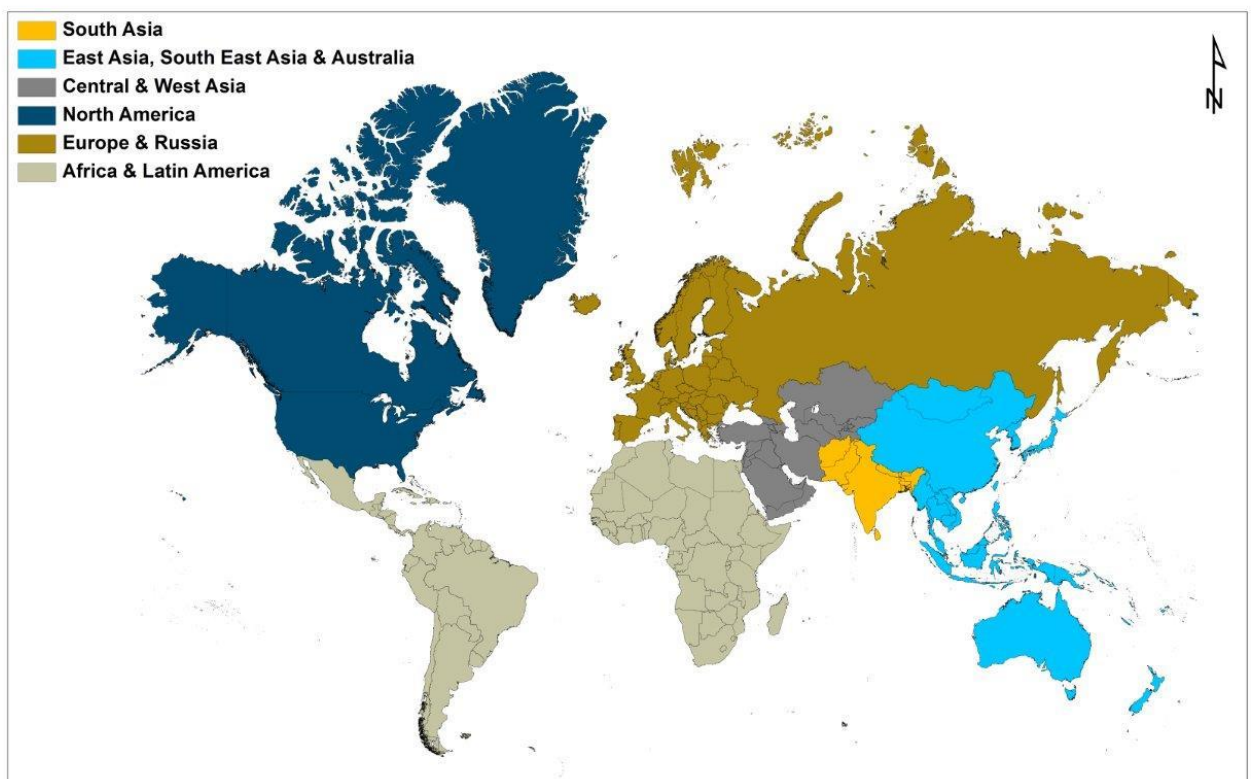




Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume IV, Issue 14 | April 3, 2020



# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

## Volume 4, Issue 14

### ABOUT US

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

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

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## South Asia

### India

#### [First UNSC meeting on COVID-19 by next week or before: Council President](#)

April 2, 2020, The Economic Times

The UN Security Council is likely to meet for the first time by "next week or before" to discuss the coronavirus pandemic that has killed over 42,000 people globally, according to Dominican Republic Ambassador Jose Singer, the current president of the world body's top organ.

#### [In video conference with CMs, PM Modi stresses on need for common exit strategy to lift lockdown](#)

April 2, 2020, The Indian Express

"The states and centre must formulate a common exit strategy to ensure staggered re-emergence of population once lockdown ends," a government statement quoted Modi telling the chief ministers in the video conference.

#### [Trump administration in talks with India to avoid U.S. drug supply shortage](#)

March 30, 2020, NBC News

Trump administration officials are asking India to lift restrictions to give the U.S. access to pharmaceutical ingredients to produce a range of drugs amid fears of a U.S. drug supply shortage prompted by the coronavirus outbreak, three sources familiar with the matter told NBC News.

#### [India Considers China A Rival In The Indian Ocean Region \(IOR\): Pak Media](#)

March 4, 2020, Defence Aviation Post

The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean in the world, extending from South East Asia to Australia and the Red Sea. For the last six decades the Indian Ocean and the IOR have gained greater commercial and strategic significance for the whole world as a trade and energy, transportation route, especially for the major Asian economies, like China, Japan, India, ASEAN countries, South Korea and the US. About two-third of the seaborne trade in oil, 50 percent of the world's seaborne container traffic and one-third of the world's seaborne bulk cargo passes through the Indian Ocean.

### [India's Navy to Begin Receiving 4 More P-8I Neptune Maritime Patrol Aircraft in May](#)

April 1, 2020, The Diplomat

Delivery of the four P-8I maritime patrol aircraft is expected to be completed by January 2022.

### [Winning the legal argument, China has learnt from history of great power relations](#)

March 31, 2020, The Indian Express

The case for China's culpability is based on the principles of state responsibility and Beijing's alleged failure to respect the obligation, under the 2005 International Health Regulations, to notify the world on the outbreak of the epidemic.

### [COVID-19 and the mirage of a China-led international order](#)

March 28, 2020, The Economic Times

The study of international relations (IR), as Hans Morgenthau noted, follows a rational and an unemotional course. As people across the world are concerned about the health of family and friends, IR theorists tend to focus on changing global power relations due to the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). While many may find such ruthless focus on power relations despicable in this context, for IR theorists, it is a necessary step in the pursuit of peace.

### [Nationwide lockdown to cost Indian economy \\$4.64 billion every day: Acuite Ratings](#)

April 2, 2020, Financial Express

The unprecedented nationwide lockdown that shut businesses, suspended flights and stopped all modes of transport will cost the Indian economy almost USD 4.64 billion every day and the entire 21-day lockdown will result in a GDP loss of almost USD 98 billion, Acuite Ratings & Research Ltd said on Thursday.

## **Pakistan**

### [COVID-19 pandemic: Pak-India PCIW-level talks in New Delhi cancelled](#)

March 30, 2020, The News

The two-day meeting of Permanent Commission of Indus Water (PCIW) between Pakistan and India earlier scheduled on March 30-31 in New Delhi has been cancelled on account of coronavirus (COVID-19) spread.

### [Additional \\$1.4 bn lending through RFI: IMF assures help to Pakistan](#)

March 30, 2020, The News

In response to Pakistan's quest for seeking an additional \$1.4 billion lending through the separate Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI), the IMF's Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva, has assured the country that the Fund stood ready to extend its support to Pakistan.

### [World Bank okays another \\$700m for Dasu project](#)

April 2, 2020, Dawn

The World Bank's board of directors has approved a \$700 million additional financing for 250km transmission line of the Dasu Hydropower Project to be completed by December 2023.

### [Countrywide lockdown extended till 14th](#)

April 2, 2020, Dawn

While the existing countrywide restrictions placed last month to slow the spread of coronavirus will remain enforced for two more weeks, Pakistan International Airlines will operate 17 special flights between April 4 and 11 to bring back around 2,000 overseas Pakistanis from different countries.

### [Coronavirus forecast to render 18.5m jobless](#)

April 3, 2020 The Express Tribune

The Ministry of Planning has estimated that 12.3 million to 18.5 million people in the country will lose their jobs and the economy will sustain Rs2 trillion to Rs2.5 trillion losses in just three months due to "moderate to severe shocks from the coronavirus outbreak".

## **Afghanistan**

### [Pakistan to Allow Imports of Food, Medicine to Afghanistan](#)

March 31, 2020, Tolo News

Mohammad Atif Mashal, Afghan ambassador to Pakistan said that Pakistan's government agreed to allow Afghan traders to import only food and medicines across the countries' defacto border areas.

### [Afghanistan needs the world's help to fight COVID-19](#)

March 31, 2020, Tolo News

A three-member delegation from the Taliban arrived in Kabul to discuss the issue of the Taliban's prisoners. "They (the Taliban delegation) will pursue the issue of release of the prisoners and will conduct the necessary technical measures," tweeted Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban.

### [Abdullah Endorses Afghanistan's Negotiation Team](#)

March 31, 2020, Tolo News

Abdullah Abdullah in a statement called the announcement of the 21-member negotiation team an important step to facilitate intra-Afghan talks and said a dignified and permanent peace is a top priority for Afghanistan.

### [Taliban ready to begin cease-fires in virus-hit Afghan areas](#)

April 1, 2020, AP

The Taliban said the group was ready to declare a cease-fire in areas of Afghanistan under its control if they are hit by a coronavirus outbreak. The announcement follows a U.N. Security Council statement urging Afghanistan's warring parties to heed the U.N. secretary-general's call for an immediate cease-fire to respond to the pandemic and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid throughout the country.

### [At least 27 Afghan security personnel killed in Taliban assaults](#)

March 30, 2020, Reuters

Taliban insurgents have killed 27 members of the Afghan security forces, police and government officials said, as a peace effort brokered by the United States struggles to get off the ground. The Taliban and the United States struck a deal last month allowing the United States and its allies to withdraw their forces in exchange for Taliban promises on preventing terrorism.

## **Bangladesh**

### [73 Tabligh activists from Bangladesh quarantined in Delhi](#)

April 2, 2020, New Age

Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen said an estimated 73 Bangladeshis were quarantined as Indian authorities detained in isolation some 2,000 Tabligh

activists at the religious mission's headquarters in Delhi in India, fearing it to have turned into a COVID-19 cluster.

#### [India-Bangladesh border open amid coronavirus lockdown](#)

March 27, 2020, The Times of India

When the lockdown is continuing, the international border at Petrapole-Benapole in North 24 Parganas which is around 90 km from Kolkata is open to facilitate the exit and entry of people on emergency grounds and 2400 people have reached over to Bangladesh and a little over 400 men reached India.

#### [Coronavirus: Bangladesh Navy deploys 9 ships to alert fishermen at sea](#)

April 1, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

The Bangladesh Navy has deployed nine ships to alert fishermen and their families in the coastal areas at sea and rivers to create awareness and take precautionary measures regarding the coronavirus spread.

#### [Bangladesh plans to release 3,000 prisoners amid coronavirus fears](#)

April 2, 2020, Outlook

Bangladesh is planning to release 3,000 prisoners, who are awaiting trials for bailable offences, amid fears of coronavirus outbreak in crowded jails, according to a media report.

### **Nepal**

#### [Nepali-Chinese workers clash at Nepal hydro-power project; go back to China, say Nepali workers](#)

March 31, 2020, DB Post

Chinese nationals working in Nepal clashed with local people on Tuesday, defying the lockdown in the tiny Himalayan country, which has been put in place to curb the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

#### [Nepal cancels contract with group to import testing kits, masks from China](#)

April 2, 2020, The Indian Express

The Nepal government on Wednesday cancelled a contract with a private business group to import necessary coronavirus testing kits, masks and medical equipment from China following allegations of large-scale corruption in the deal, and of the goods being much below the standards specified by the World Health Organization (WHO).



## Sri Lanka

### [Sri Lanka Navy hauls the vessel seized with over one tonne of crystal meth and ketamine](#)

April 1, 2020, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka Navy today hauled a flagless vessel seized with over a metric ton of drugs in the international waters to a fisheries harbour in Southern Sri Lanka along with the drugs and nine Pakistani nationals suspected of smuggling the drugs.

### [IAF moves Su-30 squadron near Sri Lanka](#)

March 30, 2020, The News

The recent deployment of six Su-30s at Thanjavur Tamil Nado, just 65 miles from international maritime boundary between India and Sri Lanka, seems to be part of countering Chinese threat and increasing influence in the Indian Ocean region.

### [Sri Lanka Navy and US Army conduct Joint Combined Exchange Training](#)

March 30, 2020, Colombo Page

A month-long Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) between Sri Lanka Navy and US Army in Trincomalee concluded today (March 30) with a certificate awarding ceremony.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China-bashing politicians should investigate US' failures in fighting virus](#)

April 2, 2020, Global Times

US senator Rick Scott tweeted on Wednesday that the World Health Organization (WHO) has helped China "cover up a global pandemic." He said he is calling for "a Congressional investigation into what the WHO knew and when they knew it."

#### [Politicization of Chinese aid negatively impacting China-Europe cooperation](#)

April 3, 2020, Global Times

Some European politicians have recently politicized the COVID-19 pandemic, smearing China's goodwill in helping Europe with the fight against the virus. This narrow-minded, ideological and politicized mentality is not helpful to combat the coronavirus or conducive to promoting the comprehensive development of China-Europe relations.

#### [Countermeasures against US restrictions should be discussed at China's two sessions](#)

April 3, 2020, Global Times

As much as we hate to admit it, there are growing signs of a high-tech decoupling between the US and China even as the coronavirus pandemic rocks global trade.

#### [Chinese labor unrelated to BRI delays](#)

April 2, 2020, Global Times

There have been some voices in the West claiming Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects have been halted as they involve a high proportion of Chinese employees, implying fears that Chinese workers with the coronavirus have curtailed BRI progress. But such views lack common sense.

#### [Indian exports to China hit due to COVID-19](#)

April 2, 2020, Global Times

While the COVID-19 outbreak is causing disruption to the Indian economy, which has already experienced a significant slowdown in the past few quarters, the country is expected to cooperate with China to facilitate trade via efforts like working out mechanisms to reduce quarantine delays at ports, an Indian business representative said.

### [China to hold national day of mourning for COVID-19 victims on April 4](#)

April 2, 2020, Global Times

China will hold a national day of mourning on Saturday for the victims of the COVID-19 outbreak, during which time flags will fly at half-mast nationwide and at Chinese embassies around the world and public recreational activities will be suspended, China's State Council announced on Friday.

### [How China has largely contained the outbreak](#)

April 3, 2020, China Daily

China's response to the novel coronavirus outbreak has been remarkable at several levels. First, the decisive leadership of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese officials' years of experience in managing local and national affairs have helped the country to largely contain the spread of the virus in the country.

### [Food warning must be heeded: China Daily editorial](#)

April 2, 2020, China Daily

With people around the world under stay-at-home orders to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, there are concerns about the effects on the international food supply chain. The all-out efforts to prevent and control the spread of virus should not overshadow the necessity of keeping the worldwide food supply chain running as normally as possible.

### [Xi: Collective efforts key to fighting virus](#)

April 3, 2020, China Daily

The international community should make joint efforts to fight against the novel coronavirus, which is the common enemy of all mankind, President Xi Jinping said on Thursday.

### [China to strengthen epidemic control along land border](#)

Xinhua, April 2, 2020

Chinese authorities Thursday demanded further strengthening epidemic control efforts along its land border to prevent the importation of COVID-19 infections. The demand was made at a meeting of the leading group of China's COVID-19 epidemic response, which was chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

### [China refutes U.S. officials' accusations of concealing extent of virus](#)

April 3, 2020, Xinhua

China on Thursday refuted several United States intelligence officials' accusations that China concealed the extent of the coronavirus epidemic and under-reported the number of the COVID-19 cases and deaths, and noted that such remarks were "shameless and immoral."

## **Japan**

### [Japan sets up National Security Council team to meet coronavirus, tech challenges](#)

April 2, 2020, Japan Today

The government established Wednesday a team within the secretariat of the National Security Council tasked with crafting Japan's strategic response to the coronavirus crisis while improving its competitiveness in the technology and economic spheres.

### [Private-sector advisers to Abe call for massive economic stimulus measures](#)

April 1, 2020, Japan Today

Private-sector advisers to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged the government on Tuesday to implement major measures to battle the coronavirus epidemic, paving the way for him to roll out stimulus.

### [N Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan](#)

March 29, 2020, Japan Today

North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast on Sunday, the fourth such launch this month as the world battles the coronavirus outbreak.

### [NSC change prepares Japan for new global realities](#)

April 1, 2020, The Japan Times

National security now depends on economic success, which requires access to markets around the world, access to cutting edge technologies and access to a rules-based order that adjudicates disputes according to accepted norms, principles and laws, not arbitrary declarations backed by brute force.

Korea

[Moon pushing for virtual summit of ASEAN+3 leaders](#)

April 2, 2020, The Korea Times

Cheong Wa Dae is pushing for a virtual summit of ASEAN+3 (ASEAN members plus Korea, China and Japan) to advance multilateral cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a presidential aide.

[WHO to spend \\$900,000 to help North Korea's fight against COVID-19](#)

April 1, 2020, The Korea Times

The World Health Organization will spend \$900,000 to support North Korea's efforts to prevent the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, data showed. According to the data posted on the website of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the WHO will spend the money on COVID-19 response activities in North Korea.

[Pompeo: US looks forward to meeting North Korea's leadership for nuclear talks](#)

March 31, 2020, The Korea Times

The United States looks forward to sitting down with North Korea's leadership for nuclear talks, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday, shortly after Pyongyang accused him of slandering the regime and said it will "go our own way."

[S.Korea to Send Medical Supplies to N.Korea](#)

April 3, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

The government has approved a civilian aid agency's application to send W100 million worth of hand sanitizer and other medical supplies to North Korea to help it fight the coronavirus epidemic (US\$1=W1,228).

[N.Korea Loses 'Interest in Dialogue' with U.S.](#)

March 31, 2020, Chosun Ilbo

North Korea has thrown another hissy fit after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on it to return to the negotiating table and denuclearize.

## Southeast Asia

### [ASEAN unity in doubt as Indonesia calls for special COVID-19 summit](#)

April 2, 2020, The Jakarta Post

The absence of a concerted ASEAN response to the coronavirus pandemic has put a spotlight on member states' commitment to regional integration and unity. And now Indonesia, one of the grouping's five founding states, is calling for a special summit on a regional COVID-19 strategy.

### [The Geopolitics of Southeast Asia's Coronavirus Challenge](#)

April 1, 2020, The Diplomat

While the dust is still settling, it is worth examining what the potential geopolitical implications of COVID-19 will be on the region.

### [Coronavirus and democracy in Southeast Asia](#)

April 1, 2020, Bangkok Post

In Southeast Asia, as the health crisis escalates and countries go into different variations of a lockdown, it is affording regimes with authoritarian tendencies the opportunity to suppress political expression, enforce strict obedience and consolidate their rule.

### [Covid-19 restores Myanmar military's lost powers](#)

April 2, 2020, Asia Times

Although the government has not formally declared a state of emergency, the new committee's sweeping powers and the fact that it is headed by a former powerful general means that the Tatmadaw effectively back in the driver's seat and no longer restricted in exercising power from behind a quasi-democratic façade fronted by Suu Kyi.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [How Is Central Asia Handling COVID-19?](#)

March 31, 2020, The Diplomat

A broader comparative frame is more productive for understanding how Central Asian governments are handling the coronavirus pandemic.

#### [Uzbekistan Leads Central Asian Diplomacy in the Age of COVID-19](#)

April 2, 2020, The Diplomat

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been ringing his neighbors to coordinate and dispatching aid to Afghanistan.

#### [Coronavirus: Central Asia Labour Migrants In Crisis](#)

March 30, 2020, IWPR.net

Analysts warn that a possible recession in Russia sparked by the coronavirus crisis could signal serious trouble for Central Asian countries that rely on migrant worker remittances as a significant part of their economy.

#### [It Would Be a Foreign Policy Faux Pas to Overlook Kazakhstan](#)

April 2, 2020, National Interest

This former member of the Soviet Union has tactfully demonstrated an ability to sustain a multi-faceted foreign policy approach with external actors in Eurasia and can appropriately do so with America.

#### [Oil-Dependent Kazakhstan Faces Recession As Price War Rages On](#)

April 2, 2020, Oil Price.com

The government in Kazakhstan has, in the light of the unfolding coronavirus pandemic and the concomitant fall in global oil prices, revised its economic projections for this year to forecast a 0.9 percent contraction.

## West Asia

### [Oil Prices Spike by a Record 25 Percent as Trump Talks Up Huge Production Cuts And Saudi Arabia Calls For OPEC Meeting](#)

April 02, 2020, CNN International

Hopes are building for a truce in the brutal oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia, setting off a record spike in the oil market Thursday. President Donald Trump suggested massive production cuts could be on the way and Saudi Arabia called for an "urgent" meeting between OPEC, Russia and other unnamed nations to restore "balance" to the oil market.

### [Iran Warns US After Patriot Missile Deployment to Iraq](#)

April 01, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran warned the United States it is leading the Middle East to disaster amid the coronavirus pandemic after reports that Patriot air defence missiles were deployed to Iraq.

### [Iran Denounces Trump's 'Sneak Attack' Accusation](#)

April 02, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran has no proxies but it has friends, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, a day after US President Donald Trump alleged Tehran or its "proxies" planned a sneak attack on US targets in Iraq.

### [Bahrain's 241 Coronavirus Cases Came From Iran](#)

April 02, 2020, Gulf News

Iran tops the list of the confirmed coronavirus cases registered in Bahrain as linked to travel abroad, the Health Ministry said Thursday.

### [Bahrain Sentences to Prison Suspects in Money Laundering Cases Related to Iran](#)

April 01, 2020, Asharq Al-Awsat

Bahrain sentenced to prison three suspects in the Future Bank case, and fined them more than 9 million dollars. The case came to light after the general prosecution revealed in February that some seven billion dollars have disappeared from Future Bank's records and were used to finance Iranian groups, in violation of sanctions imposed against the country.



### [Qatar Airways to Seek State Support, Warns Cash Running Out](#)

March 29, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Qatar Airways will have to seek government support eventually, Chief Executive Akbar al-Baker told Reuters on Sunday, warning that the Middle East carrier could soon run out of the cash needed to continue flying.

### [Twitter Removes Thousands of Accounts Linked to Saudi Arabia, Egypt](#)

April 02, 2020, Al Jazeera

The social media giant Twitter said that it had taken down 2,541 accounts in the Egypt-based El Fagr network because it created "inauthentic accounts to amplify messaging critical of Iran, Qatar and Turkey".

### [Soleimani's Successor Visits Iraq, Then Trump Tweets Warning to Iran](#)

April 02, 2020, Al-Monitor

President Donald Trump took to Twitter on Wednesday to warn Iran against further attacks on US forces in Iraq — the same day that Iraqi officials told the Associated Press that the new head of the Quds Force had recently visited Baghdad.

### [Iraq's Oil Income Falls By 40 Percent in March](#)

April 02, 2020, ET Energy World

Iraq's crude oil income fell by 40 percent last month, the government announced, as demand plummets amid the global coronavirus pandemic and a pricing war between Russia and Saudi Arabia.

### [Iraq: US-led Coalition Departs From K1 Air Base In Kirkuk](#)

March 29, 2020, The Nation

The US-led coalition forces led by the United States officially transferred K1 Air Base in the northern Iraqi province of Kirkuk to the Iraqi Armed Forces on Sunday, Brig. Gen. Vincent Barker, the sustainment director of combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) said.

### [President Rouhani Warns Iran's Coronavirus Battle May Last Another Year As Death Toll Crosses 3,100](#)

April 02, 2020, The New Indian Express

Iran on Thursday reported 124 new deaths from the coronavirus, raising its total to 3,160, as President Rouhani warned that the country may still battle the pandemic for another year.

### [Israel's Health Minister Gets Coronavirus; Top Officials Isolate](#)

April 02, 2020, Al Jazeera

Coronavirus has forced more top Israeli officials into isolation after the country's health minister, who has had frequent contact with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, tested positive, the health ministry said on Thursday.

### [Kuwait Under Review For Economic Downgrade As Oil Prices Fall](#)

April 02, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Kuwait has been placed on review for a downgrade of their credit ratings by the agency Moody's Investors Service, severely lowering the country's likely ability to repay its debt.

### [Coronavirus: Oman's Biggest Oil And Gas Producer PDO To Cut Staff](#)

March 29, 2020, Arabian Business

Petroleum Development Oman, the Gulf Arab country's biggest producer, plans to reduce the number of staff working on its oil and gas projects in response to the spread of the coronavirus.

## United States

### United States

[As global coronavirus cases surge past 1 million, nearly a quarter are in the U.S.](#)

April 3, 2020, The Washington Post

The rapid spread of the disease in the United States has meant Americans now make up nearly 23 percent of the total, compared with a fraction of a percent a month ago.

[Kushner Puts Himself in Middle of White House's Chaotic Coronavirus Response](#)

April 2, 2020, The New York Times

President Trump's son-in-law has become a central player in the administration's effort to curb the pandemic.

[Nearly all Americans are under stay at home orders but Fauci says the US needs more coronavirus restrictions](#)

April 3, 2020, CNN

The novel coronavirus has a strong grip in the United States and the nation's top infectious disease expert says the whole country should already be under orders to stay at home.

[Turning the Tables, Russia Sends Virus Aid to U.S.](#)

April 2, 2020, The New York Times

A giant An-124 Russian military transport plane landed at Kennedy International Airport in New York, bearing cartons of masks and ventilators from Russia for a pandemic-stricken metropolis.

[Oil futures pare record gains as doubts creep in on Trump's Saudi-Russia output deal](#)

April 2, 2020, CNBC

Oil prices fell, coming off their biggest one-day gains in the previous session after U.S. President Donald Trump said he had brokered a deal between Saudi Arabia and Russia to cut output, but made no offer to reduce U.S. production.

### [C.I.A. Hunts for Authentic Virus Totals in China, Dismissing Government Tallies](#)

April 2, 2020, The New York Times

Intelligence officials have told the White House for weeks that China has vastly understated the spread of the coronavirus and the damage the pandemic has done.

### [Trump again tests negative for coronavirus, White House says](#)

April 2, 2020, CNN

President Donald Trump has tested negative for the novel coronavirus a second time, the White House physician Sean Conley announced Thursday.

### [U.N. Security Council 'Missing In Action' in Coronavirus Fight](#)

April 2, 2020, The New York Times

The leader of the U.N. has called the pandemic the biggest international threat in the 75-year history of the organization, but its most powerful body has yet to take action.

### [In coronavirus fight, oft-criticized Facebook data aids U.S. cities, states](#)

April 3, 2020, Reuters

Infectious disease researchers are using Facebook Inc mobile location data to provide daily updates to U.S. cities and states evaluating the effectiveness of social distancing orders aimed at slowing the novel coronavirus.

### [US sends warships to Caribbean to stop illegal drugs](#)

April 2, 2020, BBC

The US says it is sending warships to the Caribbean to stop illegal drugs. The move comes a week after the US charged Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and other senior officials in the country with "narco-terrorism".

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## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Coronavirus could be final straw for EU, European experts warn](#)

April 1, 2020, The Guardian

The European Union has weathered the storms of eurozone bailouts, the migration crisis and Brexit, but some fear coronavirus could be even more destructive.

#### [EU pledges €100 billion scheme for workers facing pay cuts](#)

April 2, 2020, Deutsche Welle

EU states can soon apply for funding to help workers facing shorter hours during the coronavirus pandemic. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's SURE plan is intended to prevent large-scale layoffs.

#### [Coronavirus: Angela Merkel's approval ratings up amid health crisis](#)

April 3, 2020, Deutsche Welle

Germany's governing coalition has shot up in approval ratings amid the massive public health crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party has dropped.

#### [EU's von der Leyen - talks underway over possible border closure extension](#)

April 3, 2020, Reuters

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said on Friday that talks were underway among European Union member states over whether or not to extend border closures beyond Easter in order to tackle the coronavirus crisis.

#### [UK vows to boost coronavirus testing after criticism, as officials release guidance on who to save first](#)

April 2, 2020, CNN

The UK will test 100,000 people per day for coronavirus by the end of this month, UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced Thursday.

### [NATO should strengthen its political role: Turkish FM](#)

April 3, 2020, Anadolu Agency

NATO's political dimension should be strengthened, and a group of 10 experts has been formed for this purpose, Turkey's foreign minister said Thursday.

### [By refusing refugees, Poles, Hungarians and Czechs 'broke EU law'](#)

April 3, 2020, Al Jazeera

The European Union's top court ruled on Thursday that Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic had broken the law by refusing to host refugees to help ease the burden on southern EU states such as Greece and Italy after a surge in migrant arrivals from 2015.

### [E.U. Tries Gentle Diplomacy to Counter Hungary's Crackdown on Democracy](#)

March 31, 2020, The New York Times

European leaders were reluctant to pick a fight with Prime Minister Viktor Orban a day after he secured powers to rule by decree indefinitely.

### [Hungary to keep details of Beijing-funded rail link secret](#)

April 2, 2020, Financial Times

Hungary plans to classify information concerning its largest ever infrastructure project, a €2.3bn Chinese-backed rail modernisation, a move critics say shows that Prime Minister Viktor Orban is taking advantage of the coronavirus crisis to push his own agenda.

### [UK government in row with EU over proposed office in Belfast](#)

April 2, 2020, The Guardian

The British government has rejected an EU request to open an office in Belfast, in the first major row over the implementation of the post-Brexit Irish border protocol.

### [Slovenia confirms 3-billion-euro package to help overcome coronavirus](#)

April 3, 2020, Reuters

The Slovenian parliament on Thursday approved measures worth about 3 billion euros, or 6% of GDP, to help companies and individuals overcome the coronavirus epidemic.

### [Portugal tightens Easter travel restrictions due to coronavirus](#)

April 2, 2020, Reuters

Portugal's government tightened restrictions on movement to stop the spread of the coronavirus during the normally busy Easter holiday period, closing all airports to commercial flights and banning domestic travel from April 9-13.

### **Russia**

### [Russian coronavirus aid delivery to US prompts confusion and criticism](#)

April 3, 2020, CNN

Former State Department officials were "mystified" and "bemused" by the United States' purchase of medical supplies from Russia amid the coronavirus pandemic -- a move that experts say is a propaganda win for the Kremlin.

### [Oil price rebounds on hopes Saudi Arabia and Russia will reach deal](#)

April 2, 2020, The Guardian

Global oil prices rebounded to more than \$30 a barrel for the first time in almost a month on Thursday after Saudi Arabia and Russia signalled a possible truce in a price war that has triggered the fastest oil market collapse in decades.

### [Russia Offers India Three Refurbished Kilo-Class Submarines](#)

April 3, 2020, The Diplomat

The Indian Navy is reportedly considering three refurbished Kilo-class boats from Russia.

### [Putin sees opportunity in Syria's COVID-19 crisis](#)

April 1, 2020. Al Monitor

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus to discuss the ongoing battle for Idlib as well as Russian humanitarian assistance to Syria.

### [Who Paid for Russia's Coronavirus Aid to the U.S.?](#)

April 3, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russia sent a military plane carrying protective gear and ventilators to the United States on Wednesday to help the country battle the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [US indicts Venezuela's Maduro on narcoterrorism charges](#)

March 27, 2020, AP News

Nicolás Maduro effectively converted Venezuela into a criminal enterprise at the service of drug traffickers and terrorist groups as he and his allies stole billions from the South American country, the Justice Department charged in several indictments made public Thursday against the embattled socialist leader and his inner circle.

#### [Venezuela says US drug charges against Maduro show 'desperation'](#)

March 27, 2020, Al Jazeera

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said on Thursday that drug trafficking charges by the United States against President Nicolas Maduro announced earlier in the day showed the "desperation" of the "Washington elite".

#### [Cuba has a history of sending medical teams to nations in crisis](#)

April 1, 2020, Al Jazeera

As the world fights to stop COVID-19 claiming more lives, Cuba has dispatched 593 medical workers to 14 countries in their battles against the pandemic, its ministry of public health told .

#### [Mexico talking to fellow producers to find 'suitable oil price'](#)

April 2, 2020, Nasdaq

Mexico has been communicating with other oil-producing countries about stabilizing production to obtain an appropriate crude price, the government said on Thursday, even though it has given no indication of any plans to curb Mexican output.

#### [In Argentina, coronavirus brings more economic pain](#)

March 27, 2020, Al Jazeera

On a sunny afternoon last month, Gloria Mongelos sat on a plastic chair beside a small, run-down house she had turned into a soup kitchen in Monte Grande, a low-income neighbourhood on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.



## [China's financial calculus in Latin America: Before and after COVID-19](#)

April 2, 2020, The Global Americans

Latin America's extensive dependence on China as a market for raw materials dealt a serious blow to the region at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. Even in January, many countries faced lower demand and falling prices for key exports as China's production and other activity ground to a relative halt. Now, as the region grapples with its own response to the pandemic, governments are bracing for unprecedented economic contraction, while looking anxiously to China for signs of relief.

## **Africa**

### [Rwanda secures \\$109 million IMF loan to tackle coronavirus](#)

April 3, 2020, NASDAQ

Rwanda has secured a \$109.4 million in emergency coronavirus funding from the International Monetary Fund, the first African country to do so, the fund said.

### [UN Zimbabwe Has Provided Zimbabwe With A \\$770Million Humanitarian Plan](#)

April 2, 2020, Pindula

Zimbabwe's Minister of Sports, Kirsty Coventry has said that United Nations Zimbabwe have provided Zimbabwe with a \$770 million humanitarian response plan.

### [COVID-19: US announces \\$7M aid for Somalia](#)

April 2, 2020, Andolou Agency

The U.S. announced on Thursday it will provide \$7 million to help Somalia deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. "The U.S. Government is providing \$7 million in humanitarian and health assistance to #Somalia for #COVID19 response," read a tweet by the Somalia chapter of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

### [Sudan asks US to remove it from terrorism list](#)

April 2, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Acting Sudanese Ambassador to Washington Amira Agaraib asked the US to remove Khartoum from the list of state sponsors of terrorism.



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