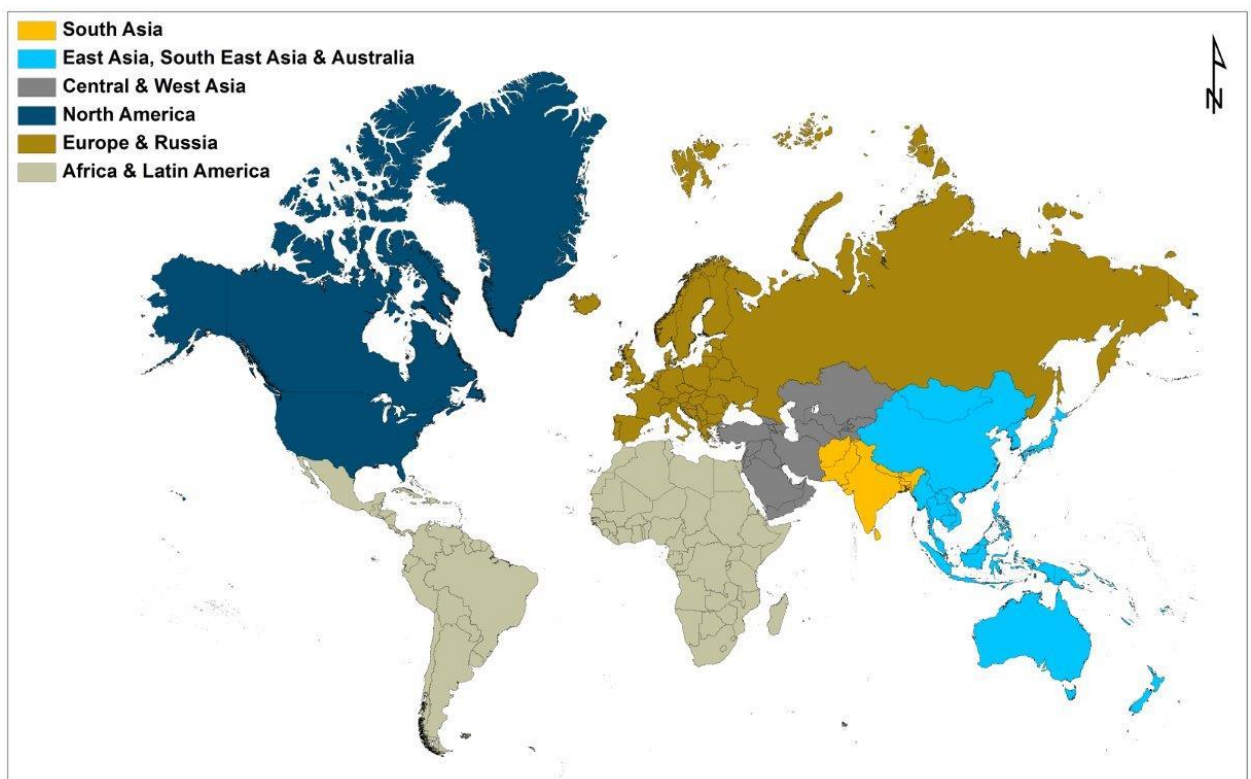




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 36

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.....	10
Central & West Asia.....	18
United States.....	22
Europe & Russia.....	23
Africa & Latin America	26

South Asia

India

[Major component of the Apache attack helicopters will be made in India](#)

September 03, 2019, The Economic Times

The fuselage of the six Apaches for the army will be made at the Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) facility in Hyderabad, Salil Gupte, President, Boeing India revealed. He also said that the fuselages for a global demand of Apaches will also be made at the facility.

[Lt Gen Mukund Naravane takes charge as vice chief of Army](#)

September 01, 2019, India Today

Lt Gen Naravane succeeds Lt Gen D Anbu who retired from service at the end of August. He will be in contention for the Army chief's post as he will be the senior-most commander when incumbent Gen Bipin Rawat retires on December 31.

[Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok: Russia draws India into its Asia-Pacific Strategy](#)

September 02, 2019, Financial Express

The slowdown of the European economy and an urgent need to diversify its market contributed to Russia's Asia-Pacific turn. Western sanctions on Russia, following the crisis in Ukraine, expedited this process.

[India, Russia Condemn Use of Terrorist Groups for Political Ends, Call for Action without 'Double Standards'](#)

September 05, 2019, Outlook

A joint statement issued a day after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, said that the two leaders strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

[Rajnath Singh heads to South Korea's Seoul to boost defence, security ties](#)

September 04, 2019, DNA India

In South Korea, Singh will be engaging in a bilateral dialogue with counterpart Jeong Kyeong-Doo, the Minister of National Defence, and also call on the Prime Minister Lee Nak-Yon.

[No country safe from terrorism: Rajnath Singh calls for international action at event in Korea](#)

September 05, 2019, India today

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that no country was safe from terrorism and called for a collective international action against it while speaking at the Seoul Defence Dialogue 2019.

[India has taken steps for security of its oil tankers in Strait of Hormuz: Modi](#)

September 05, 2019, ANI

While delivering remarks at the plenary session of the 5th Eastern Economic Forum, PM Modi said that India has made arrangements to safeguard its oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz in view of the recent incidents of attack and seizure of vessels in the waterway.

[India To Give \\$1 Billion Line Of Credit For Far East- PM Modi](#)

September 05, 2019, NDTV

He said that his government was actively engaged with East Asia as part of its "Act East" policy. This will also give a new dimension to our economic diplomacy. He stressed that the relation of India and Far East is not new but ages old.

[India, Japan review situation in Indo-Pacific during Rajnath's visit to Tokyo](#)

September 03, 2019, Money Control

A joint statement issued on September 3 said the two ministers affirmed their intention to hold the first foreign and defence ministerial dialogue under the two-plus-two framework ahead of the Indo-Japan annual summit later this year.

[India committed to defence ties with Japan, says Rajnath Singh](#)

September 02, 2019, The Hindu

"The meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan Mr @AbeShinzo was excellent. India attaches the highest priority to our bilateral relationship with Japan. I conveyed to him India's commitment to further enhance the defence engagements between both the countries," Mr. Singh tweeted.

[Rajnath visits Hamamatsu Air Base, briefed on F-15 fighter jets](#)

September 03, 2019, Economic Times

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Hamamatsu Air Base in Japan's Shizuoka Prefecture, where he was briefed on the functioning of F-15 fighter aircraft and Kawasaki Trainer plane. "At the Hamamatsu Airbase in Japan, I had a

good look at the functioning of F-15 and also spent some time checking out the trainer plane," the minister tweeted.

[Russia, already India's biggest arms supplier, in line for more](#)

September 04, 2019, Business Standard

Prior to his visit to Russia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed combining Russia's high technology with India's low production cost to build weaponry more cheaply. This is already happening, with contracts worth over \$12 billion in the pipeline.

[India-Australia affirm commitment to security in cyberspace](#)

September 05, 2019, The Weekend Leader

India and Australia have affirmed their commitment to ensure security and stability in cyberspace, a Ministry of External Affairs statement said. The remarks came during the 3rd India-Australia Cyber Dialogue held on September 04.

[Abe to visit India in December following 'two-plus-two' security talks](#)

September 06, 2019, Japan Times

Modi disclosed the planned visit to reporters at the beginning of a meeting with Abe in Vladivostok in the Russian Far East on the side-lines of the Eastern Economic Forum. The leaders discussed security cooperation and efforts to maintain stability in the Indo-Pacific region in the meeting, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, amid concern over China's growing military presence in regional waters.

[Another headache for China as India, Japan pledge greater maritime cooperation in South China Sea](#)

September 05, 2019, International Business Times

Apart from Malabar exercise where navies of India, Japan and the US involve in complex war games, the trilateral mine-countermeasures exercise (MINEX) will also be carried out annually.

[European Union calls for bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve Kashmir dispute](#)

September 2, 2019, Scroll.in

EU officials raised concerns over human rights restrictions in the Jammu and Kashmir, ahead of a European Parliament meeting on the situation.

Pakistan

[Pakistan to commemorate Sept 6 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' as well as 'Defence Day'](#)

September 4, 2019, Geo News

The government of Pakistan has decided to commemorate Friday, September 6, 2019 as "Defence Day" as well as "Kashmir Solidarity Day", the federal ministry of interior said.

[Will go to any lengths for Kashmir, says DG ISPR](#)

September 4, 2019, Geo News

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations Major-Gen Asif Ghafoor said on Wednesday that Pakistan will go to any lengths for Kashmir, adding that the country hasn't backed down from the issue in 72 years. to any lengths for Kashmir, says DG ISPR

[No government help for companies in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir: Seoul](#)

September 6, 2019, The Economic Times

Raising the illegal occupation of parts of Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan, defence minister Rajnath Singh has urged South Korea to block investments in infrastructure and other projects and has conveyed that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) violates Indian sovereignty.

[Putting the Balochistan budget on the right course](#)

September 5, 2019, The Express Tribune

In light of the aforementioned financial challenges, the onus falls upon the government to push the economy and the budget in the right direction by strengthening its foundations so that future governments do not inherit weak financial institutions. The following measures could thus help provide some much needed reform and buoyancy for Balochistan's economy.

[MPs rejects establishment of CPEC Authority](#)

September 6, 2019, Geo News

MPs rejects The Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has unanimously rejected the establishment of CPEC Authority, giving a big jolt to the government's plan to bring the whole CPEC related work under one umbrella of CPEC Authority.

[COAS Gen Bajwa meets foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, UAE](#)

September 5, 2019, Geo News

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday met the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to discuss the prevailing situation in the region.

[Pakistan close to buying 36 fighter jets from Egypt](#)

September 05, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Pakistan's Air Force is close to closing a deal with Egypt to buy Dassault Mirage-V aircraft after long negotiations head towards a close. The Egyptian Air Force has retired the aircraft from service which means they will have to be refurbished before going into service.

Afghanistan

[Taliban claim deadly attack near US embassy in Kabul](#)

September 5, 2019, Al Jazeera

A Taliban suicide car bombing in the Afghan capital killed at least 10 Afghan civilians, a US service member and a Romanian soldier in the second such attack this week after a preliminary US-Taliban peace deal was announced.

[US Lawmakers Ask Khalilzad To Testify On Afghanistan](#)

September 6, 2019, Tolo News

US LawmakerA top Congressional committee called on US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad to testify before it on the US-Taliban deal which is "agreed in principle".s Ask Khalilzad To Testify On Afghanistan.

[Heavy Clashes Ongoing In Farah: Officials](#)

September 6, 2019, Tolo news

Heavy lashes are ongoing between government forces and the Taliban on the outskirts of the city of Farah since Thursday night, local officials said.

[Taliban Expand War in Multiple Fronts as US Seeks Peace Deal](#)

September 2, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

The Taliban outfits have extended their attacks on the Afghan security forces in at least six provinces of the country in the past few days even as the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad said that

Washington was at the threshold of sealing a peace agreement with the resurgent group to end the 18-year long conflict in the country.

[Peace With Taliban 'Meaningless': Afghan President](#)

September 6, 2019, Tolo News

Peace with the Taliban is "meaningless", Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said on Thursday, hours after a powerful car bombing by the Taliban in the nation's capital, Kabul, killed at least ten civilians.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh envoy: More investment to come through Dhaka-Beijing ties](#)

August 30, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh has said the strategic partnership of cooperation with China is not only based on business or friendship but it also carries a much deeper significance on Bangladesh's socioeconomic development through multidimensional engagements. Bangladesh's Consul General in Kunming said that Chinese investment has already started pouring into Bangladesh since Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh on October 14-15, 2016.

[PM urges IORA to build unified sustainable blue economic belt](#)

September 05, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member states to build a unified sustainable blue economic belt in this subcontinent with the help of untapped resources of the sea. She made the request while formally inaugurating the 3rd IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference in Dhaka on September 05. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in association with IORA, organized the two-day conference.

[Dhaka, Riyadh for bolstering defence cooperation](#)

September 03 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Visiting Commander of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces Lt Gen Admiral Fahad bin Abdullah Al-Ghofaily called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary said that the Naval Chief and the PM emphasized on strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries. At the meeting, the prime minister pointed out the issue of maritime boundary disputes with India and Myanmar, saying the problems were resolved peacefully.

[Reliance Power inks pact with Japan's JERA for Bangladesh's 750 MW project](#)

September 03, 2019, Hindu Business Line

Reliance Power signed a partnership agreement with JERA, one of the largest power utilities of Japan, for jointly setting up 750 MW gas-based combined cycle power project (Phase-1) at Meghnaghat, Bangladesh. Reliance Power will hold 51 per cent stake while JERA will hold 49 per cent stake in the joint venture company.

[Bangladesh seeks Japan's support for Rohingya repatriation](#)

September 04, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh has sought Japan's support for repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar and moving the refugees to Bhashan Char where the government has built shelters for one lakh Rohingya as parts of the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam held a meeting with Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe on the sidelines of the 4th Indian Ocean Conference in Maldives.

[Govt curbs 3G, 4G mobile services at Rohingya camps, surrounding areas](#)

September 03, 2019, bdNews

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission or BTRC ordered mobile network operators to shut down 3G and 4G services in these areas for 13 hours between 5pm and 6am daily. As per the directive, 2G services will remain operational, meaning mobile users can make voice calls but will be barred from accessing the internet during the designated hours.

Nepal

[Minister Yi to prepare ground for Xi Jinping's Nepal visit](#)

September 05, 2019, Himalayan Times

Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi is arriving in Kathmandu on September 08, on a two-day visit as part of preparation for Chinese President Xi Jinping's 'yet-to-be-confirmed' sojourn to Nepal. Wang Yi will be arriving in Kathmandu from Pakistan where he is scheduled to attend Pakistan-Afghanistan-China trilateral meeting on September 07.

[Nepal in favor of peace, security: Minister Gyawali](#)

September 04, 2019, Khabarhub

Addressing the Fourth Indian Ocean Conference held in the Maldives, Minister Gyawali stressed the need of an architecture based on partnership, inclusiveness, and collaboration among the South Asian countries, including Nepal, and utilization of resources and sharing of the benefits.

[India's National Defence College delegation visits Nepal](#)

August 30, 2019, DD News

A delegation from the 59th course of National Defence College (NDC) India comprising 15 senior officers from civil services and defence forces of India, UK, Japan, Mongolia and Bangladesh visited Nepal.

Sri Lanka

[China's growing presence in Indian Ocean a source of concern for India: Sri Lanka PM](#)

September 03, 2019, Daily News

The Prime Minister while addressing the fourth edition of Indian Ocean Conference said that the Indian Ocean was becoming "a theatre of contemporary global geopolitics with India and China on one hand, and the and USA and China on the other, competing for space".

[Sri Lanka PM returns from the Maldives](#)

September 04, 2019, Colombo Page

During his visit, the Premier held bilateral discussions with the President of the Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. The two leaders reviewed the ongoing cooperation in important sectors as health, education, regional governance and the peace and security of the Indian Ocean and agreed to progress constructive engagement in all spheres.

[Sri Lanka and Australia to strengthen cooperation to counter people smuggling](#)

September 05, 2019, Colombo Page

Foreign Secretary Ravinatha Aryasinha expressed Sri Lanka's fullest support to Australia in curtailing human-smuggling operations originating from Sri Lankan shores, at a meeting held with a delegation for countering people-smuggling and

human-trafficking led by Commander of Australia's Joint Task Force, Operation Sovereign Borders, Major General Craig Furini on 03 September 2019.

Maldives

[S Jaishankar visits Male, meets President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

September 04, 2019, India blooms

EAM conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Modi to President Solih and briefed him on the satisfactory status of implementation of decisions taken during President Solih's visit to India in December, 2018 and Prime Minister Modi's visit to Maldives in June, 2019. He expressed appreciation for the 'India First' policy of the Maldivian Government and its principled position on Indian Government's recent decision regarding Article 370 and J&K as an "internal matter of India".

[Indian Ocean Conference 2019 kicks off](#)

September 03, 2019, The Edition

A panel including President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesighe, Singaporean Minister of Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan and Indian External Affairs Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar addressed the fora.

[China has grabbed more land than East India company: Maldives former President](#)

September 04, 2019, Economic Times

In his address to the Indian Ocean Conference in Male, Nasheed, who is currently serving as the speaker of the Maldivian parliament, accused his previous government, under former President Abdulla Yameen, of putting the country in deep debt in connivance with China.

East & South East Asia

China

[October China-US trade talks worth the wait](#)

September 5, 2019 , Global Times

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He had a phone call, by invitation, with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Thursday. According to the Chinese side, the two countries agreed to hold the 13th round of China-US high-level trade consultations in Washington in early October and would maintain close communication before that.

[Beijing will do what it takes to support HK's economy](#)

September 5, 2019, Global Times

Concerns over a possible recession are growing in Hong Kong as the city's economy faces its worst crisis since the global financial crisis in 2008.

[Trump government needs to change course and stop the trade war with China](#)

September 5, 2019, Global Times

Following a ferocious rhetorical spat between Washington and Beijing over the past two months, the world's two major powers have agreed to hold high-level trade talks in the US in early October. The world has been watching aghast, concerned that the unprecedented-scale trade war will cause a global recession in 2020.

[ASEAN war games with US meant to promote centrality of bloc in the region](#)

September 4, 2019, Global Times

After holding two joint maritime exercises with China in October 2018 and April 2019, ASEAN members launched their first joint maritime war games with the US from Monday to Friday at a naval base in Chonburi province, east of Bangkok, Thailand.

[Merkel's China visit will leave important legacy for future German leaders](#)

September 5, 2019, Global Times

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will pay an official visit to China this Friday and Saturday, which marks her 12th trip to the country. Since Merkel took office in 2005, she attached importance to the relationship with China with her attitude toward China changing from frigid to pragmatic. Her overall policy toward China

is positive, which has played a positive role in promoting China-Germany and China-Europe relations.

[Wang's visit key to reviving NK peace process](#)

September 4, 2019, Global Times

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's three-day visit to North Korea has an important role to play in reviving the Korean Peninsula's diplomatic process and promoting diplomacy with North Korea.

[Resurgent identity in ascendant India](#)

September 4, 2019, Global Times

Over the past more than 70 years since its independence in 1947, India has been facing the challenge of building national identity. It's widely believed that the move to revoke India-administered Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi through constitutional amendments is a means of consolidating national identity.

[HK situation shows sign of change, but remains complex](#)

September 2, 2019, Global Times

This past weekend, Hong Kong remained chaotic, with many violent demonstrations taking place. But the number of people involved in the demonstrations has come down significantly, and the techniques used by radical protesters to break the order and foment chaos with the help of flash mobs have become more obvious. The situation in Hong Kong is showing signs of change, but remains highly complex.

[Pragmatic and almost ideal trade partners: China Daily editorial](#)

September 5, 2019, China Daily

Many may consider it a mere coincidence. But the fact that German Chancellor Angela Merkel is visiting China, her 12th visit in 14 years, at a time when the US administration has upped the ante in the trade conflict with China calls for some serious reflection, especially on the part of China detractors.

[Secessionists of a feather flock together: China Daily editorial](#)

China Daily, September 4, 2019, China Daily

The chaos in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has provided Tsai Ing-wen, the separatist leader of Taiwan, and her Democratic Progressive Party with

an excuse to slander the "one country, two systems", which the Chinese mainland practices in order to realize complete national reunification.

[Crying wolf won't help US win trade war: China Daily editorial](#)

September 4, 2019, China Daily

That issuing threats to China will get it nowhere is something the United States refuses to understand. True, the US president might be unhappy that the trade talks with China have been going on for more than a year and yet there are no signs of a deal in sight.

[China-bashing tariffs an exercise in futility: China Daily editorial](#)

September 1, 2019, China Daily

Part of the new additional tariffs recently announced by the United States government on \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods took effect on Sunday, with China responding with additional tariffs of its own on some of the US goods on a \$75-billion target list.

[Alliance to defend shipping dangerous move: China Daily editorial](#)

September 1, 2019, China Daily

Britain is the most enthusiastic participant in the US mission to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz since it was proposed by the United States after six commercial ships were attacked there. It is not clear so far which country was the perpetrator.

[Xi's message calls for closer cooperation between China, Arab states](#)

September 6, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping's congratulatory message to the ongoing China-Arab States Expo shows the importance China attaches to its cooperation with Arab states while highlighting the expo as a key platform in promoting joint efforts to build the Belt and Road, Arab experts say.

[Russia welcomes Chinese investment, says Putin](#)

September 5, 2019, Xinhua

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that his country welcomes Chinese investment and expects more positive outcomes from bilateral cooperation.

[China, Russia pledge to deepen military cooperation](#)

September 5, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese and Russian senior military officials have agreed to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries to jointly maintain global peace and stability.

Japan

[Abe urges Putin to fulfill 'historical duty' and sign treaty amid deadlock over disputed isles](#)

September 5, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday to step up efforts to resolve a long-standing territorial dispute between their countries and sign a postwar peace treaty, calling it their "historical duty."

[Jobs in Japan for South Korean graduates dry up as political and economic rift persists](#)

September 5, 2019, The Japan Times

Song Min-su, a Japanese major in his final year at Hannam University, south of Seoul, has watched in dismay as a dispute between South Korea and Japan over wartime forced labor has spiraled into a damaging political and economic row.

[South Korea calls for ban of 'rising sun' flag at 2020 Olympics](#)

September 6, 2019, Japan Today

South Korean Olympic officials have called on Japan to ban its "rising sun" flag at the 2020 Tokyo Games after claiming it represents a "militaristic and imperial past."

[U.S. farmers hope Trump delivers on trade deal with Japan](#)

September 6, 2019, Japan Today

American farmers have not only endured retaliatory tariffs from China and other nations, they've watched as most of their top foreign competitors used free trade agreements to make inroads into Japan, a historically protectionist market with nearly 127 million consumers.

[Mitsubishi Aircraft signs MOU for 100 SpaceJet planes](#)

September 6, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. and Mesa Airlines Inc., a U.S. regional airline operator, entered into a memorandum of understanding to begin talks on purchase of 100 SpaceJet M100 aircraft.

[Putin rebuffs call by Abe to sign WWII peace treaty](#)

September 5, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe on Thursday that Tokyo's military ties with the United States and many other issues made it hard for Japan and Russia to sign a World War II peace treaty.

[Okinawa calls for new deadline on Futenma use, but Tokyo stays mum](#)

September 5, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The central government on Sept. 4 brushed off a request from Okinawa prefectural authorities to set a new deadline for ending operations at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in the prefecture.

Korea

[Travel Agencies Hit as Koreans Shun Japan](#)

Sep 5, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Travel agencies are reeling from a boycott of Japan, which used to account for more than 20 percent of overseas travel, and massive protests in Hong Kong are also deterring many Chuseok holidaymakers.

[Korea urges IAEA to pay more attention to radioactive Fukushima water](#)

September 5, 2019, The Korea Times

The government wants the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to play a more active role in dealing with Japan's plan to discharge contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean, officials said.

[Moon unveils vision for Korea's cooperation with Mekong region](#)

September 5, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in unveiled his vision to promote South Korea's cooperation with Southeast Asian countries around the Mekong River.

[Defense chief vows to work with patience on N. Korea, urges cooperation of neighboring countries](#)

September 5, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo said Thursday the nation would continue to work with patience to build trust with North Korea for lasting peace, urging multilateral cooperation.

[UN panel recommends future NK sanctions focus on cyberattacks](#)

September 6, 2019, The Korea Herald

A United Nations panel of experts recommended that the Security Council draft future sanctions against North Korea with a focus on its cyberattacks.

[N. Korea continues to develop ICBM program: UN panel](#)

September 6, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea's missile programs are designed to support its development of intercontinental ballistic missiles, a United Nations panel of experts said, underscoring the ongoing threat posed by the regime.

Southeast Asia

[Asian shares up as Brexit, Hong Kong progress lifts mood](#)

September 5, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Asian stocks perked up , as apparent progress in the political crises in Britain and Hong Kong gave investor confidence a shot in the arm, with easing fears of a hard Brexit lifting the battered pound.

[US-ASEAN naval drills kick off in Southeast Asia](#)

September 2, 2019, Deutsche Welle

For the first time, the US will conduct naval exercises with a coalition of Southeast Asian countries amid tensions over territory in the South China Sea. The US said the drills will help "maintain maritime security."

[Prayut urges Asean to back micro-sized businesses](#)

September 6, 2019, Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has urged Asean countries to support "micro-SMEs" by keeping their owners abreast of digital technological know-how and to ensure they have access to financial resources.

[India, Indonesia have shared vision on Indo-Pacific & territorial integrity: Jaishankar](#)

September 5 2019, The Economic Times

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday asserted that India-Indonesia Shared Vision of Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific agreed during Prime Minister's visit last year, is a recognition that India and Indonesia, as two major economies in this region need to develop synergies to harness the potential and meet the challenges that the region faces

[India, Russia begin new era of cooperation to make Indo-Pacific open, free, inclusive: PM Modi](#)

September 5, 2019, India Today

India and Russia are beginning a new era of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region to make it "open, free and inclusive", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

[U.S. voices concern over Myanmar army's lawsuit against religious leader](#)

September 6, 2019, Reuters

The United States said it was deeply concerned about the Myanmar army's filing of a lawsuit against a religious leader who told President Donald Trump the military oppressed Christians in the Buddhist-majority country.

[Myanmar's biggest airport closed after Chinese-made military plane skids off runway](#)

September 6, 2019, SCMP

Myanmar's largest airport was forced to close temporarily after a military plane skidded off the runway, forcing inbound international flights to be diverted, an official at the civil aviation department said.

[Myanmar, South Korea Sign Major Agreements on Trade, Investment and Finance](#)

September 5, 2019, Irrawady.com

Myanmar and South Korea signed five Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on financial, trade and investment cooperation as well as infrastructure projects at the Myanmar-Korea Business Forum

[Hard right: Political divide deepens in Thailand](#)

September 5, 2019, Yahoo News

A new term is gaining ground in Thailand's political vocabulary: "Chung-Chart", which translates roughly as "nation-hater".

[Why China is picking a fight with Vietnam](#)

September 5, 2019, Asia Times

If simmering tensions erupt into full-blown conflict in the South China Sea, increasingly it seems the first shots to be fired would be between China and Vietnam.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Uzbekistan explores new areas of partnership with Indian states on independence anniversary](#)

September 1, 2019, The Economic Times

Uzbekistan and India are exploring new areas of cooperation including state level cooperation as the Central Asian state entered 28th year of its independence

[Uzbekistan's Impending Water Crisis](#)

September 5, 2019, The Diplomat

Relations are good between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, but a grave water crisis still looms.

[Uzbekistan creates Nukus Free Economic Zone in northwest](#)

September 6, 2019, Xinhua

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has signed a decree on measures to create the Nukus Free Economic Zone (FEZ) to attract foreign investment to the northwest of the country, Uzbek Justice Ministry said.

[Kazakh Government provides compensation to thousands of nuclear weapons tests victims](#)

September 06, 2019, The Astana Times

Approximately 3,000 compensations have been paid to Kazakh nuclear test victims since the beginning of the year. They were provided by Government for Citizens, a single public service provider akin to Canada Service and Centrelink (Australia), which integrates all public service centres into one system.

[Kazakhstan attracted \\$330 billion of foreign investment since independence](#)

September 06, 2019, Times of Central Asia

During the period of Kazakhstan's independence (since 1991), the country has attracted \$330 billion of foreign investments from more than 120 countries, the Deputy Prime Minister Zhenis Kassymbek said at a press conference on September 5, the press service of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan reported.

[Kazakhstan and Ukraine developing economic cooperation](#)

September 06, 2019, Times of Central Asia

“Ukraine–Kazakhstan, Central Asia” business forum took place in Nur-Sultan on September 5. The forum was organized by the Embassy of Ukraine in Kazakhstan, Kazakh Invest national investment promotion company, the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Association of Exporters and Importers ZED.

[Gazprom makes educational foray into Armenia, Kyrgyzstan](#)

September 3, 2019, Eurasia Net

ussian energy giant Gazprom has rung in the school year in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan – two of Moscow’s poorest allies – as the Kremlin gets serious about exporting education.

[New opportunities for Baltic companies in Central Asia](#)

September 5, 2019, The Baltic Times

The speech emphasised his goal of having a strong president, an influential parliament, and an accountable government. It reflected the government’s continued focus on reducing inequality in Kazakhstan and improving Kazakh citizens’ quality of life.

West Asia

[Not having nuclear warheads ‘unacceptable,’ Ankara says](#)

September 06, 2019, Arab News

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hinted on Wednesday that Turkey may need to obtain missiles with nuclear warheads, the possible repercussions of such a move sparked a new debate amid the recent celebrations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s 70th anniversary.

[Hezbollah, Israel losing red lines](#)

September 04, 2019, Al-Monitor

The blasts of Kornet missiles fired by Hezbollah at Israel finally went silent on Sept. 1. The dust then settled from the many hundreds of artillery missiles Israel fired in response, and Israeli air force jets patrolling the Mediterranean on high alert finally returned to their bases. Nevertheless, psychological warfare continued unabated.

[Arab coalition intercepts two Houthi drones headed towards Saudi Arabia](#)

September 04, 2019, Arab News

Coalition forces intercepted the drone while it was still in Yemen's airspace. A second drone also launched from Amran on Tuesday evening was intercepted by coalition forces. The device was headed for Khamis Mushayt, according to the coalition.

[Iran to take steps to speed up Uranium enrichment](#)

September 05, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Iran on Wednesday said it would take another step away from a 2015 nuclear deal by starting to develop centrifuges to speed up its uranium enrichment but it also gave European powers two more months to try to save the multilateral pact.

[Lebanon PM: Hezbollah is a regional problem, not just a Lebanese problem](#)

September 04, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri stated that Lebanon is not responsible for Hezbollah and that the terrorist organization is a regional problem, not just a Lebanese problem. "Look, Hezbollah is not a Lebanese problem – only – it is a regional problem," said Hariri. "Israel wants to have this scenario that Lebanon is responsible, with what Netanyahu says, and if you want to buy it, buy it. But he knows and the international community knows that this is not true."

[US blocks UN Security Council statement on Israel-Hezbollah violence](#)

September 05, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The US has blocked a UN Security Council statement on tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, rejecting any criticism of Israel and forcing the text to be scrapped, according to diplomatic sources. In the first version of the six-point text, council members expressed "deep concern at the recent incidents" during a flare-up between the sides across the "Blue Line" border.

[British PM Johnson pushes Netanyahu on two-state solution in lightning meeting](#)

September 05, 2019, The Times of Israel

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday welcomed his Israeli counterpart to 10 Downing Street for a brief meeting, during which he stressed that London seeks a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

[Trump's Middle East envoy Greenblatt resigns](#)

September 05, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Jason Greenblatt, President Donald Trump's special envoy for the Middle East, will leave office in a couple weeks, numerous sources in the US administration have said. Greenblatt and White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, as well as the US Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, have led the effort to develop what they have pushed as a peace plan for the Israel-Palestine conflict dubbed the "deal of the century".

[Houthi: Death toll from prison attack rises to 156](#)

September 05, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Death toll from Sunday's airstrike by Saudi-led coalition on a prison in southwestern Yemen climbed to 156, Houthi rebel group said on Thursday. The Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV cited the so-called Health Ministry of the Houthi administration as putting death toll at 156 after four days of recovering bodies from the debris.

[US-bought weapons found in the hands of Daesh in Yemen](#)

September 05, 2019, Middle East Monitor

According to investigative journalism site Arms Watch, documents from Serbian state-owned arms manufacturer Krusik and exporter Jugoimport SDPR, implicate arms dealers and government officials from the US and coalition partners Saudi Arabia and UAE in the transfer of weapons to Daesh.

United States

[Senior Officials Concede Loss of U.S. Clout as Trump Prepares For U.N. Summit](#)

September 5, 2019, Foreign Policy

On the eve of the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations, two top State Department officials voiced alarm about America's loss of diplomatic influence as China mounts an ambitious effort to fill the vacuum, according to an account of a confidential internal staff meeting.

[Kushner's Middle East peace plan drifts further astray as envoy resigns](#)

September 5, 2019, The Guardian

Jason Greenblatt, the Trump administration's special envoy for Middle East peace, tasked with working on the "ultimate deal" for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is to leave the post, it has been announced.

[Afghanistan: current US withdrawal plan risks 'total civil war', top envoys say](#)

September 3, 2019, The Guardian

The majority of America's ambassadors to Afghanistan since the removal of the Taliban government have condemned the US approach to negotiating a troop withdrawal, warning it risked a return to "total civil war".

[U.S., China more divided than ever as new trade talks loom](#)

September 6, 2019, Reuters

Senior U.S. and Chinese officials have pledged to meet in October to settle their ongoing trade war but a lasting peace seems more elusive than ever.

[When is America going to end its shadow war in Somalia?](#)

September 5, 2019, The Guardian

Few Americans are aware that the US is conducting a rapidly rising number of drone strikes and even boots-on-the-ground combat operations against a group, al-Shabaab, that Washington labels "terrorists".

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Backlash against Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament before Brexit](#)

August 30, 2019, CNN

Boris Johnson's surprise decision to suspend the British parliament in the runup to the next Brexit deadline appears to have had its desired effect.

[Boris Johnson to seek general election again](#)

September 5, 2019, The Guardian

Boris Johnson will seek to trigger an election again on Monday, daring Labour not to back the motion after the no-deal bill has been made law.

[Brexit: EU shoots down 'blustering' Boris Johnson's claims he wants new deal](#)

September 6, 2019, Independent

The European Union has shot down "blustering" Boris Johnson's claims he wants a new Brexit deal, revealing there have been "no real negotiations" in Brussels since he entered Downing Street.

[Big Oil undermines U.N. climate goals with \\$50 bln of new projects -report](#)

September 5, 2019, CNBC

Major oil companies have approved \$50 billion of projects since last year that will not be economically viable if governments implement the Paris Agreement on climate change, think-tank Carbon Tracker said in a report published

[Boris Johnson's Brexit Carnage](#)

September 5, 2019, The New Yorker

The symbolism of the physical state of the Palace of Westminster, where Parliament meets, was almost too crude this week. Big Ben was sheathed in layers of scaffolding and black construction netting.

[EU fears UK is rowing back on Irish border and 'level playing field' - sources](#)

September 5, 2019, Reuters

The European Union is increasingly worried about British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's stance on the Irish border and future competition rules, sources said.

[China's 'Belt and Road' project risks Paris climate targets, says new study](#)

September 2, 2019, France 24

An analysis of the possible carbon footprint of infrastructure development in Belt and Road (BRI) countries said there was a significant risk of the initiative alone producing enough greenhouse gas emissions to derail the Paris climate goals.

[Big Oil undermines U.N. climate goals with \\$50 bln of new projects -report](#)

September 5, 2019, CNBC

Major oil companies have approved \$50 billion of projects since last year that will not be economically viable if governments implement the Paris Agreement on climate change, think-tank Carbon Tracker said in a report published.

[How will Italy's new government approach immigration?](#)

September 5, 2019, The Local

Will Italy's new left-leaning, pro-European government steer away from the hardline anti-immigration policies introduced by Italy's previous government?

Russia

[India-Russia eternal friendship takes a Pacific turn](#)

September 5, 2019, RT

The India-Russia special partnership is strategic. It is growing in new directions, with implications for both China and the United States.

['West's leading role is ending': G7's no good without India and China, Putin says](#)

September 5, 2019, RT

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the leading role of the West is coming to an end, and no serious international group makes much sense anymore without economic juggernauts like China and India.

[Putin Reaps Political Gains From OPEC+ But Economic Boost Wanes](#)

September 5, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia's pact with OPEC has significantly enhanced President Vladimir Putin's presence on the world stage, but as his geopolitical clout keeps growing the economic benefits for his country have lost some potency.

[Russian envoy calls for resolving Iran nuke deal impasse through France's proposal](#)

September 5, 2019, Tass

The situation around the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program should be resolved on the basis of the initiative put forward by France, Russian Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said.

[Russia offered to sell Trump hypersonic weapons – Putin](#)

September 5, 2019, RT

Moscow offered Washington the chance to purchase Russian hypersonic weapons instead of developing its own, Vladimir Putin has revealed. The US, however, is seeking to create analogues.

[Putin says Russia will make new missiles, warns of arms race](#)

September 6, 2019, The Japan Times

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia would produce missiles that were banned under a landmark Cold-War era nuclear pact that ended last month, but that Moscow would not deploy them unless the United States did so first.

[Putin woos Asian investors in Russia's Far East](#)

September 6, 2019, Japan Today

Russian President Vladimir Putin sought to lure Asian investment to Russia's Far East as the launch was announced of a huge Arctic gas project aimed at Asian markets.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Zimbabwe's Founding Leader Robert Mugabe Dies At 95](#)

September 6, 2019, EWN

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa confirmed that his predecessor Robert Mugabe (95) has died. Mugabe had been involved in the conflict which saw Rhodesia become Zimbabwe and later became president. However, after a military takeover in 2017, he stepped down from power with Mnangagwa taking over.

[Zimdollar rates tumble ahead of monetary policy](#)

September 6, 2019, Zimbabwe Independent

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) is expected to announce the Mid-Term Monetary Policy statement in the coming days. The market is not anticipating major changes to the country's economic fortunes from the upcoming policy statement as recent monetary and fiscal policies have been contractionary in nature.

[South Africa, Nigeria beef up security after xenophobic attacks](#)

September 5, 2019, Standard Media

South Africa and Nigeria stepped up security on Wednesday after deadly attacks on foreign-owned stores in Johannesburg triggered reprisals against South African businesses in Nigerian cities.

[Sudan Forms First Cabinet Since Fall of Bashir](#)

September 5, 2019, VOA

Sudan's prime minister announced the formation of the first government since the overthrow of long-term ruler Omar Hassan al-Bashir in April.

[U.N. outlines 8 reasons why 2020 Burundi vote is 'risky'](#)

September 6, 2019, Africa News

The United Nations says all factors indicate that Burundi's elections in 2020 will be problematic because of an unresolved political crisis and a president who is increasingly portrayed as a "divine" ruler.

Latin America

[Brazil's Bolsonaro to skip Amazon fires summit he convened](#)

September 3, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Brazil's president did not say whether the meeting of Amazon nations would be postponed, but ruled out his attendance. Bolsonaro has come under international pressure over his handling of the fires and deforestation.

[Brazil, Chile to bring Mercosur, Pacific Alliance closer](#)

September 6, 2019, Xinhua Net

Brazil and Chile said here on Thursday that they will strive to bring the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) and the Pacific Alliance closer.

[Brazil and Argentina to sign auto agreement on Friday: Brazil ministry](#)

September 5, 2019, WKZO

Brazil and Argentina will sign an auto agreement on Friday, Brazil's Economy Ministry said in a statement on Thursday, without providing any further information.

[US approves US\\$400 million in financing for Argentina's road network](#)

September 6, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

The US government has approved US\$400 million in financing for improvements to Argentina's road network.

[Venezuela should spend money on food, not missiles: Colombia president](#)

September 6, 2019, Reuters

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro should spend his country's money on food, not on missiles, Colombian President Ivan Duque said, amid renewed verbal sparring between the neighboring countries.

[Venezuela's Oil Woes Deepen as Chinese Contractor Halts Work](#)

September 6, 2019, Bloomberg

A Chinese oil contractor halted work on an expansion project in Venezuela because it hasn't been paid, underscoring the difficulties for the Nicolas Maduro regime even at energy ventures backed by allies.

[Mexico claims success in stopping migrants; activists say no](#)

September 5, 2019, Star Tribune

Mexico says it has complied with a 90-day deadline from the U.S. to reduce the flow of migrants through its territory, but activists say Mexico's crackdown has only forced migrants into greater desperation and more illicit, dangerous routes.

[Guatemala declares state of siege for 3 killed soldiers](#)

September 5, 2019, Andolou Agency

Guatemala has declared a state of siege in five eastern provinces to regain control after the murder of three soldiers by suspected drug traffickers.



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