at calling out China's lending practices in the region.

Korea

[Trump turns USFK into 'transactional' army](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) is under attack not by enemy but by its own commander-in-chief, President Donald Trump. Trump is prioritizing the size of the bill host Korea pays toward upkeep and is indulging himself in an unwarranted bromance with the head of the enemy.

[North Korea fires two unidentified projectiles into East Sea: JCS](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea fired two unidentified short-range projectiles into the East Sea on Friday, South Korea's military said, the sixth such launch in about three weeks.

[Moon Strikes Conciliatory Note Toward Japan](#)

August 16, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

President Moon Jae-in struck a conciliatory tone toward Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday. "We will gladly join hands if Japan takes the path of

dialogue and cooperation," Moon said in a speech marking the 74th anniversary of Korea's independence from Japan.

[North Korea says it has no intention to talk with South Korea](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea said Friday that Pyongyang has no intention to talk with South Korea again, calling it a "senseless" hope to expect talks to be resumed when Seoul's joint military exercise with the United States is over.

[Seoul to toughen inspections of waste imports from Japan](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea will strengthen its environmental and health safety inspections for battery, tire and plastic waste imported from Japan, the government said .

[N.Korea Promotes Scores of Military Scientists](#)

August 14, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has promoted 103 military scientists for contributing to weapons development including a new multi-rocket launcher and short-range ballistic missile.

Southeast Asia

[Indonesia president formally proposes relocating capital to Borneo](#)

August 16, 2019, The Korea Times

Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Friday formally proposed to parliament a plan to move the country's capital from Jakarta, on the crowded island of Java, to Kalimantan on the island of Borneo.

[US diplomat calls for rule-based order in Indo Pacific region after Bhutan visit](#)

August 14, 2019, The Asian Age

Deputy Secretary of State John J Sullivan made a trip to Bhutan this week, during which the US underscored the importance of protecting and enhancing a rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

[US Indo-Pacific strategy divisive in nature](#)

August 14, 2019, China Daily

Over the past decade, the US has deepened cooperation with its military allies and moved closer to the goal of deploying about 60 percent of its navy in the Asia-Pacific as part of its "Asia rebalance" strategy, the brain-child of former US president Barack Obama.

[Why ASEAN's Indo-Pacific outlook matters](#)

August 12, 2019, The Strategist

The outlook then got an airing at the ASEAN Regional Forum meetings in Bangkok. The document 'provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions' and resembles an Indonesian-conceived plan.

[Boosting Asean's stature in pivot to regional democracy](#)

August 16, 2019, The Straits Times

The recent meet-up among Asean leaders (namely foreign ministers) in Bangkok represented an opportunity for the countries to consolidate regional matters and, more importantly, solidify regional diplomacy.

[Expanding ASEAN's Indo-Pacific role](#)

August 15, 2019, East Asia Forum

The 34th ASEAN summit in Bangkok last June took place in a global economic environment that is in a state of uncertainty. While the summit identified some key issues of reform and made progress on its Indo-Pacific policy, ASEAN needs to take bolder action to promote regional cooperation and integration.

United States

[U.S. says it's consulting allies on Asian missile deployment](#)

August 14, 2019, Japan Today

A senior U.S. diplomat says Washington is consulting with its allies as it proceeds with plans to deploy intermediate-range missiles in Asia, a move China says it will respond to with countermeasures.

[Gibraltar Releases Iranian Tanker, Hours After U.S. Asked to Seize It](#)

August 15, 2019, The New York Times

The authorities in Gibraltar on Thursday released an Iranian oil tanker they impounded six weeks ago, defying a United States request hours earlier to seize the ship. They also released the ship's crew from detention.

[Post withdrawal of tariff concession, Indian GSP product exports to US rises 32% in June](#)

August 16, 2019, Business Today

If Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) - a trade and investment promotion organisation notified in the Foreign Trade Policy - is to be believed, India's fears of losing export earnings due to the withdrawal of duty free and concessional duty benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme of United States of America are completely misplaced.

[Trump administration plans \\$8 billion fighter jet sale to Taiwan, angering China](#)

August 16, 2019, The Washington Post

The Trump administration is moving ahead with for an \$8 billion sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan despite strong objections from China, a U.S. official and others familiar with the deal said Thursday.

[China promises 'countermeasures' in trade war, unmoved by U.S. tariff delay](#)

August 15, 2019, The Washington Post

China announced Thursday that it would be forced to take "necessary countermeasures" if President Trump moves forward with tariffs set to take effect Sept. 1, continuing the back-and-forth escalation of the trade war even as the conflict elevates fears of a global economic slowdown.

[NATO accuses Russian jet of conducting "unsafe" maneuver during aerial encounter](#)

August 15, 2019, CNN

A Russian fighter jet acted in an "unsafe manner" during a Tuesday encounter with NATO aircraft, with the Russian jet almost cutting into the flight path of a NATO plane, forcing the alliance jet to maneuver to avoid a dangerous situation, a NATO military official tells CNN.

[The U.S. Has Joined Secret Talks With Israel and the U.A.E. The Topic? Iran.](#)

August 15, 2019, The New York Times

The United States is participating in secret talks between the United Arab Emirates and Israel to confront threats posed by Iran, a shared adversary among the three countries.

[U.S. Seeks to Reassure Afghan Military Amid Uncertainty Over a Peace Deal](#)

August 15, 2019, The New York Times

The fighting in Afghanistan has intensified as United States diplomats and the insurgents have worked through eight rounds of negotiations in Qatar. Afghan forces and the Taliban have both sought to increase their political leverage through violence, with both sides suffering heavy casualties and civilians bearing the brunt of the attacks.

[Foreign investment in America, a driver of jobs, is declining](#)

August 13, 2019, CNN

America is a money magnet. And one of the more powerful forces driving the US economy has long been investment in American businesses from other countries. But foreign direct investment in the United States has declined significantly over the past two years.

[Israel Denies Entry to Omar and Tlaib After Trump's Call to Block Them](#)

August 15, 2019, The New York Times

Under intense pressure from President Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government on Thursday barred two members of the United States Congress from entering Israel, reversing a previous decision to admit two of the president's most outspoken critics.

[Shared Afghanistan interests create opening for U.S.-Iran back channel - sources](#)

August 16, 2019, Reuters

Western intermediaries are trying to persuade arch foes Iran and the United States to cooperate on bolstering security in Afghanistan as U.S. President Donald Trump

seeks to extract America from its longest war, according to three source familiar with the efforts.

[Trump has privately talked about U.S. purchase of Greenland: sources](#)

August 16, 2019, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump has privately discussed with aides and advisers the idea of the United States purchasing the island of Greenland as a way to expand U.S. territory, two sources familiar with the situation said on Thursday.

['Green New Deal in Africa' on Trump's list of foreign aid cuts](#)

August 15, 2019, The Washington Post

Money for a "Green New Deal in Africa" and a solar panel project for Central Asia are among the targets for the Trump White House as it aims to slash what it sees as a bloated U.S. foreign aid budget.

[The United States is Losing Latin America to China](#)

August 15, 2019, The National Interest

In Latin America, hard power is of limited utility; soft power through economic and diplomatic influence will carry the day in the region.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[UK caught in middle of US power play with Iran](#)

August 15, 2019, The Guardian

Seizure of Iranian oil tanker off Gibraltar was welcomed by US hawks but left Britain looking vulnerable

[Hong Kong protests: UK should not interfere, says Chinese ambassador](#)

August 15, 2019, BBC

China's ambassador to the UK has warned British politicians against interfering in Hong Kong's affairs, amid clashes between protesters and police.

[Boris Johnson Needs a Second Referendum to Stay in Power](#)

August 15, 2019, Foreign Policy

As soon as Boris Johnson became the United Kingdom's prime minister last month, he appointed a new so-called war cabinet and tasked it with getting serious—and, more importantly, being seen to get serious—about preparing for the crisis that would ensue from a no-deal Brexit. It's a crisis that he has the power to avoid at the stroke of his pen. But he has vowed to take the U.K. out of the European Union on Oct. 31 "do or die," "no ifs or buts," with or without a deal.

[John Bolton doesn't want a trade deal with the UK – he wants to colonise us](#)

August 13, 2019, The Guardian

Trump's national security adviser wants the UK to be beholden to the US for its daily bread, making the country a timid American outpost.

[Iran's Ambassador To UK Says Tehran Has Given No Guarantees To Free Tanker](#)

August 16, 2019, Radio Farda

Iran's ambassador to the United Kingdom says his government has not given any commitment to Gibraltar that its freed oil tanker will not sail for Syria.

[Germany's Merkel reneges on NATO defense pledge, causing friction with U.S.](#)

August 14, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

German Chancellor Angela Merkel walked back her country's 2014 pledge to spend 2 percent of its GDP on defense to maintain the military strength of the NATO alliance.

[After Trump rebuke, France says it speaks for itself on Iran](#)

August 9, 2019, Reuters

France does not need the permission of other states to try to defuse tensions with Iran, its foreign minister said on Friday after U.S. President Donald Trump accused President Emmanuel Macron of sending "mixed signals" to Tehran.

[Sweden fears no deal Brexit repercussions – pressure growing on EU to negotiate](#)

August 15, 2019, Express

Swedish trade minister Ann Linde warned that small and medium businesses in the country have not yet sufficiently prepared for Britain leaving the European Union without a deal on October 31. A no-deal Brexit could have "big implications" for the country, which enjoys a prosperous trading relationship with the United Kingdom. She also expressed fears for the futures of 100,000 Swedes living in Britain and 30,000 Britons living in Sweden after a no deal.

[India's seafood exports to EU to be hit after Vietnam-EU free trade pact](#)

August 15, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India's seafood exports to the European Union is set to drop sharply this year after its biggest competitor Vietnam signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Bloc in July that helps it export products to the EU without any customs duty, according to the Maharashtra region head of the seafood exporters body.

[Banks Told to Move Staff to EU as U.K. Heads for Hard Brexit](#)

August 14, 2019, Bloomberg

The European Central Bank blasted banks for slow-walking their Brexit preparations, telling them to move additional staff and resources to the European Union in case Britain leaves without a deal on Oct. 31.

Russia

[Vladimir Putin Vows Stronger India-Russia Ties In Independence Day Wishes](#)

August 15, 2019, NDTV

Vladimir Putin, extending his greeting to President Ram Nath Kovind, said the Russia-India relation is "dynamically developing" in the spirit of special and privileged strategic partnership.

[Putin Reserves Key 5G Frequency for Military Use, Media Reports](#)

August 15, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia risks falling behind the rest of the world in next-generation 5G technology after President Vladimir Putin has reserved its most popular frequency range for the military and intelligence services

[U.S. Journalist Fined and Deported for Interviewing Russian Environmental Asylum Seekers](#)

August 16, 2019, The Moscow Times

An American freelance journalist has been fined and ordered to be deported for interviewing Siberian residents who had asked for Canadian asylum this summer over the deteriorating environment in their region.

[Britain Bans Submarine Exports to Russia Over Undersea Cable Concerns](#)

August 16, 2019, The Moscow Times

Britain has banned the export of submarines to Russia over what it says are advances that pose a national security risk, including the alleged ability to cut undersea cables which carry most global internet communications.

[The Kremlin Sees Signs of Foreign Interference All Around](#)

August 14, 2019, The Moscow Times

During a recent session of the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, officials whipped themselves into a frenzy over a worrisome development: foreign powers trying to meddle in the country's elections.

[Russia says WTO would likely cease to exist if United States quits trade body](#)

August 15, 2019, RT

The US withdrawal from the World Trade Organization (WTO) could lead to the extinction of the regulating body, the Kremlin said following US President Donald Trump's warning that Washington may leave the organization.

[Russia's Northern Fleet warships hold drills in Barents Sea](#)

Aug 15, 2019, Tass

Project 1234.1 small missile ships are designated to fight a potential enemy's ships in inland seas and in the coastal zone.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Mexico Cuts Rate for First Time in 5 Years as Economy Staggers](#)

August 15, 2019, Bloomberg

Mexico central bank reduced borrowing costs for the first time in five years after inflation slowed, the economy faltered and the US cut its own rate.

[For Mexico, Drugs And Crime Erasing Free Trade Gains](#)

August 14, 2019, Forbes

Free trade was going to give them all jobs in factories that were either relocating there from the U.S. and Canada, or witness the setting up of subsidiaries to make Mexico an essential part of the North American supply chain.

[Mexico's president to seek extradition of El Paso mass shooting suspect](#)

August 14, 2019, KVIA

Mexico's president said he wants the United States to extradite the shooter who killed 22 people at an El Paso Walmart store on Aug. 3, so he can be tried in Mexico, too.

[Venezuela's Maduro battles for control of US-based refinery](#)

August 16, 2019, Yahoo News

The government of President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday nullified the newly named board of Venezuela's prized Citgo refineries in the U.S. amid a political battle for control of the country, saying opposition leaders had no right to appoint them.

[Russia, China offer to help Venezuela in preparing for 2020 Olympics – Maduro](#)

August 16, 2019, Tass

Russia and China have offered to help Venezuelan athletes to prepare for the next Summer Olympic Games, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said.

[Venezuela government seeks to change framework for talks with opposition](#)

August 16, 2019, Channel News Asia

Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said on Thursday (Aug 15) the government would meet with Norwegian mediators in an effort to restart talks with the opposition aimed at resolving the country's political crisis.

[Russia Signs Deal To Send Navy To Venezuela After 'Unacceptable' U.S. Moves](#)

August 15, 2019, Newsweek

The Russian military has signed a deal that would allow it to send military ships to Venezuela, expressing support for the Latin American country. The U.S. has been critical of current Venezuelan president, Nicolás Maduro, and has backed attempts to replace him.

[What next for Argentina? Historic market crash ramps up fears of another default](#)

August 15, 2019, CNBC

Argentina's historic market collapse has sparked fears that South America's second largest country is on track for yet another default.

[China set to deepen Argentine trade ties with bid for grains 'superhighway'](#)

August 16, 2019, Reuters

Chinese state-owned construction giant CCCC is preparing a bid to dredge Argentina's Parana River, the country's main cargo superhighway that takes soy and corn from the Pampas farm belt to the shipping lanes of the south Atlantic and the world.

[Brazil threatens Mercosur exit if Argentina opposition wins presidency](#)

August 16, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Brazil's economy minister has said the country could leave the trade bloc if Argentina's opposition wins presidential elections later this year. He also questioned how dependent Brazil's economy was on Argentina.

[Colombia sees new migrant wave from Venezuela amid US sanctions](#)

August 14, 2019, Al Jazeera

Rights groups say Colombia unprepared to deal with another humanitarian crisis as new wave of Venezuela migrants arrive.

[Chile economy hurt by US-China trade war](#)

August 13, 2019, Al Jazeera

Chile regarded as Latin America's most stable economy, but has seen sharp rise in unemployment as exports to China takes a hit.

[Alejandro Giammattei wins Guatemala's presidential race](#)

August 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

Guatemalans have voted in Alejandro Giammattei of the Vamos party as the country's next president, hoping he will be able to address the issues of crime and security, as well as the concerns around his human rights record.

[Following Germany, Norway Also Suspends Payments to Brazil's Amazon Fund](#)

August 15, 2019, The Rio Times

Norway's climate and environment minister, Ola Elvestuen, announced Thursday the suspension of the transfer of 300 million Norwegian kroner, the equivalent of R\$133 million, which would be allocated to the Amazon Fund.

Africa

[Eritrean students forced into indefinite military, govt jobs: HRW](#)

August 9, 2019, Al Jazeera

Eritrea's education system continues to force students into indefinite military or government jobs, a new report says, before adding that for many, fleeing the country is the only way to avoid it.

[Libyan government agrees to "conditional truce" in Tripoli](#)

August 9, 2019, Libya Observer

The Presidential Council has agreed to a ceasefire in Tripoli during Eid Al-Adha, which was proposed by UN envoy Ghassan Salame in his latest briefing on Libya at the UN Security Council.

[Nigeria's president moves to stop funding for food imports](#)

August 14, 2019, CNN

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has instructed the country's central bank to stop providing foreign currency for food imports, according to a statement from his spokesman.

[Indonesia encourages African Union to join infrastructure dialogue](#)

August 13, 2019, Antara News. com

The Indonesian government has encouraged the African Union to participate in the Indonesia-Africa Infrastructure Dialogue (IAID) that will be held in Bali in the next two weeks on August 20 and 21, 2019.

[Kenya and Somalia's maritime border spat risks degenerating](#)

August 13, 2019, The Africa Report

As the Somalia-Kenya maritime dispute escalates into a legal and diplomatic spat, peace and security concerns take centre stage

[Kenya, Somalia Trade Threats in Indian Ocean Dispute](#)

August 15, 2019, VOA

Analysts warn that tension could rise as a U.N. hearing nears on a Kenyan-Somali territorial argument.

[Ethiopians Abused on Gulf Migration Route](#)

August 15, 2019, Human Rights Watch

Ethiopians undertaking the perilous journey by boat across the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden face exploitation and torture in Yemen by a network of trafficking groups, Human Rights Watch said.



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