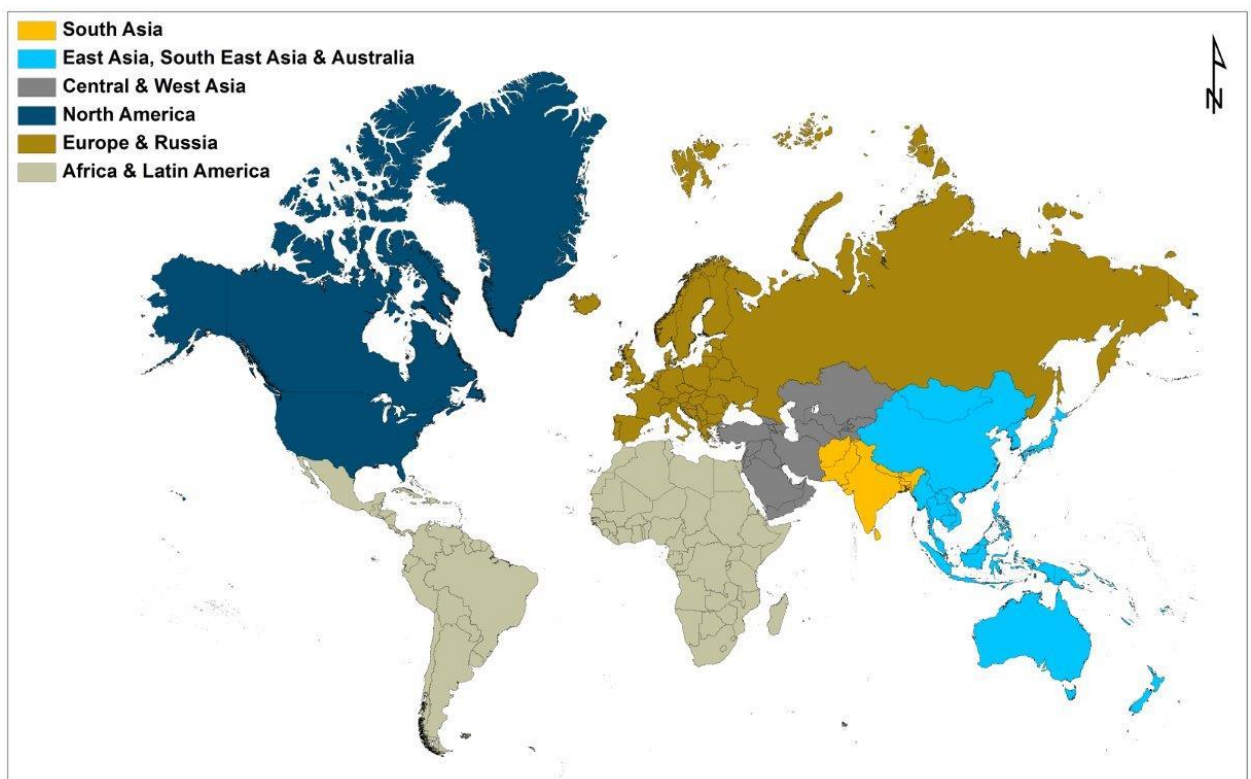




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 19

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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South Asia

India

[India has made many important contributions to Afghanistan's development: US](#)

May 7, 2019, The Economic Times

The US on Tuesday said its Special Representative for Afghan peace Zalmay Khalilzad has recognised the many important contributions India has made to Afghanistan's development in his talks with top Indian government officials during his two-day visit here.

[US bolsters India's stand on Pak link in Azhar ban](#)

May 3, 2019, Hindustan Times

The notification issued by the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee on Wednesday dropped these references – a face-saving measure for Pakistan apparently at the behest of China, which lifted its technical hold for the designation to go ahead.

[India studying water treaty, water will flow to Rajasthan, Punjab not Pakistan: Nitin Gadkari](#)

May 9, 2019, India Today

Union minister Nitin Gadkari has once again raked up the Indus Water Treaty issue and said that India is studying the water sharing agreement and will be re-channelling the water to Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan instead of giving it to Pakistan.

[Army to induct 460 Russian-origin tanks to add muscle on Pak front](#)

May 7, 2019, The Times of India

The Indian Army will induct an additional 464 Russian-origin upgraded T-90 'Bhishma' main battle tanks at a cost of Rs 13,448 crore in the 2022-2026 time to frame to bolster its "shock and awe" capabilities on the western front.

[As US delays withdrawing GSP benefits, India postpones retaliatory tariffs](#)

May 2, 2019, Live Mint

India on Thursday further delayed implementation of its June 2018 order to impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 US products by 14 days till 16 May as it awaits a final word from the US on its decision to withdraw duty-free benefits to Indian exporters.

[As Beijing races ahead in quest for a military footprint, Delhi has some catching up to do](#)

May 7, 2019, The Indian Express

In the annual report to the US Congress on Chinese military power released last week, the US Defence Department has pointed to China's vigorous quest for foreign military bases, including in Pakistan. This should not surprise Delhi, which closely tracks the expansion of China's military footprint in the Subcontinent and beyond in the Indian Ocean.

[India's largest ever 'eye in the sky' will take on its neighbours](#)

May 6, 2019, Business Insider

India's largest surveillance satellite so far, the Radar Satellite (RISAT) 2BR1, is set to launch on May 22.

Pakistan

[Data Darbar blast death toll rises to 12](#)

May 10, 2019, Pakistan Today

The death toll from Wednesday's suicide attack outside Lahore's Data Darbar arose to 12, as another injured succumbed to his wounds on Friday. h toll rises to 12.

[UNSC action to blacklist Masood Azhar offers Pakistan an excellent opportunity to act on terror](#)

May 7, 2019, The Indian Express

Credit for Azhar's listing as a global terrorist goes to the Narendra Modi government. If Pakistan wishes to overcome this isolation and ignominy, it has to join the world community in the fight against terror.

[Govt failure to get Pakistani fishermen released from Indian jails slammed](#)

May 10, 2019, DAWN

Fishermen's Cooperative Society (FCS) chairman Abdul Bar on Thursday said the federal government had failed to get Pakistani fishermen released from Indian prisons despite the fact that it had freed 360 Indian fishermen who were detained for violating Pakistan's territorial waters.

[Indian minister threatens to stop Pakistan's share of water](#)

May 10, 2019, Pakistan Today

In March, soon after tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours flared up and the two sides skirmished in the air, during which at least two Indian Air

Force jets were shot down, New Delhi started impeding the flow of three rivers shared by the two countries.

[FM calls for effective economic diplomacy to attract foreign investment](#)

May 10, 2019, Pakistan Today

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has stressed for an effective economic diplomacy to attract foreign investment.

[Pakistan, IMF close to finalising \\$6-7 billion loan agreement](#)

May 10, 2019, Geo TV

The federal government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are close to finalising a staff-level agreement expected to range between \$6-7 billion, sources in the Ministry of Finance said.

[FIA continues crackdown against Chinese nationals involved in human trafficking](#)

May 9, 2019, Geo TV

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday busted another human smuggling cell and arrested 11 Chinese nationals and two Pakistanis from Lahore's Johar Town as it continued its crackdown against human trafficking.

[Chinese companies play important role in Pakistani economy: PM](#)

May 7, 2019, Global Times

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Monday that Chinese companies are playing an important role in the country's economy by contributing in revenue and creating job opportunities.

[What does Brexit mean for Pakistan?](#)

May 9, 2019, Geo TV

Britain, as a rule, takes a lot of time to walk out of anything. We, in the sub-continent, know, how many decades it took for it to exit the region. That is why the European Union must prepare itself for very long goodbyes.

Afghanistan

[6th round of talks between US, Taliban negotiators resumed](#)

May 9, 2019, The Kabul Times

US special peace envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban negotiators have resumed their talks in Doha, capital city of Qatar, to end the 18-year old war in Afghanistan.

[Khalilzad visits India amid Doha talks](#)

May 8, 2019, The Kabul Times

The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Monday visited India as the United States delegation's talks with the Taliban had a one-day break on the occasion of Ramadhan.

[A restorative framework for justice, peace, and reconciliation in Afghanistan](#)

May 9, 2019, The Kabul Times

To end the decades-long cycle of violence in Afghanistan, justice must be part of any potential peace agreement. But instead of retributive justice that focuses on the wrongdoers, Afghanistan should consider a restorative framework that is centered on victims' needs.

[Afghan and Pakistani leaders discuss peace, security, regional prosperity over phone](#)

May 6, 2019, The Khaama Press

The Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan discussed peace, security, and regional prosperity during a telephone conversation on Sunday.

[Korea supports Afghan-led, owned peace process](#)

May 9, 2019, The Kabul Times

Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Idrees Zaman met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kabul Rhee Zha Hyoung here on Tuesday, a statement said.

[Gen. Dunford says U.S. will need forces in Afghanistan until no insurgency left in the country](#)

May 9, 2019, The Khaama Press

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford has said that the United States will need counter-terrorism forces in Afghanistan until there is no insurgency left in the country.

Bangladesh

[Cyclone Fani damage worth Tk 536 crore](#)

May 10, 2019, The Daily Star

The damage caused by Cyclone Fani has been estimated to be Tk 536.61 crore, the government said

[Bangladesh to be among top global GDP contributors](#)

May 10, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh will be among the top 20 contributors to the global GDP by 2024, said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

[Bangladesh's China-India Balance](#)

May 6, 2019, The Diplomat

While China's domination of the telecommunications industry in Asia has become a fact of life, the world power has established a foothold in another sector in Bangladesh: the energy industry.

[In a new gesture, China links Rohingya issue with BCIM success](#)

May 9, 2019, bdnews24.com

"The real solution of the problem lies in development," Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zhang Zuo said on Wednesday in Dhaka in a post-BRI, or Belt and Road Initiative, press briefing.

Nepal

[Nepal Inching Toward China](#)

May 9, 2019, The Diplomat

In what appears to be a delicate balance between major powers, the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) led government of KP Sharma Oli is slowly but gradually taking steps to benefit economically from China.

[Nepal has a front-row seat to the great power competition in Asia](#)

May 10, 2019, AXIOS

The Trump administration says Nepal is "central" to its strategy in the Indo-Pacific, but the small South Asian country is already home to a battle for influence between its giant neighbors: China and India.

[Why Nepal Is Keenly Watching India Elections](#)

May 7, 2019, The Diplomat

The ongoing parliamentary elections in India also matter to the government and the people of neighboring Nepal. While the government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi started its relations with Kathmandu on a high pitch, ties are back to less-than-satisfactory levels at the end of its five-year term.

[Nepal to begin work on rail links to China and India "within two years"](#)

May 8, 2019, GCR

The government of Nepal has said technical studies for the construction of railways linking it with India and China have been completed, and construction work will begin by 2021.

[Indian national arrested for smuggling black pepper to India from Nepal](#)

May 8, 2019, Business Standard

An Indian national and a Nepalese man have been arrested for allegedly smuggling black pepper to India from southern Nepal's Birgunj city, police said.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka tourist arrivals declines by 7.5 percent in April 2019](#)

MAy 7, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals declined 7.5 percent in April 2019 compared to the same period last year, the data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) showed.

[China-Sri Lanka cooperation unaffected after attacks](#)

May 7, 2019, Global Times

While the Sri Lanka terror attacks that killed four Chinese scientists last month inevitably raised some concerns about China-Sri Lanka cooperation and the security of Belt and Road (B&R) projects, Chinese institutes and operators in Sri Lanka told the Global Times on Monday that all cooperation remained unaffected.

[SLNS Samudra off to Singapore to participate in maritime defence exhibition](#)

May 7, 2019, Sunday Times

Sri Lanka Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel, SLNS Samudura left for Singapore from the Trincomalee Port, yesterday (May 06).

[Maldives offers support to safeguard Sri Lanka's national security](#)

May 9, 2019, Daily News.lk

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives Abdulla Shahid, who is on an official visit to Sri Lanka, yesterday met with Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at Temple Trees.

[China donates Rs. 17.84 million cash for the Injured in Sri Lanka's Easter Sunday bomb Attacks](#)

May 9, 2019, Colombo Page

China has made a cash donation for the treatment of the injured in the Easter Sunday bomb Attacks in Sri Lanka, the Chinese Embassy in Colombo said.

[European Union ready to support Sri Lanka in addressing threat of terrorism](#)

May 9, 2019, Colombo Page

The European Union has always been a close friend and partner of Sri Lanka- in good and in bad times and stands ready to support Sri Lanka in addressing the threat of terrorism and to emerge stronger from the crisis, Ambassador of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Tung-Lai Margue said.

[Humanitarian organizations appeal to Sri Lanka government to provide protection for refugees and asylum seekers](#)

May 10, 2019, Colombo Page

Several global humanitarian organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have jointly appealed to the Government of Sri Lanka to provide protection for refugees and asylum seekers in the country who have been evicted from their homes in the wake of the Easter Sunday suicide attacks last month.

[Maldives releases Sri Lankan fishermen](#)

May 9, 2019, Maldives Independent

The Maldives government has agreed to release crew members of four Sri Lankan fishing boats seized from the country's territorial waters.

East & South East Asia

China

[Chinese diplomat calls for US participation in Belt and Road](#)

May 8, 2019, Global Times

The United States has every reason to work with China in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to build connectivity and jointly address global development issues, a senior Chinese diplomat has said.

[Beijing threatens to respond to US after Donald Trump repeats plan to keep trade war tariffs in place](#)

May 8, 2019, SCMP

US president accuses Beijing of attempting to negotiate with his political opponents to avoid having to make concessions.

[China won't join talks on trilateral nuclear disarmament deal: FM](#)

May 6, 2019, Global Times

China will not participate in negotiations on any trilateral nuclear disarmament agreement, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

[China 'puts Europe trade deal on back burner' to put out US tariff fire](#)

May 8, 2019, SCMP

Uncertainties over talks between Washington and Beijing have overshadowed progress with Brussels, source says

[China slams US bills on Taiwan](#)

May 8, 2019, Global Times

The bills passed by the US House of Representatives that support Taiwan secessionist forces have angered China, and the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday warned that such a move could seriously damage the China-US relationship as well as peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.

[Strong Chinese navy guarantee of South China Sea peace](#)

May 7, 2019, Global Times

On May 6, two US warships trespassed in the adjacent waters of Nanxun Jiao and Chigua Jiao of China's Nansha Islands without the Chinese government's permission. This was the third provocation this year by US warships in the South China Sea. Every time it was carried out under the banner of the so-called freedom of navigation.

Japan

[Suga discusses North Korea with Pompeo](#)

May 10, 2019, NHK World

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga has reaffirmed with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo their countries' closer cooperation after North Korea launched projectiles for the second time in a week.

[Japanese Foreign Minister Heading To Russia For Peace Deal Talks](#)

May 9, 2019, Chinanews.net

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono is heading to Russia for a new round of talks on a decades-old territorial dispute that has prevented Moscow and Tokyo from signing a peace agreement and formally end World War II.

[Kono opposes giving food aid to N Korea](#)

May 10, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Thursday came out against giving North Korea humanitarian aid to help ease a severe food shortage, a move South Korea said it may take despite Pyongyang's recent weapons tests.

[Japan strategically gives S. Korea the cold shoulder](#)

May 7, 2019, Japan News

This is the fifth and final installment in the series "Abe's diplomacy for Osaka G20."

[Abe, Trump to go aboard MSDF ship](#)

May 9, 2019, The Japan News

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump plan to board a Japanese destroyer together during Trump's visit later this month, government sources said.

Korea

[North Korea launches two projectiles, assumed to be short-range missiles: JSC](#)

May 9, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea fired two projectiles that appeared to be short-range missiles, less than a week after it conducted what it claimed was a "regular military drill."

[NK projectile launch signals it wants more than food aid](#)

May 9, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea's launch of yet more projectiles on Thursday signals that it wants more than the food aid Seoul and Washington are poised to discuss this week to lure it back to nuclear talks, analysts said.

[US won't 'intervene' in South Korea's food aid to N. Korea: White House](#)

May 9, 2019, The Korea Times

The United States won't "intervene" if South Korea decides to send food aid to North Korea, the White House said .

[Moon Denies N.Korean Missile Launches Violate Military Deal](#)

May 10, 2019, Chosun Ilbo

President Moon Jae-in said Thursday that North Korea's latest missile provocations "bear the hallmarks of a form of protest against [South] Korea and the U.S."

[South Korea, US, Japan hold trilateral security talks](#)

May 9, 2019, China News.net

Military officials from South Korea, the United States and Japan held trilateral security talks on Thursday to discuss issues related to denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

[Korean markets tumble on US-China trade tensions](#)

May 9, 2019, Korea Herald

South Korean markets were rattled Thursday, along with other markets in the region, after US President Donald Trump claimed that Beijing "broke the deal" in the ongoing trade talks with Washington.

Southeast Asia

[New Zealand government acknowledges the importance of NZ-China relations](#)

May 6, 2019, Global Times

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern reiterated on Monday the importance of New Zealand-China relations and the mutual respect and trust when dealing with disputes.

[Indonesia President Joko Widodo says to go all out in second term to boost economic reform](#)

May 9, 2019, The Straits Times

Indonesian President Joko Widodo pledged on Thursday (May 9) to slim the government during his second term and cut red tape hampering investment to achieve an ambitious growth target in South-east Asia's biggest economy by 2045.

[After disputed election, Thailand expected to keep junta leader as PM](#)

May 9, 2019, The Straits Times

Thailand's pro-army Palang Pracharath Party was looking for coalition partners on Thursday (May 9) from a wide field of potential allies as it seeks to keep military junta leader Prayut Chan-o-cha, who led a 2014 coup, in office as prime minister.

[US-China trade war is a gift that keeps on giving for Vietnam](#)

May 8, 2019, SCMP

Southeast Asian country's manufacturing and export boom shows no sign of letting up as businesses try to offset cost of tariffs on Chinese-made products

[KL to follow up with Singapore on idea of joint Unesco listing](#)

May 9, 2018, SCMP

Malaysia will follow up on a proposal made to Singapore last month that the two neighbours seek a joint listing of their hawker culture under Unesco.

[Japan, Vietnam Teaming up to Resist China Expansion](#)

May 10, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Japan is helping Vietnam build a defense against the larger, more militarily powerful China as Vietnam says Beijings forces are occupying more than their legal share of the South China Sea.

Central & West Asia

[World Bank endorses new Country Partnership Framework for Tajikistan](#)

May 10, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Tajikistan aims to achieve sustained economic growth, boost exports, and create more and better jobs for its citizens, through enhanced private-sector development and greater investment in human capital and public services.

[International organizations highly assess the Turkmen Lake project](#)

May 10, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

A briefing with the participation of heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Turkmenistan and representatives of foreign and national mass media was held in Serdar etrap, Balkan Velayat (province) concerning the project of Altyn Asyr Turkmen Lake in Karakum Desert as well as cooperation of Turkmenistan with specialized UN departments in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State News Agency of Turkmenistan reported on May 8.

[Kazakhstan stops protestors from gathering; websites unavailable](#)

May 9, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Multiple social media platforms and independent news sites were unavailable for much of the day, a major public holiday across the former Soviet Union that marks the defeat of Nazi Germany. The website of the Kazakhstan Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law also appeared to be blocked.

[Turkmenistan, Romania mull business partnership prospects](#)

May 10, 2019, Azer news

A round table meeting was held in Bucharest on the topic "Current economic challenges and prospects in the Caspian Sea region - the experience of Turkmenistan", Trend reports with reference to the Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

[Keeping Kyrgyzstan's Uranium In The Ground](#)

May 6, 2019, Rferl.org

When the people of Kyrgyzstan's Tong district confirmed there was a uranium-mining operation in their area, they protested. Then their protest spread to Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek, and parliament quickly passed a motion to ban uranium mining in the country.

[Suicide bombing in Baghdad kills, wounds several civilians](#)

May 9, 2019, Al Arabiya

A suicide bomber detonated an explosive belt in a market in Sadr City district in Baghdad.

[Israeli settlements 'not illegal' says Trump Middle East envoy](#)

May 10, 2019, Al Arabiya

US President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy slammed the UN Security Council on Thursday for criticising illegal Israeli settlements.

[China reiterates support for Iran nuclear deal](#)

May 6, 2019, Global Times

China commended Iran's strict fulfillment of its obligations under the Iran Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) so far and would continue to maintain and carry out the deal with relevant parties, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

[Chinese president, Saudi king talk over phone on bilateral ties](#)

May 9, 2019, China.org.cn

Chinese President Xi Jinping held a telephone conversation with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saudi.

[NATO Chief visits Ankara in bid to block Russian missile sale](#)

May 8, 2019, The Kabul Times

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg is visiting the Turkish capital amid escalating tensions between alliance members Turkey and the United States over Ankara's procuring of a Russian S-400 missile system.

[Iran chides EU for failing to stand up to US 'bullying'](#)

May 10, 2019, Al Jazeera

Instead of criticising Tehran, EU should uphold nuclear deal obligations - including normalising economic ties, FM says.

[US deploys B-52 bombers to Qatar amid Iran threat hiatus](#)

May 10, 2019, RT

The US Air Force released images of B-52 Stratofortress bombers landing in Qatar. The deployment is part of a larger US military build-up in the region touted as a countermeasure to an unspecified threat from Iran.

United States

[China is using BRI to achieve its national security objectives: Mike Pompeo](#)

May 7, 2019, Money Control.com

The BRI was launched by President Xi when he came to power in 2013. It aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes

[US seizes North Korean cargo ship, alleging sanctions violations](#)

May 10, 2019, CNN

The United States has seized a North Korean cargo ship, alleging sanctions violations by the country, the Justice Department said.

[US raises tariffs on \\$200 billion Chinese goods as trade talks in Washington fail to make progress](#)

May 10, 2019, The Telegraph

The US hiked tariffs on more than \$200 billion in goods from China on Friday in the most dramatic step yet of Donald Trump's push to extract trade concessions, deepening a conflict that has roiled financial markets and cast a shadow over the global economy.

[Agreement to protect US interests in Venezuela still not operational after a month](#)

May 8, 2019, CNN

More than a month after Switzerland agreed to be the caretaker of US embassy interests in Venezuela, the arrangement is still not operational.

[Trump says China 'broke the deal' in trade talks, will pay through tariffs](#)

May 9, 2019, The Straits Times

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday (May 8) that China "broke the deal" it had reached in trade talks with the United States, and vowed not to back down on imposing new tariffs on Chinese imports unless Beijing "stops cheating our workers".

[Trump extends sanctions against Syria for another year](#)

May 9, 2019, 2019, TASS

President of the United States Donald Trump has ordered to extend for one more year a set of unilateral sanctions against Syria, the White House said in a statement.

[Open to talks with Iranian leadership, says Donald Trump](#)

May 10, 2019, News on Air

US President Donald Trump has said that he is open to talks with the Iranian leadership, amid mounting tensions between Washington and Tehran. He was talking to reporters at the White House in Washington yesterday.

Europe & Russia

['We reject any ultimatums': Europe responds firmly to Iran's nuclear deal threat](#)

May 9, 2019, CNBC

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced Wednesday his country would end its compliance with two particular conditions of the nuclear deal if Europe did not step in to protect the country from U.S. sanctions.

[Germany criticised for mistreatment of Afghan asylum seeker](#)

May 9, 2019, Al Jazeera

A watchdog accuses German police of 'choking and squeezing genitals' of Afghan man while he was being expelled.

[German government defends planned immigration laws](#)

May 9, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Angela Merkel's government presented its long-awaited draft immigration law to the Bundestag – and got plenty of criticism from all political sides in return. Reforms to attract skilled workers aren't enough for some.

[Chinese ambassador to Britain urges observance of INF treaty](#)

May 6, 2019, Global Times

Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming on Sunday urged the United States and Russia to strive to address their differences properly through constructive dialogue and observe the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

[Montenegro convicts opposition leaders and 'Russian spies' over coup plot](#)

May 9, 2019, The Irish Times

Kremlin denies role in 2016 plan to kill Balkan state's leader and stop Nato accession

[China, Russia conduct first ever joint warship-based live-fire missile exercise](#)

May 5, 2019, Global Times

Chinese and Russian navies conducted on Saturday their first ever joint warship-based live-fire missile exercise, as naval vessels from both sides launched surface-to-air missiles and successfully intercepted incoming anti-ship cruise missile dummies.

[Russia is the real winner in any US-Iran conflict](#)

May 9, 2019, The Hill

The beating of the war drums between the United States and Iran is music to the Kremlin's ears. As a crisis looms between Washington and Tehran, Moscow is poised to reap the benefits — as long as it can limit the damage.

[Putin vows to continue beefing up Russia's defense potential](#)

May 9, 2019, TASS

Russia will continue developing its defense potential but remains open for cooperation with other countries in fighting terrorism, extremism and neo-Nazism, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a speech at the Victory Parade in Moscow's Red Square.

Africa & Latin America

[Islamic State claims attack on DR Congo military base near Kamango](#)

May 9, 2019, The Defense Post

Islamic State claimed that fighters from its Central Africa Province affiliate attacked a military base in Bunduguya in Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern North Kivu province, near the border with Uganda, the third ISIS-claimed attack in three weeks.

[Indian sailors abducted in Nigeria, Sushma Swaraj asks for action at highest level](#)

May 7, 2019, India Today

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has asked the Indian High Commissioner in Nigeria to look into the matter of five Indian sailors who have been abducted in Nigeria.

[African Union and UN back civilian-led Sudan transition](#)

May 7, 2019, Al Jazeera

The African Union and the United Nations have said they are supporting a civilian-led transitional government in Sudan following last month's overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir.

[South Africa signs oil deal in war-torn South Sudan](#)

May 7, 2019, Financial Times

South Africa has signed a deal to explore for oil in South Sudan, as part of a potential \$1bn investment that the petroleum minister in the war-torn east African country hopes will eventually help to boost production.

[Seventh batch of Chinese doctors arrive in South Sudan](#)

May 5, 2019, Global Times

The seventh batch of Chinese doctors arrived in South Sudan on Saturday to conduct a one-year medical assistance mission in the world's youngest country.

[Deputy to Venezuela's Guaido arrested and dragged away by tow truck](#)

May 9, 2019, RTE

Venezuelan intelligence agents detained opposition leader Juan Guaido's congressional deputy yesterday, using a tow truck to drag his vehicle away with him inside, prompting the US government to warn of "consequences" if he was not released.

[How Argentina crept to the threshold of crisis, again](#)

May 6, 2019, PRI.org

Consumer prices streaked more than 54 percent higher in the 12 months through March in defiance of central bank efforts to control inflation, fueling poverty and further damaging a business climate blighted by nose-bleed high borrowing rates.

[Duque Has Left Colombia's Peace Process Rudderless](#)

May 8, 2019, WPR

Nine months into his tenure and still finding his footing, Colombia's president is close to a bitter legislative defeat on one of the country's most charged political issues: peace. Ivan Duque's attempt to roll back parts of Colombia's landmark 2016 peace accord already went down by a 110-44 vote in Colombia's House of Representatives on April 8.

[Colombia blasts Venezuela over alleged military incursion](#)

May 8, 2019, France 24

Colombia hit out at neighbor Venezuela on Wednesday for "repeated provocations" after claiming around 30 military personnel crossed into its territory.

[Brazil's Bolsonaro signs decree easing gun import, ammo limits](#)

May 8, 2019, Reuters'

Brazil's right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro signed a decree on Tuesday to ease restrictions on gun imports and increase the amount of ammunition a person can buy.

[Tomato prices in the U.S. could DOUBLE if tariffs are placed on tomatoes from Mexico](#)

May 7, 2019, Daily Mail

Mexico's Economy Department said Tuesday that U.S. consumers could pay 38 per cent to 70 per cent more for tomatoes after the U.S. Commerce Department announced it would re-impose anti-dumping duties on Mexican imports.

[Cubans Increasingly Anxious About Gas Shortages Under Trump Sanctions Against Venezuela](#)

May 5, 2019, NPR

Cubans are anxious about gas shortages that are worsening under Trump administration sanctions against Venezuela, a key fuel supplier to the communist island.



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