



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group
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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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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

[British looted \\$45 trillion from India in today's value: Jaishankar](#)

October 03, 2019, The Economic Times

"India had two centuries of humiliation by the West in its predatory form it came to India in the mid-18th century. An economic study tried to estimate how much British took out of India, it ended up at a number of \$45 trillion in today's value," Jaishankar stated while delivering an address at noted think tank Atlantic Council in Washington DC on October 1st.

[Defence Minister Rajnath Singh likely to fly in Indian Rafale on October 8](#)

October 03, 2019, India Today

During his trip to France, the Defence Minister will officially receive the fighter jet from France and is likely to fly in it after it is officially inducted in the Indian Air Force.

[India responds to Imran Khan's UN speech: Indian citizens do not need anyone to speak on their behalf](#)

September 28, 2019, The Hindu

India exercised its right of reply to the statement made by Khan on September 27 and fielded its newest diplomat at its mission at the UN to fend off the allegations made. "Citizens of India do not need anyone else to speak on their behalf, least of all those who have built an industry of terrorism from the ideology of hate," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Vidisha Maitra said. Maitra added that after having "mainstreamed terrorism and hate speech," Pakistan is trying to play its wild card as the new found champion of human rights.

[India blocks PoK President's event in French Parliament](#)

October 03, 2019, India Today

The Indian mission in Paris issued a demarche and urged the French foreign ministry to stop the PoK President from addressing as J&K is an integral part of India and the address will be an infringement of India's sovereignty.

[Hostile neighbourhood wants to destabilise India: Rajnath Singh at INS Nilgiri launch](#)

September 28, 2019, Money Control

State-sponsored terrorism is a big challenge and "our hostile neighbourhood" wants to destabilise India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on September 28 at the launch of frigate INS Nilgiri here.

[India targets Turkish shipyard over ties with Pakistan](#)

October 03, 2019, Defence News

For the first time, India is taking punitive action against an overseas defense company that could see Turkish firm Anadolu Shipyard banned from doing defense-related business in India. The Turkish company's defense ties with Indian rival Pakistan have grown recently, and the latest move could impact the Indian Navy's \$2 billion fleet support ships program, for which state-owned Hindustan Shipyard Limited has chosen Anadolu Shipyard as its technology partner.

[Rafale to give India edge over China, Pakistan: IAF Chief Bhadauria](#)

September 30, 2019, The Economic Times

"Rafale is a very capable aircraft, once we induct it, it will be a game-changer in terms of our operational capability and when we use it in combination with SU-30 and other fleets which we have, we would have a serious jump in our capability. It will give us an edge over Pakistan and China," Bhadauria told ANI soon after taking over as the 26th Chief of the Force.

[Brahmos supersonic cruise missile with major indigenous systems test-fired successfully](#)

September 30, 2019, The Economic Times

"The missile was successfully test-fired at 10.20 am on September 30 from Chandipur in Odisha for its full range of 290-km during the launch jointly conducted by DRDO and BrahMos Aerospace," an official statement from Defence Ministry said.

[India has over 6 lakh rogue drones; agencies analysing sky fence, drone gun tech](#)

September 30, 2019, Economic Times

An official blueprint prepared by central agencies has been accessed by that states unregulated drones, UAVs and remotely-piloted aircraft system are a "potential threat" to vital installations, sensitive locations and specific events and a "compatible solution" is required to counter them. A data estimation study conducted by these agencies state that over 6 lakh unregulated drones of various

sizes and capacities, are present in the country and anyone of them can be used for launching a nefarious act by disruptive elements.

[Indian Navy inaugurates first aircraft carrier dry dock](#)

September 30, 2019, IHS Jane

The Indian Navy's largest dry dock to date was inaugurated on 28 September at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai in a ceremony presided over by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Named 'Aircraft Carrier Dry Dock', the 281-m long, 45-m wide, and 17-m deep facility is capable of accommodating INS Vikramaditya (ex-Admiral Gorshkov), the service's sole 44,750-tonne refurbished Kiev-class carrier, as well as ships of up to 90,000 tonnes, said the Indian Navy in a statement, adding that the construction of the dock required "innovative and extreme engineering methods".

Pakistan

[Manmohan Singh agrees to visit Kartarpur for Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary: report](#)

October 3, 2019, Dawn News

Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has agreed to be a part of the all-party delegation set to visit Kartarpur in Pakistan for Baba Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary celebrations.

[UAE to invest \\$5bn in oil refinery project in Pakistan by end of 2019: report](#)

October 4, 2019, Dawn News

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will invest \$5 billion in an oil refinery project in Pakistan by the end of the year. In an interview with the publication, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi said: "We are going to launch very soon one of the biggest investments in a refinery project in Hub. It is going to be a \$5 billion investment between Mubadala Petroleum Company of Abu Dhabi, Pak Arab Refinery Limited (Parco) and OMV [OMV Pakistan Exploration Gesellschaft]."

[Pakistan plays host to US, Taliban teams](#)

October 3, 2019, Dawn News

In a renewed push for a political settlement of the nearly two-decade-old Afghan conflict, Pakistan is hosting the United States and Taliban representatives to persuade the two sides to resume their stalled peace talks.

[In meeting with tycoons, Army chief stressed 'intimate' link between national security, economy: ISPR](#)

October 3, 2019, Dawn News

Pak military's media wing on Thursday, 3rd October issued a formal statement about the much-talked-about meeting a day earlier between the army chief and some of Pakistan's most powerful business tycoons. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has reportedly told a group of businessmen that the country's "improved internal security environment" has "created space for increased economic activity".

[Nuclear war between India and Pakistan could kill up to 125 million and launch a global climate catastrophe](#)

October 2, 2019, USA Today

As many as 125 million people would die within days if India and Pakistan waged a nuclear war, according to a scientific study released Wednesday. That's more than the death toll during all six years of World War II.

[Pakistan sends 3 consignments of arms and ammunition to Punjab within 12 days](#)

October 2, 2019, India Today

Khalistani and Islamic terrorist groups have sent three consignments of 16 assault rifles and 9 hand grenades along with satellite phones to India in the last 12 days. The arms and ammunition came in three consignments, which were sent by Khalistani terror group bosses, including Khalistan Zindabad Force chief Ranjeet Singh Neeta and Khalistan Liberation Front (KLF) chief Harmeet Singh PHD.

[PM assures business community of addressing concerns over NAB](#)

October 3, 2019, Pakistan Today

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said that a strategy has been prepared to remove the business community's reservations about the functionality of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). While speaking to a delegation of members of various chambers of commerce and industry, including Lahore and Karachi, the premier added that a committee comprising corporate personalities was being formed to resolve their reservations.

[Pakistan needs to repay China more than double amount it owes IMF](#)

October 3, 2019, Business Standard

Pakistan needs to repay China more than double the amount it owes the International Monetary Fund in the next three years, as loans racked-up to boost foreign exchange reserves and bridge a financing gap become due. The South Asian nation owes \$6.7 billion in commercial loans to China over the three years

through June 2022, according to the IMF, which this year approved a new program to bail out Pakistan from a crisis. Islamabad needs to pay the multilateral lender \$2.8 billion in the same period.

[No Slowdown of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Projects, Says Chinese Envoy](#)

September 30, 2019, News 18

China has said that there was no slowdown of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and the two countries have identified three key areas to promote the USD 50 billion initiative as it entered a "new phase". The CPEC, which connects China's Xinjiang province with the strategic Gwadar Port in Balochistan, is the flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

[Munir Akram replaces Maleeha Lodhi as Pakistan's representative to UN](#)

September 30, 2019, Geo News

Munir Akram would replace Dr Maleeha Lodhi as Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, the foreign ministry said Monday in a statement. Akram, who has previously served at the same post from 2002 to 2008, would be stationed at the UN's New York headquarters. He specialises in multilateral diplomacy with considerable experience over the years at the UN's New York and Geneva chapters.

Afghanistan

[Signs of Ballot-Box Stuffing Add Tension to Afghan Vote Count](#)

October 3, 2019, The New York Times

By early afternoon on Election Day for the president of Afghanistan, officials began to fret. At many polling stations, including some in the capital, Kabul, only the occasional voter had shown up. To allow for a bigger turnout, voting was extended by two hours. The worry about low turnout has now turned into suspicion of artificially high turnout. Ballot boxes from several areas that had exceptionally high turnout in the Saturday election, surprising observers, have arrived at the Independent Election Commission's tabulation centers brimming with votes. Some places of sparse voting reported turnout rates as high as 90 percent.

[Pakistan and Taliban call for U.S. to resume Afghan peace talks](#)

October 3, 2019, Reuters

Peace talks in Afghanistan must resume as soon as possible, Pakistan and the Taliban militant group urged on October 3, 2019 after President Donald Trump broke off negotiations last month seeking to end the United States' longest war.

[Afghanistan's India trade event drives over \\$55m](#)

October 2, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The 2019 "Passage to Prosperity: India – Afghanistan International Trade and Investment Show," supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), saw Afghan firms sign deals and pre-contract agreements valued at over \$55 million. In particular, the exhibition yielded benefits for the agricultural sector, which generated \$46 million in new business. Non-agricultural sectors signed more than 30 pre-contract agreements valued at approximately \$9.8 million.

[Low turnout overshadows election legitimacy: Hekmatyar](#)

October 2, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, one of presidential candidates rejects ideas about election legitimacy despite low turnout, saying that people's low participation in the Saturday's contest overshadows its legitimacy.

[Hundreds of Taliban fighters storm northern Afghanistan police headquarters](#)

October 1, 2019, The Defense Post

At least 11 police officers were killed and over a dozen captured on Tuesday, October 1 when Taliban fighters stormed their headquarters in northern Afghanistan, officials said.

[U.S. heading for change in Afghan posture, says Jaishankar](#)

October 3, 2019, The Hindu

The United States is heading for a change in its posture on Afghanistan but it's not clear as to what that position would be, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said. "On Afghanistan and Pakistan, I've had conversations with the Americans in Washington and otherwise on Afghanistan. Obviously, a lot of that stays with me. But my overall impression is that— I mean, it's not an impression, I think everybody can see that— the US is heading for a change of posture, but what exactly that change of posture would be is unclear, Mr. Jaishankar told a Washington think-tank.

[NSA meets UN Secretary General](#)

October 2, 2019, The Kabul Times

National Security Advisor Dr. Hamdullah Mohib met with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres the other day. In the meeting, both sides discussed Afghanistan presidential elections, security situation and prospects for peace. In the meeting, the importance of the UN's work in Afghanistan was emphasized. The UN Secretary General expressed his strong commitment to Afghanistan for a lasting peace and stability.

Bangladesh

[India, Bangladesh to conduct first ever naval exercise soon! Seek deeper military ties](#)

October 03, 2019, Financial Express

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meet on Oct 5, the discussions would also include the proposal to include the neighbouring country Bangladesh into the coastal radar chain network of India. Already, several countries from the region are part of this coastal radar network. Another agreement that is likely to be inked at the end of talks is between India's Bharat Electronics Limited and Bangladesh.

[India, Bangladesh likely to sign MoU for new waterway](#)

October 04, 2019, Daily Pioneer

India and Bangladesh are likely to sign an MoU for a new waterway to connect Gomati river in Tripura and Meghna river in Bangladesh during the four-day trip of Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said. If the MoU is signed by them a new protocol route between Bangladesh and India will be opened by connecting Gomati and Meghna rivers. It would facilitate carriage of goods from Ashuganj port on Meghna river in Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh to Sonamura in Sipahijala district of Tripura.

[Bangladesh rejects Turkey's offer due to Erdoğan's support for Jamaat-e-Islami](#)

September 29, 2019, Nordic Monitor

Bangladesh has rebuffed Turkey's repeated requests to set up a large camp in its territory for refugees over concerns that the Islamist government of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan may exploit the refugee issue to aid and abet the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) group. On the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Bangladesh convened a high-level meeting on the Rohingya humanitarian crisis on September 24, attended by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. Despite the fact that Çavuşoğlu reiterated Turkey's proposal to establish new shelters on allocated land in Cox's Bazar, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina implicitly denied Turkey's plan and revealed her country's four-point strategy on Rohingya.

[In economic growth, Bangladesh leads S Asian pack, says ADB](#)

October 04, 2019, Indian Express

Bangladesh is currently the standout South Asian economy in terms of growth, shows the Asian Development Bank's latest economic outlook update. Since 2016, Bangladesh has been growing at 7%-plus every year, and its growth is likely to cross the 8% mark both in this and the coming year, according to the report. Over this same period, India has seen a secular decline in growth rates, even though an uptick is expected in the coming year.

Nepal

[PM Oli greets Chinese Premier](#)

October 01, 2019, Kathmandu Tribune

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli extended best wishes on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. PM Oli tweeted greetings to the entire people of China on behalf of the Government, people of Nepal and on his own through his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

[Foreign Minister Gyawali meets UN Secretary-General](#)

October 02, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali met with Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres at the latter's office in New York. During the meeting, views to further strengthen cooperation between Nepal and the UN were exchanged.

[Nepal will never bow down or tilt to any side: PM Oli](#)

October 03, 2019, Khabarhub

PM Oli said that during the high-level visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping going to be held in mid-October, his efforts are to build multi-dimensional relations at the government to government and people to people level. He added that Nepal has begun to exercise its autonomy independently, and would not be swayed by external actors for third party interests.

[Nepal to join league of developing countries within three years: Minister Baskota](#)

October 03, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Gokul Prasad Baskota has claimed that Nepal would be enlisted in the list of developing countries in the next three years. He stated that the government will introduce programmes for employment creation, skill development, and technical education, making the service sector more effective and hence reducing poverty by upto 18%.

Bhutan

[A Growing Relationship: PM Modi Meets Bhutan PM Lotay Tshering](#)

September 29, 2019, Sentine Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 27 held a bilateral meeting with Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering during which the two expressed satisfaction over the progress made in different sectors, including hydropower, on the sidelines of the UNGA. According to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), this was the fourth meeting between the two Prime Ministers in the last one year, which is reflective of the close and special relations between India and Bhutan.

[New road to Doklam to give military edge to India, Bhutan](#)

October 04, 2019, CNBC TV18

Doklam is now better connected on the Indian side with an alternate road providing strategic advantage to India. The road, built by the Border Roads Organisation, also gives access to Bhutan to the boundary tri-junction of India, China and Bhutan, thus providing strategic advantage to Bhutan too, which has the same access to the road as India as per a friendship treaty between the countries.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka calls for collective efforts to tackle global security threats](#)

September 27, 2019, Sunday Times

Addressing the Ministerial Meeting of NAM, Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Ravinatha Ariyasinha highlighted the importance of combating all forms of "racism, hate, violent extremism" and modern threats such as those witnessed during the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka.

[Sri Lanka cautions UN against selective political agendas](#)

September 30, 2019, Colombo Gazette

Foreign Secretary Ravinatha Aryasinha, speaking at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, said that the UN must not be allowed to be hijacked by actors accountable to none with selective political agendas. He also said that the UN must respect decisions taken regarding domestic matters.

[China donates explosive detectors worth Rs. 750 million to Sri Lanka](#)

September 27, 2019, Colombo Page

The government of People's Republic of China has donated several equipment including weapons and explosives detectors worth Rs. 750 million to Sri Lanka. These modern apparatus was donated to Sri Lanka at a request by President Sirisena and this marks the first occasion where such high-tech machines have been used for public security and drug apprehension activities in Sri Lanka.

Maldives

[Indian Army Chief pays courtesy call on Pres Solih](#)

October 02, 2019, Avas

Chairman of Chief of Staff Committee and Chief of Army Staff of India, General Bipin Rawat has paid a courtesy call on President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Discussions at the meeting were focused on areas for further cooperation and addressed issues of common significance, said the President's Office.

['Political trust' restored between China and Maldives](#)

September 29, 2019, Maldives Independent

Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid's visit to Beijing has restored trust between China and the Maldives, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Lizhong declared. The current administration came to power after criticizing debt owed to China, which financed the former administration's flagship projects, and moved to repair relations with India. The foreign minister's maiden visit to China came nine months after assuming office.

[Indian Coast Guard trains Maldives counterpart](#)

October 02, 2019, The New Indian Express

Maldives National Defence Force Coast Guard officers and personnel are being trained by the Indian Coast Guard, on handling the Interceptor Boats, which are

currently being used for day and night coastal patrol and surveillance, anti-terrorist and anti-smuggling operations and coastal security.

East & South East Asia

China

[Grand celebration shows peaceful intent, unity of Chinese society](#)

October 1, 2019, Global Times

A celebratory event, including a military parade, marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) was held on the morning of October 01 at Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivered an important speech and inspected the troops of the People's Liberation Army in the parade.

[China's military strength guarantees world peace, stability](#)

October 1, 2019, Global Times

The New York Times published an article on September 28 titled "Tanks, Missiles and No Pigeons: China to Celebrate 70th Birthday of the People's Republic." The article, written by Steven Lee Myers, said Chinese authorities have banned homing pigeons before the upcoming National Day parade on Tuesday.

[No need to overreact as Quad ups gear](#)

September 29, 2019, Global Times

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue - known as Quad - between the US, Japan, India and Australia was held September 27 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly at the foreign minister's level.

[Collaborative governance key to Afghan peace](#)

October 4, 2019, Global Times

In the study of internal armed conflict management, collaborative governance among major powers is an important research topic. It can reduce conflicts and help promote peace. Donald Trump administration's fetish for unilateralism failed to bring peace in Afghanistan, which again reaffirms how important collaborative governance is.

[Economy riding on the back of opening-up](#)

September 30, 2019, China Daily

Since its founding in 1949, New China has adhered to an independent trade policy, with the Chinese government making great efforts to develop foreign trade in an all-round way in the initial years.

[Celebration of strength in unity shows future path: China Daily editorial](#)

October 2, 2019, China Daily

As predicted, among all the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, it was the large-scale military parade in Beijing on October 01 that grabbed the world's attention. To some, it would appear to be the only thing that Beijing did to celebrate that momentous historical event. They simply watched it through their own ideological prisms and saw it as proof of the rising military might and geopolitical ambition of a country different from their own.

[US should be sincere in trade talks: China Daily editorial](#)

September 29, 2019, China Daily

They have tried to block trade with China by raising tariffs on Chinese products. They have sought to block the advance of Chinese tech giant Huawei by cutting its supplies. Now, according to a tweet by a Bloomberg News reporter on September 27, US administration officials are considering delisting Chinese companies from US stock exchanges and limiting the exposure of US government pension funds to the Chinese market.

[Parade displays commitment to peace: China Daily editorial](#)

September 24, 2019, China Daily

The military parade to be held on Oct 1 to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China will be the 16th of its kind, and the biggest ever, according to the organizers, with some advanced weapons to be displayed for the first time.

[China-ASEAN ties enter new stage: China Daily editorial](#)

September 22, 2019, China Daily

A golden opportunity for China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to synergize their development outlooks and deepen cooperation, that is what the 16th China-ASEAN Expo provides.

[Time running out for Tsai to mend her ways: China Daily editorial](#)

September 22, 2019, China Daily

Given the pro-independence stance of Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party, it is not surprising that the island has lost many of its "diplomatic" partners in recent years.

[Xi's pledge on peaceful development, cooperation receives global applause](#)

October 10, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech on October 01 - National Day celebrations has earned wide praise from overseas officials and scholars as he pledged that China will stay on the path of peaceful development, and pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up.

[Commentary: China to join the Arms Trade Treaty](#)

September 28, 2019, Xinhua

China has initiated relevant domestic legal procedures for its accession to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The announcement, which sends out a positive signal of China's readiness to become a State Party to the ATT, was made by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the United Nations General Assembly on September 27. This announcement is greatly welcomed and highly commended by the international community.

Japan

[Japan, S. Korea foreign ministers meet, but fail to thaw relations](#)

September 27, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and his South Korean counterpart, Kang Kyung-wha, made no progress on resolving the numerous issues between their two countries in a meeting here on September 26.

[Japan, China may boost ties over next decade, depending on U.S.](#)

October 3, 2019, Japan Today

Japan and China, despite engaging in rivalry over the past decade, may bolster ties over the coming one, as the United States, pursuing its own interests, will likely stick to policies that could work to the detriment of Asia's two powers.

[Japan, China may boost ties over next decade, depending on U.S.](#)

October 3, 2019, Japan Today

Japan and China, despite engaging in rivalry over the past decade, may bolster ties over the coming one, as the United States, pursuing its own interests, will likely stick to policies that could work to the detriment of Asia's two powers.

[N Korea fires missile, possibly from sub; falls in Japan's exclusive economic zone](#)

October 2, 2019, Japan Today

North Korea fired a ballistic missile from the sea on Wednesday, South Korea's military said, a suggestion that it may have tested an underwater-launched missile for the first time in three years ahead of a resumption of nuclear talks with the United States this weekend.

[S Korean fighter jet patrols over islands disputed by Japan](#)

October 2, 2019, Japan Today

South Korean fighter jets conducted a patrol flight on Tuesday over islands at the centre of a bitter dispute with Japan, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said at an event marking the founding of the South Korean military.

[Japan's defense chief conveys concerns to Iran over tensions](#)

October 2, 2019, Japan Today

Defense Minister Taro Kono on Tuesday spoke by phone with his Iranian counterpart Amir Hatami, conveying to him Japan's concerns over rising tensions in the Middle East.

[China, Russia bombers approached Senkakus in July](#)

September 30, 2019, Japan Today

Four Chinese and Russian bombers approached the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea in July, prompting Japanese Air Self-Defense Force fighters to scramble, a Japanese Defense Ministry official said.

[Japan deal nice for U.S. agriculture but China is the much bigger prize](#)

September 29, 2019, Japan Today

U.S. President Donald Trump has been eager to deliver a win to American farmers and ranchers ever since entering a trade war with Beijing more than a year ago.

[Kepeco says two execs in nuclear division pocketed bulk of ¥318 million from Takahama official](#)

October 2, 2019, The Japan Times

Kansai Electric Power Co. said Wednesday that among 20 staff who received benefits from a former official of a town hosting one of its nuclear plants, two executives responsible for the utility's nuclear business were each given gifts valued at over ¥100 million.

[The Korean Peninsula: A dangerous neighborhood](#)

October 2, 2019, The Japan Times

In 1950, when Han Sung-joo was 10, shrapnel from an artillery shell lodged in his hip. This happened as U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur's troops, fresh from the bold Incheon landing, were retaking this city – it would be lost and retaken again – after North Korea's June invasion.

Korea

[Massive rally against justice minister, President rocks Seoul](#)

October 3, 2019, The Korea Times

Hundreds of thousands of mostly elderly citizens gathered in Gwanghwamun Square and streets near City Hall and Seoul Station to vent their discontent at the Moon Jae-in administration, calling on Justice Minister Cho Kuk to resign over corruption allegations leveled against him and his family.

['US promises sanctions relief to North Korea'](#)

October 3, 2019, The Korea Times

The United States has "unofficially" promised North Korea "low-level" sanctions relief including a partial resumption of tourism at Mount Geumgang in North Korea, two sources familiar with the issue said.

[Moon, Abe seeking 'middle ground'](#)

October 3, 2019, The Korea Times

Cheong Wa Dae has been actively promoting the "outcomes" of President Moon Jae-in's recent visit to the United Nations General Assembly, where he held several bilateral meetings, including one with U.S. President Donald Trump. But it was noticeable that unlike last year, there was no meeting between Moon and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of the annual U.N. event.

[Seoul-Tokyo feud deepens over radioactive water](#)

October 3, 2019, The Korea Times

The Japanese government's continued reluctance to openly support dumping radioactive wastewater for fear of creating a fresh controversy over the destroyed Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima is adding concern to the already deteriorated Seoul-Tokyo relations.

[North Korea's nuclear negotiators head to Sweden after successful SLBM launch](#)

October 3, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea said Thursday its testing of a new submarine-launched ballistic missile was successful -- touting it as a significant milestone in strengthening its self-defense -- even as its nuclear negotiating team headed to Sweden for working-level talks with the US.

[US mulls giving North Korea 36-month reprieve on sanctions](#)

October 3, 2019, The Korea Herald

The United States plans to offer a 36-month suspension of some sanctions on North Korea in exchange for shutting down the Yongbyon nuclear facility, according to a report.

[Koreans Put Wealth Threshold at ₩6.7 Billion](#)

October 3, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The number of rich people is rising steadily from 237,000 in 2014, but the rate of growth in 2018 was the slowest in five years. Experts attribute the slowdown to the sluggish economy and declining stock markets, which limited asset growth.

[Defectors from Nuke Test Area Exposed to Heavy Radiation](#)

October 2, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The Unification Ministry has found evidence of severe radiation exposure in 10 North Koreans who defected from the vicinity of North Korea's defunct nuclear test site in Punggye-ri.

Southeast Asia

[Southeast Asia's internet economy to hit \\$300 billion by 2025: report](#)

October 3, 2019, Reuters

Southeast Asia's internet economy is forecast to reach \$300 billion by 2025 as millions of people in the region take up online shopping and embrace ride-share food delivery, an industry report said.

[Inflation Surprises in Southeast Asia's Two Biggest Economies](#)

October 1, 2019, Bloomberg

Inflation in Indonesia and Thailand weakened in September, providing policy makers in Southeast Asia's two biggest economies with ample room to keep lowering interest rates to spur growth.

[Centre for Asean to jointly tackle cyber threats](#)

October 3, 2019, The Straits Times

To further Asean's drive in developing regional cyber-security capabilities, Singapore has launched a new centre for Asean member states to work together to conduct research, share knowledge and train to tackle cyber threats.

[Power Play: How Chinese Money Damned Myanmar's Economic Transition](#)

October 01, 2019, Pulitzer Center

Through BRI China is expected to invest billions in Myanmar in the coming decade, much of it into sorely needed road, power and railway infrastructure.

[Myanmar lowest among ASEAN countries in passport index](#)

October 3, 2019, Myanmar Times

Myanmar ranks 95th out of 107, the lowest among ASEAN nations, in the latest Henley Passport Index, mainly due to a lack of economic freedom.

[Myanmar rejects China proposal to let Rohingyas visit Rakhine](#)

October 2, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

China has joined Bangladesh to ask Myanmar to take some Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh to Rakhine state for them to see the existing condition, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said.

[Myanmar Among World Bank's Top 20 for Business Ease Improvements](#)

September 30, 2019, The Irrawaddy

As the Myanmar government makes efforts to complete its ambitious goal to reach the top 100 of the World Bank's ease-of-doing-business index 2020, the country was listed among the top 20 most-improved countries.

[Thailand PM considers moving capital as Bangkok congestion takes toll](#)

September 30, 2019, The Guardian

Thailand could be the next nation in south-east Asia to relocate its capital after Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha hinted such a move could be a "possibility" under his government.

[Dynasty's grip deepens in Indonesia as Megawati's daughter named Speaker](#)

October 2, 2019, SMH

A former president's daughter has been named the new Speaker of Indonesia's Parliament, in the most recent example of a trend towards dynastic politics.

[Singapore controversial 'fake news' law goes into effect](#)

October 2, 2019, Al Jazeera

Rights groups, tech companies, academics and journalists opposed the law, which they say threatens free speech.

[Furious Vietnam heighten Beijing tensions in new move with India](#)

October 3, 2019, Express

Vietnam plans to enlist Indian support in its ongoing conflicts with Beijing at a forthcoming security summit between the two nations, as tensions rise over the South China Sea.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[12-day India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise begins](#)

October 03, 2019, The Economic Times

The 12-day exercise named KAZIND-2019 was inaugurated by Brig SK Mandal, Commander of the 111 Independent Infantry Brigade. It will conclude on October 15. The aim of the exercise was to conduct company-level joint training with an emphasis on counter terrorism operations in the mountainous terrain.

[Putin, Rohani Attend Summit Of Russia-Led Economic Grouping In Yerevan](#)

October 01, 2019, RFE/RL

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Yerevan to take part in a summit of leaders of the Eurasian Economic Union (EES). The summit, which began on October 1 in the Armenian capital, is aimed at building closer economic ties between member states Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, as well as with nonmember states. Among the leaders of non-EES states invited to attend the event are Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Iranian President Hassan Rohani. Singapore is expected to sign a free trade zone agreement with the EES and Rohani is expected to meet with Putin on the sidelines of the summit.

[Georgia Hosts NATO's North Atlantic Council In Batumi](#)

October 03, 2019, RFE/RL

NATO's top decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, traveled to Georgia for a two-day visit with Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia. Speaking at the beginning of the October 3 gathering in the Black Sea city of Batumi, NATO Deputy Secretary-General Rose Gottemoeller said the visit demonstrated NATO's "ongoing commitment to Georgia". At a 2008 summit, NATO agreed that Georgia will eventually become a member, but no firm date has been set. In March, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg reiterated that the country will eventually join the military alliance, despite the Kremlin's fierce opposition.

[Planned US-Uzbek summit could further Afghan peace](#)

September 30, 2019, Asia Times

The proposed summit meeting between US President Donald Trump and the reformist president of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in the iconic Mississippi Delta city of Clarksdale will clearly highlight the White House policy of using job-creating private-sector investment as a means to undermine, and ultimately

defeat, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Talk of a summit between Trump and Mirziyoyev comes on the heels of a historic state visit by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant with a delegation of private companies led by Mars, Inc's Delta-based Uncle Ben's Rice to Tashkent in June. This was the first time a US governor had ever held an official state visit to independent Uzbekistan (or any other Central Asian nation).

[Trump: US hopes to expand economic ties with Turkmenistan](#)

October 03, 2019, Trend

"The United States of America hopes to expand cultural, educational and economic ties between our countries, as well as to continue cooperation with Turkmenistan to ensure the further prosperity of Central Asia," President Trump said on the occasion of the celebration of the 28th anniversary of Turkmenistan's anniversary. "I really appreciate the bilateral relations that have developed between our countries and strengthened over the past year", he added. The White House supports regional gas pipeline projects from Turkmenistan, such as TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) and the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline through Azerbaijan and Turkey to Europe.

[Tajikistan gifts silver mine license to Chinese company](#)

October 03, 2019, Eurasianet

Lawmakers in Tajikistan voted to ratify an agreement giving a Chinese company development rights for a silver mine in the Pamir mountains. The field in question is called Yakjilva and is located at an altitude of 4,200 meters in the Murghab district of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region. The deposit will be developed by Kashgar Xinyu Dadi Mining Investment, a metals miner based in China's Xinjiang province.

West Asia

[Saudi women invited to join the ranks of the armed forces](#)

October 4, 2019, Arab News

Saudi women can now climb through the ranks of the armed forces the Kingdom's Ministry of Defense has announced. While women have been able to join the armed forces in Saudi Arabia, this is the first time they can be considered for more senior ranks.

[Oil prices stabilize as Saudi crown prince talks peace](#)

October 1, 2019, Arab News

Oil prices stabilized on Monday after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman called for diplomatic solutions to the crisis with Iran and the war in Yemen. Armed

conflict with Iran would be catastrophic for global growth, the crown prince said. "Oil supplies will be disrupted and prices will jump to unimaginably high numbers that we haven't seen in our lifetimes.

[Protesters aim to 'raise global awareness of corruption in Iraq'](#)

October 4, 2019, Arab News

The current demonstrations in Iraq seek to show the international community what is happening in the country, and force out corrupt officials and politicians, Mustafa Hameed, a senior organizer of the protests said. So far, at least 28 people have been killed and hundreds wounded, including troops during the protests.

[Netanyahu quashes 'coup' to unseat him](#)

October 4, 2019

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dashed the hopes of Blue and White on Thursday that an alternative Likud leader could form a national unity government with them, and end his political career. Blue and White said repeatedly throughout the election campaign that it wants to build a coalition with Likud after Netanyahu's departure. There was speculation that if Netanyahu's pre-indictment hearing did not go well, a government could be formed by a new leader in Likud, together with Blue and White.

[Iran says it foiled plot to kill Major General Qassem Soleimani](#)

October 3, 2019, Al Jazeera

A senior Iranian official said Tehran has foiled a plot by Israeli and Arab spy agencies to assassinate Major General Qassem Soleimani, a senior commander in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The suspects had plotted to kill Soleimani during the Ashoura religious commemorations on September 9 and 10.

[Saudi Arabia gives 'green light' for talks with Iran](#)

October 1, 2019, Middle East Eye

Saudi Arabia has given a green light to Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi to arrange a meeting with Iran as a first step towards de-escalating tensions in the region. Abbas al-Hasnawi, an official in the prime minister's office, told MEE on Tuesday that Abdul Mahdi was mediating between the leaderships in Riyadh and Tehran and had communicated each side's conditions for talks to the other.

[Yemen's Houthis claim new video shows battle victories on Saudi border](#)

September 29, 2019, Middle East Eye

Yemeni movement says 2,000 fighters, including Saudis, were captured in offensive near Najran in late August. In a televised news conference, Houthi

military spokesman Yahya Saria claimed 2,000 pro-Yemeni government fighters were captured during the 25 August operation, including Saudis.

United States

[Trump's foreign policy is for sale. That threatens our national security](#)

October 2, 2019, The Guardian

The Ukraine scandal is not only undermining American democracy – its damaging national security. US foreign policy increasingly looks like that of a mafia state, wielded at the behest of, and for the benefit of, one man's personal interests, and for sale to the highest bidders. This is devastating America's role in the world.

[Impeachment will stabilize US foreign policy](#)

October 2, 2019, The Interpreter

Despite all the bluster, Donald Trump's effect on foreign affairs has been too shallow to last beyond him.

[Trump's Globalism Is a Caricature of Multilateralism](#)

October 2, 2019, Foreign Policy

When it comes to international cooperation, the White House is repeating the mistakes of the past.

[Trump impeachment: President lashes out at Democrats over inquiry](#)

October 3, 2019, BBC News

US President Donald Trump has lashed out at congressional Democrats after they vowed to summons the White House to produce documents this week.

[U.S., Israel seek destruction of refugee organization: Palestinian FM](#)

October 2, 2019, Xinhua

Palestinian Authority (PA) Foreign Minister Riad Malki on Wednesday accused Israel and the U.S. administration of working on the destruction of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).

[Kochavi: 'U.S. And Israel Enjoy Strong Military-To-Military Relationship'](#)

October 3, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The IDF chief congratulated United States general Mark Milley on assuming his new position working with the Israeli military.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Boris Johnson's Final Brexit Offer Welcomed By European Union](#)

October 3, 2019, NDTV

In what Boris Johnson's supporters cast as a moment of truth after more than three years of Brexit crisis, the UK PM urged Brussels to compromise but warned that if it did not then Britain would leave the EU without a deal on Oct. 31.

[EU deeply skeptical that latest UK plan could yield Brexit deal](#)

October 3, 2019, Reuters

European Union officials expressed doubt on Thursday that the latest British proposals on Brexit could yield an agreement before an Oct. 31 deadline, with one saying Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan "can't fly" as it stands.

[US-EU trade fight could drag on after 'big victory' at the WTO, says ex-Trump official](#)

October 3, 2019, CNBC

The World Trade Organization ruled in favor of the U.S. imposing tariffs on the European Union.

[France to retaliate if US sanctions EU imports, says foreign ministry](#)

October 3, 2019, India Today

France has made it clear to the US that any sanctions on EU imports will be met with retaliation.

[France and EU ready to respond with sanctions in U.S. trade dispute: French minister](#)

October 3, 2019, Reuters

France and the European Union (EU) are ready to respond "with sanctions" if the United States were to reject the hand extended by Europe in the Airbus (AIR.PA) trade dispute, said French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said.

[Merkel points to Brexit role as WTO forecasts global economic slowdown](#)

October 1, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Europe is not without blame for the global economic slowdown, with Brexit adding to uncertainty worldwide, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said. She had met with leaders of international financial institutions in Berlin.

[Merkel's battles in her final years have implications far beyond Germany](#)

October 3, 2019, Business Times

The German Chancellor and French President Emmanuel Macron are the strongest defenders of the liberal international order against an apparently rising populist tide.

Russia

[Russia Calls on Pyongyang to Crack Down on North Korean Poachers](#)

October 3, 2019, The Moscow Times

North Korea needs to rein in its poachers in Russian waters, Russia's Ambassador in Pyongyang has said in the wake of a recent flare-up between the allies.

[Dozens of Russian Mercenaries Killed in Libya – Meduza](#)

October 3, 2019, The Moscow Times

Between 10 and 35 Russian mercenaries may have died while fighting in Libya's civil war that has plunged the oil-producing nation into crisis, the Meduza news website has reported, citing unnamed colleagues and veterans.

[Russians Most Likely to View China Positively Among Major Countries – Pew](#)

October 3, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russians view China most positively out of dozens of countries, according to a U.S.-based Pew Research Center report that shows global perceptions of China have declined in the past year.

[Putin's Costly Protectionism Experiment is a Lesson for Trump](#)

October 2, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia's counter-sanctions on food imports show the pitfalls of economic nationalism.

[Russian Energy Ministry notes slowdown in oil demand compared to 2018](#)

October 3, 2019, Tass

The demand growth will amount to 1-1.1 mln barrels per day, the Russian energy minister said.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Honduras president rejects US accusation of El Chapo connection](#)

October 3, 2019, Deutsche Welle

A US federal court accused the brother of Honduras' president of being a "violent drug trafficker of epic proportions." Prosecutors allege President Juan Orlando Hernandez has received millions in drug money bribes.

[Venezuela asks UN to say US can't invoke treaty to use force](#)

October 3, 2019, Yahoo News

Venezuela is asking the U.N. Security Council to affirm that the United States and 10 other countries have no authority to use force against the South American nation by invoking the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty.

[The human cost of the US sanctions on Venezuela](#)

October 1, 2019, Deutsche Welle

The US has a total embargo on Venezuela. The EU has imposed new sanctions. The goal is to oust President Nicolas Maduro. But the measures are hitting Venezuelans hard and are likely to kill many people.

[The OAS Ramps Up Regional Pressure on Venezuela Through the Rio Treaty](#)

October 2, 2019, WPR

The Organization of American States took a new step late last month that it hopes could lead to an end to the ongoing crisis in Venezuela—but that others fear may spark an armed conflict between Venezuela and its neighbor, Colombia.

[Amid criticism, Colombia defends assertions that Venezuela's Maduro supports rebels](#)

September 30, 2019, Reuters

Colombia publicly defended a dossier it says proves Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro supports guerrilla groups and drug traffickers but removed the armed forces' head of intelligence after widespread criticism of the report.

[Venezuela's Struggle for Legitimacy Comes to New York](#)

September 29, 2019, The Atlantic

The question came at the very end of a press conference dominated by fevered talk of Ukraine, Joe Biden, and impeachment. You'd be forgiven if you missed it entirely.

[Aid workers can't deliver food due to violence in Haiti. It could cause a crisis](#)

October 2, 2019, Miami Herald

The new wave of anti-government protests engulfing Haiti could soon devolve into a full-blown humanitarian crisis, leaving thousands of Haitians – already facing fuel and food shortages in the countryside – in severe hunger, the United Nations warns.

[OPEC Suffers Another Departure With Ecuador Seeking More Cash](#)

October 1, 2019, Bloomberg

Ecuador said Tuesday it will quit the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in January, leaving the group with 13 member nations.

[Mexico plans infrastructure blitz worth billions to shore up economy](#)

October 2, 2019, Reuters

Mexico will soon unveil a set of major infrastructure projects drawn up by the private sector to lift the economy, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Wednesday, seeking to banish the specter of recession from his young administration.

[Bolsonaro-backed highway targets heart of Brazil's Amazon](#)

October 2, 2019, Reuters

For more than 50 years, the destruction has almost always begun with a road hewn through the dense Amazon rainforest. With pavement, comes logging, then ranching and eventually commercial farming and towns.

Africa

[Sudan's transition: Residents say little has changed](#)

October 2, 2019, Al Jazeera

More than six weeks after a transitional power-sharing deal, those in Nyala say any changes are yet to be seen or felt.

[Sudan Seeks Removal from US Terrorism List](#)

October 2, 2019, VOA

Following months of political instability after the ousting of longtime President Omar al-Bashir, the new interim government in Sudan is now seeking to remove the country from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

[France offers a conference on Sudan's debt if U.S. lifts sanctions](#)

October 1, 2019, Reuters

France will host a conference with Sudan's international creditors to help Khartoum address debt issues as soon as the United States removes the country from its state-sponsored terrorism list, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday.

[Nigeria and South Africa: When two African giants meet](#)

October 3, 2019, BBC

The leaders of Africa's two superpowers, Nigeria and South Africa, are due to meet in the wake of recent xenophobic attacks in Johannesburg in which Nigerians were targeted.

[African Cooperation On Peace 'Increasingly Strong', Security Council Told](#)

September 26, 2019, All Africa

African countries are building increasingly strong partnerships for advancing peace and security, as well as inclusive sustainable development across the continent, the Security Council heard, during a briefing by the UN Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti.



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