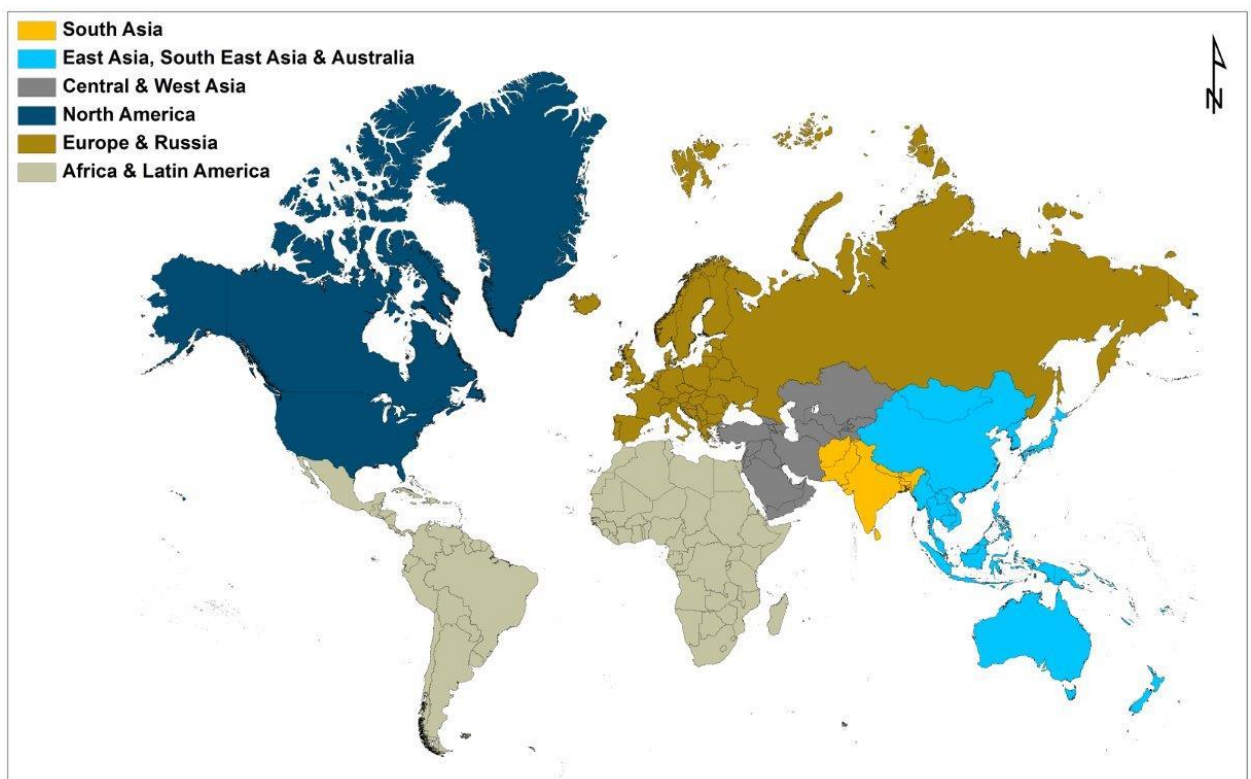




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 41

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

[A day by the sea](#)

October 10, 2019, The Indian Express

PM Modi and President Xi need to go beyond Wuhan, stabilise ties at a moment of great political churn in the global system.

[India, China can help build a more inclusive global governance](#)

October 11, 2019, The Indian Express

Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping should focus firmly on the future if they are to lay the foundations for a lasting bilateral relationship.

[With China, India must recognise power imbalance, liberate itself from prolonged illusions, false hopes](#)

October 11, 2019, The Indian Express

Delhi's overestimation of its leverage with Beijing in the triangular relationship with Washington has unfortunately meant India often chose to voluntarily limit its partnership with the US and its allies.

[Rajnath Singh calls on Macron; discusses India-France defence ties](#)

October 08, 2019, PTI

The two leaders discussed stronger India-France defence and strategic ties during their "very warm and productive" meeting. "The meeting demonstrated the depth of India-France bilateral partnership, especially in the defence sector, that has significantly strengthened in recent times. Both leaders resolved to take the relationship to the next higher level," said a statement issued by the ministry after the 35-minute meeting.

[India presses ahead with joining China-led RCEP despite domestic opposition](#)

October 10, 2019, The Economic Times

Negotiators for the 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) are in the Thai capital Bangkok this week for talks aimed at finalising the giant free trade zone by the end of the year. Trade Minister Piyush Goyal will join Indian delegates on the weekend for direct talks with his counterparts from China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

[India can win big from inevitable \\$350-550bn exports moving out of China: Credit Suisse](#)

October 06, 2019, The Economic Times

India could potentially be one of the big winners from the US-China trade war, according to a Credit Suisse survey of 100 companies with global sales of \$1 trillion that projects \$350-550 billion of exports will shift out of China and that this is "inevitable even if slow". This survey insights land at the same time when US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross is saying in New Delhi that India has a "wonderful opportunity right now, to take advantage of trade dissension elsewhere".

[Ahead of Modi-Xi summit, 129 MoUs signed between Indian and Chinese companies](#)

October 11, 2019, India Today

The MoUs were signed for sectors like - agri-related products, minerals, textiles, food-processing, yarns, minerals etc. Highlighting China and India's close ties, Chinese representatives said that the relationship between the two countries was as eternal as the Ganga river.

[India plans to deploy M777s near LAC in Arunachal Pradesh](#)

October 07, 2019, The Economic Times

India has decided to enhance its artillery firepower along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in eastern Arunachal Pradesh, with the US-made M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers likely to be deployed along the LAC by the year-end.

[French Rafale jet engine maker offers to help India make indigenous fighter jet engine](#)

October 09, 2019, India Today

French company Safran that manufactures the M88 engine used in Rafale fighter jets has proposed to India that it can help make its first indigenous fighter aircraft engine. A proposal was sent to the Defence and Development Research Organisation (DRDO) about this, Olivier Andries, CEO Safran said, giving a brief to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the company's military and civil projects in India.

[Rajnath Singh urges French defence industry to make India their production base](#)

October 10, 2019, India Today

Addressing the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of French Defence Industries in France, Rajnath Singh called upon the French companies for collaboration to modernise India's shipyards and defence platforms by infusion of technology and asked them to make India its base for production of defence equipment.

[Balakot airstrike marked a major shift in national security policy, says IAF chief RKS Bhadauria](#)

October 08, 2019, Scroll

"Strategic relevance of this [Balakot airstrike] is the resolve of political leadership to punish perpetrators of terrorism," Bhadauria said at the 87th founding day celebrations at the Hindon base in Ghaziabad. He also said that the present environment in the neighbourhood was a matter of "serious concern", adding that the Pulwama attack was a "stark reminder of the persistent threat to defence installations".

Pakistan

['UAE to establish oil refinery in Pakistan'](#)

October 5, 2019, The News

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to invest \$5 billion in an oil refinery project in Pakistan by the end of 2019. It is a \$5 billion investment between Mubadala Petroleum Company of Abu Dhabi, Pak Arab Refinery Limited (PARCO) and OMV [OMV Pakistan Exploration Gesellschaft].

[Only CPEC can't ensure growth of entire Pak economy](#)

October 5, 2019, The News

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yu Jing has said that only China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not going to guarantee the development of whole economy of Pakistan but it is a small part of it.

[EU team visits various projects in Chitral](#)

October 5, 2019, The News

A four-member team of the European Union-funded PEACE and Community-Driven Local Development (CDLD) projects in various districts of Malakand Division including Chitral.

[COAS has assured of keeping economy stable: Hammad](#)

October 7, 2019, The News

Pakistan Minister for Economic Affairs Hammad Azhar said Chief of Army Staff (COAS) has assured businessmen that the country's economy will be kept in a stabilised condition. The minister said that tough economic decisions taken by the incumbent government have started showing positive results.

[Money laundering, terror financing: Pakistan fares well on FATF conditions](#)

October 7, 2019, The News

Pakistan made progress on countering money laundering and terror financing as the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) has highlighted Pakistan's progress positively with compliance on 36 of the 40 parameters, while the Joint Working Group (JWG) has categorised Islamabad as compliant on 10 points out of total 27 points of action plan.

[Admiral Abbasi visits Malaysian naval facilities](#)

October 6, 2019, The News

Pakistan Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi visited Malaysia on October 6. During the visit, the Naval Chief visited various facilities of Malaysian Navy including Headquarters Western Fleet, Special Force Training Centre, Boustead Naval Shipyard, Malaysian Naval Air Arm and called on Commander Western Fleet and other field commanders.

[ADB approves \\$200 million additional loan for BISP](#)

October 8, 2019, The News

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$200 million as an additional financing loan for the country's social protection program, the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

[US senators discuss regional security situation with COAS](#)

October 8, 2019, The News

Christopher Van Hollen and Ms Maggie Hassan, the two US Senators, called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). During the meeting, issues of mutual interest and overall regional security situation, including Afghan reconciliation process and Kashmir issue, were discussed.

[Pakistan, China resolve to strengthen strategic partnership as PM Imran concludes visit](#)

October 9, 2019, Dawn

During the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to China on October 8-9, both countries reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen their bilateral strategic partnership, in a joint statement. During the visit, the premier called on Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li and National People's Congress Standing Committee Chairman Li Zhanshu. He also met Chinese entrepreneurs and businessmen.

[Bajwa, PLA chief discuss ways to boost defence ties](#)

October 9, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa met Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) Commander Gen Han Weiguo and Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) Gen Xu Qili-ang. The discussions were focused on the regional security environment including the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the developing situation in Gulf and efforts for peace in Afghanistan.

[Chinese firm investing in Gwadar gets 23-year tax exemption](#)

October 9, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan has granted tax exemption to the China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) for 23 years to facilitate establishment of its industrial units at Gwadar Port.

[Australia uninterested in a free trade agreement with Pakistan](#)

October 9, 2019, Dawn

Australia has refused to offer preferential market access to Pakistan on the grounds that the country has a very limited basket of tradable goods and services.

[ADB lending to double this year](#)

October 10, 2019, Dawn

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$2.5 billion financing to Pakistan during the current fiscal year – higher by almost 131 per cent over last year's \$1.08bn.

Afghanistan

[Taliban delegation meets Khalilzad in Pakistan](#)

October 5, 2019, The News

A Taliban delegation met US special representative for Afghanistan ZalmayKhalilzad for more than an hour on October 3, the first known contact between the sides since US President Donald Trump called off talks last month. However, the meeting in Islamabad did not represent a resumption of formal negotiations.

[India supports all-inclusive Afghan Peace Talks](#)

October 5, 2019, Tolo News

Aspokesman for India's Ministry of External Affairs, Raveesh Kumar, said India is "closely monitoring" the situation and that "all sections of the Afghan government, including a legitimately-elected Afghan government, should be part of the Afghan peace process." He said that "all processes should respect the constitutional legacy and political mandate" in Afghanistan.

[Three Indian engineers released in exchange for Taliban prisoners](#)

October 7, 2019, Tolo News

Three Indian engineers who were taken hostage approximately six months ago in Baghlan province have been freed in exchange for 11 Taliban prisoners, including leaders, from Bagram prison. The Taliban has not officially confirmed this report, nor have officials from the Afghan or Indian governments.

["Al Qaeda Leader" Killed in Helmand: NDS](#)

October 8, 2019, Tolo News

Asim Omar, a "member of Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent," killed in an operation by Afghan forces in the Musa Qala district of Helmand province.

[US meth lab strikes in Afghanistan killed at least 30 civilians, says UN](#)

October 9, 2019, BBC

US air strikes on alleged Taliban drug labs in western Afghanistan killed at least 30 civilians, including children. US forces hit more than 60 alleged drug production sites in Farah Province and neighbouring Nimroz Province in the strikes on 5 May. A UN delegation that visited the site of the attacks and conducted face-to-face interviews with residents concluded that there were 39 verified casualties - including 14 children - of whom 30 died.

Bangladesh

[India, Bangladesh sign seven pacts during Sheikh Hasina's visit: Coastal surveillance, river water sharing, improving connectivity among key takeaways](#)

October 7, 2019, Firstpost

India and Bangladesh agreed to establish a coastal surveillance radar system in Bangladesh as part of which India will install a network of 24 radar systems along the coastline of the neighbouring country.

[Hasina-Modi agreements on shared rivers: What did Bangladesh get?](#)

October 9, 2019, The Daily Star

During her recent visit to India, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At this meeting, a number of agreements were signed, several of which concern shared rivers.

[PM: LPG to be exported to India, not natural gas](#)

October 9, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh will export only imported and processed liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to India, not the country's natural gas, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said.

[In Bangladesh, a student's murder opens a window on rising anti-India sentiment across the border](#)

October 11, 2019, Scroll.in

Abrar Fahad had expressed his concern about the one-sided nature of the agreements Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had signed with New Delhi earlier this month.

[Delhi needs to do more to protect and deepen ties with Dhaka](#)

October 8, 2019, The Indian Express

Looking at the balance sheet of Indo-Bangladesh relations, it would have to be acknowledged that the ledger tilts, perhaps heavily, in favour of Bangladesh.

[India-Bangladesh stakeholders' meet to revive age old ties of trade and connectivity](#)

October 10, 2019, The Economic Times

Close on the heels of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India and signing, exchanging, adopting of bilateral agreements between the two countries,

Assam Chief Minister Sonowal asked the Act East Affairs department Government to leave no stone unturned for the success of the India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet to be held in Guwahati on 22 and 23 October.

[Bangladesh to Develop 50 MW of Solar Power Projects](#)

October 10, 2019, Mercom India

A consortium of ib vogt and AG Agro Industries have won a contract to develop a 50 MW grid-tied solar project in the Chittagong district of Bangladesh.

Nepal

[Chinese Prez Xi Jinping to visit Nepal on October 12](#)

October 09, 2019, The Himalayan Times

At the friendly invitation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari, the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping is paying a state visit to Nepal commencing October 12, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said. During the visit, President Xi will meet with President Bhandari who will host a banquet in honour of her Chinese counterpart and the Chinese delegation.

[With Xi's visit, the spring of China-Nepal ties has arrived](#)

October 10, 2019, Global Times

Since China and Nepal in May 2017 signed a memorandum of understanding on bilateral cooperation under the framework of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, the two neighbors have joined hands to develop a Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network as well as a cross-border Special Economic Zone, and enhance cooperation on trade, investment, production capacity, railways, highways, ports, aviation, energy and people-to-people exchange, which has promoted Nepal to transform from a land-locked to a land-connected country.

Bhutan

[China & Bhutan close to striking Doklam deal, holding line could become working boundary](#)

October 07, 2019, The Print

"China and Bhutan are working out something with regard to their dispute in the Doklam plateau. The status quo is being maintained and both sides (India and

China) are holding on their positions as per the de-escalation move," a top government official said.

[People's Cryptocurrency: Bhutan Launches National Digital Currency](#)

October 10, 2019, News U

The Kingdom of Bhutan is becoming one of the first countries to launch its own national cryptocurrency – Prizm is ready. It will have the same rights and can be used on equal terms with the main Kingdom's fiat currency - ngultrum.

Sri lanka

[Sri Lanka holds first ever presidential debate](#)

October 05, 2019, Colombo Page

The debate organized by the March 12 Movement granted the opportunity to all 2019 Presidential hopefuls to be on the same platform, and deliver their respective policy statements to the public. This is the first time in the history of electoral politics in Sri Lanka that such a public forum was created.

[Sri Lanka's former defence chief launches presidential campaign](#)

October 10, 2019, CNA

Sri Lanka's former defence chief Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday (Oct 9) formally launched his presidential campaign, promising strong national security measures if he wins the Nov 16 election in the island nation still reeling from Easter Sunday bombings.

[Pakistan cancels appointment of envoy to Sri Lanka](#)

October 10, 2019, Deccan Herald

In a diplomatic embarrassment, Pakistan has cancelled the appointment of a retired military officer as its envoy to Sri Lanka, after Defence Minister raised objections.

[Sri Lanka most improved country in South Asia in global competitiveness](#)

October 10, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka with an overall score of 57.5 rose a notch to rank 84th among 141 countries in the world. Sri Lanka is the most improved country in the South Asia region while India has lost ground in the rankings placing at 68th. Elsewhere in South Asia Bangladesh ranked 105th, Nepal 108th and Pakistan ranked 110th.

[EsalaWeerakoon approved as 14th Secretary-General of SAARC](#)

October 07, 2019, Times Online

The Council of Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) recently approved the nomination of former Foreign Secretary and senior career diplomat Mr. EsalaWeerakoon, to be the 14th Secretary General of SAARC, with effect from March 1, 2020, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Mr. Weerakoon, presently serves as the Senior Additional Secretary to the President.

Maldives

[Joint exercise of Maldives-India starts](#)

October 08, 2019, Times of India

The 10th edition of the India-Maldives joint military exercise, "Ekuverin 2019", began on Monday at the Aundh Military station. The Marine troops of the Maldivian National Defence Force represented the Maldivian contingent while a battalion of the MAHAR regiment represented the Indian side.

[US\\$1.5bn deal signed with Islamic finance corporation](#)

October 09, 2019, Maldives Independent

The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer and ITFC CEO Hani Salem Sonbol. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih attended the signing ceremony.

[Maldives hands over land to construct new Chinese chancery](#)

October 10, 2019, Xinhua Net

During a function held at the foreign ministry, the document for the new chancery building was handed over by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid to Chinese Ambassador to Maldives Zhang Lizhong.

East & South East Asia

China

[US would benefit from taking less-is-more approach to talks: China Daily editorial](#)

October 10, 2019, China Daily

Reports suggesting Vice-Premier Liu He, head of the Chinese delegation to the ongoing trade talks with the United States on Thursday and Friday, will leave Washington earlier than planned have fueled pessimism over the outcome of the negotiations. This shows how eagerly the world awaits the two largest economies laying their frictions to rest.

[Pompeo should see Xinjiang first-hand: China Daily editorial](#)

October 9, 2019, China Daily

A day after imposing commercial restrictions on 28 Chinese entities, the United States announced on Tuesday it would curb visas for Chinese officials until China ends what it alleges is repression in Xinjiang. The successive moves constitute blatant US interference in Xinjiang affairs, which will only further strain bilateral ties between the two countries.

[Informal meetings important new element in high-level Sino-Indian exchanges: China Daily editorial](#)

October 9, 2019, China Daily

Chinese President Xi Jinping will have an "informal meeting" with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and pay a state visit to Nepal from October 11-13.

[Cautious optimism that Washington may be more reasonable in trade talks: China Daily editorial](#)

October 8, 2019, China Daily

While there is a general feeling that a solution to the long-running trade dispute between China and the United States might be on the cards after both sides made conciliatory gestures ahead of the upcoming high-level negotiations due to begin in Washington on Thursday, it would be rash to consider that a certainty.

[Hong Kong's anti-mask law legal, reasonable, necessary: China Daily editorial](#)

October 7, 2019, China Daily

The vandalism and wanton violence across Hong Kong over the long weekend show why the just-announced anti-mask law, and possibly other emergency measures, are necessary to restore order in the special administrative region.

[Full text of Xi's signed article on Nepali newspapers](#)

October 11, 2019, Xinhua

A signed article by Chinese President Xi Jinping titled "Toward Greater Progress of China-Nepal Friendship across the Himalayas" was published Friday on three Nepali newspapers ahead of his state visit to the South Asian country.

[Interview: Second Xi-Modi informal meeting expected to push forward China-India ties, says expert](#)

October 11, 2019, Xinhua

The second informal meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will surely continue to guide the development of China-India relations from a strategic and global perspective, an Indian expert has said.

[China, U.S. start new round of trade talks in Washington](#)

October 11, 2019, Xinhua

China and the United States kicked off here on Thursday a new round of high-level consultations to address their differences on outstanding economic and trade issues.

[Interview: China, India should work for common development, win-win cooperation, says Chinese ambassador](#)

October 10, 2019, Xinhua

China and India have the vision and capability to chart a course of common development and win-win cooperation among emerging countries, said Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong.

[China Focus: Xi's trip to India, Nepal to inject new impetus into ties](#)

October 9, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming trip to India and Nepal is expected to inject new impetus into China's relations with the two countries, an official said here Wednesday.

[Xi meets Pakistani PM, calls for forging closer community of shared future](#)

October 9, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday met with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, vowing to work jointly to strengthen strategic coordination and pragmatic cooperation so as to forge a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

[China, Pakistan eye enhanced economic cooperation](#)

October 9, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese and Pakistani businesses are looking forward to enhanced economic cooperation for shared benefits.

[Xi says China sincerely hopes to help Pakistan develop faster and better](#)

October 9, 2019, Xinhua

China sincerely hopes to help Pakistan develop faster and better, President Xi Jinping said when meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan here Wednesday.

[Xi calls for closer community of shared future between China, Pakistan](#)

October 9, 2019, Xinhua

President Xi Jinping said Wednesday China is ready to work with Pakistan to forge a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

[Wuhan to Chennai: Xi, Modi set key milestone](#)

October 10, 2019, Global Times

The stage is set for one of the most awaited summits of the year with the formal announcement of the dates of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India.

[With Xi's visit, the spring of China-Nepal ties has arrived](#)

October 10, 2019, Global Times

At the invitation of Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Chinese President Xi Jinping is to pay a state visit to Nepal on October 12 and 13. As the first visit by a Chinese state leader to Nepal in 23 years, it will mark a major breakthrough in bilateral relations.

[Asian century impossible without China-India cooperation](#)

October 10, 2019, Global Times

The phrase "Asian century" has been hotly debated for some time. Quite a few Asian leaders and strategists believe that the world was Europeanized in the 19th century, Americanized in the 20th century and is now being Asianized.

[China and India can surmount geographical barriers to come together](#)

October 10, 2019, Global Times

The second informal meeting between President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is scheduled between October 11 and 12, is set to enhance bilateral relations and trust along with fostering cooperation between the two Asian countries in all fields.

[China-India bid can forge united Asia](#)

October 8, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are slated to hold the second informal meeting in the South Indian coastal town of Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu later this week after the two leaders held an informal summit in Wuhan in April 2018, according to Indian media reports.

[China-US competition won't split the world](#)

October 8, 2019, Global Times

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned world leaders at the 2019 UN General Assembly on September 24 of a potential "great fracture," where the globe would be split into two independent and rival systems created by China and the US.

[India's neighborhood first policy aims at centripetal ties](#)

October 3, 2019, Global Times

The National Interest, a US international affairs magazine, recently published an article "This is How India Plans to Keep Its Neighbors Away from China's Influence." It argues that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi administration's "neighborhood first" policy shows the South Asian country's attempt to counter the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and to maintain strong regional influence.

[China's success an alternative to Western development model](#)

October 1, 2019, Global Times

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, the Asian country has made brilliant achievements and drawn global attention. Within seven decades, China has completed the industrialization process which developed countries took hundreds of years to achieve and grown to become the second-largest economy from wallowing in poverty and bleakness.

[China Could Be the Big Winner of Saudi Arabia's Race to Become a Tech Hub](#)

October 8, 2019, Foreign Policy

Beijing is a natural partner to fast and cheap development, but Riyadh should be wary of alienating its allies.

Japan

[Train operators, airlines to suspend services as typhoon on course to strike eastern Japan](#)

October 11, 2019, Japan Today

A powerful typhoon is on course to strike Tokyo and other areas of eastern Japan this weekend, the weather agency warned, as train operators announced plans to suspend many services in the metropolitan area.

[S Korea, Japan to hold talks over trade dispute](#)

October 11, 2019, Japan Today

South Korea and Japan will hold bilateral consultations in Geneva, following Seoul's filing of a complaint with the World Trade Organization last month over Tokyo's tightening of export controls, the trade ministries of the two countries said.

[Kono, U.S. forces commander to enhance cooperation over N Korea](#)

October 8, 2019, Japan Today

Defense Minister Taro Kono agreed with the commander of U.S. forces in Japan to beef up bilateral cooperation in dealing with North Korea's missile development.

[Japan signs limited deal with U.S. on agriculture and digital trade](#)

October 8, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The United States and Japan signed a limited trade agreement, a deal that would win back benefits American farmers lost when President Donald Trump pulled out of a broader Asia-Pacific pact his first week in office.

[Where U.S.-Japan trade deal falls short of TPP pact](#)

October 8, 2019, Japan Today

U.S. President Donald Trump has called his new trade deal with Japan a "phenomenal" victory for U.S. farmers.

[Japan's not hedging with Australia security ties](#)

October 10, 2019, The Japan Times

The Air Self-Defense Force concluded Exercise Bushido Guardian with Australian counterparts in Chitose, Hokkaido.

[Japanese tour to disputed islets put off at Russia's request](#)

October 11, 2019, Japan Today

Japan and Russia are rescheduling a trial tour by Japanese visitors of Moscow-held, Tokyo-claimed islands in late October at the earliest, after it was postponed at Moscow's request, sources from both governments said.

[Over 70% worried about economic outlook after consumption tax hike: survey](#)

October 7, 2019, Japan Today

More than 70 percent of voters are concerned about a possible negative impact on the economy from the consumption tax hike on Oct 1, even as nearly 75% have not reduced their spending after the first tax increase in five years, a Kyodo News survey showed

Korea

[Moon to skip Japanese emperor's enthronement event](#)

October 11, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has no plan to attend a ceremony proclaiming the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito, a Cheong Wa Dae official said, citing Tokyo's stance on its trade retaliation against Seoul over a historical issue.

[40% of budget for inter-Korean cooperation unspent](#)

October 10, 2019, The Korea Herald

40% of budget fo Nearly 40 percent of this year's budget for inter-Korean cooperation has not been spent amid a lull in bilateral relations.

[Aegis Ships Missed N.Korea's Recent Missile Launches](#)

October 11, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

South Korea's key warships assigned to detecting North Korea's missile launches have failed to detect and track them on five occasions this year.

[N.Korea Threatens to Resume Long-Range Missile Tests](#)

October 11, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea threatened to resume intercontinental ballistic missile tests after six European countries condemned its recent test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile.

[Military Stops Rocket Launcher Drills on Islands Near N.Korea](#)

October 10, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The military has halted fire drills of multiple-launch rocket systems on Baeknyeong and Yeonpyeong islands near the North Korean coast since an inter-Korean military agreement last year but was ill repaid by the North's continuing missile tests.

[Envoys of S. Korea, US, Japan discuss NK talks](#)

October 9, 2019, The Korea Herald

The top nuclear negotiators of South Korea, the United States and Japan met in Washington, where they reaffirmed the importance of coordination on North Korea to achieve complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, the US State Department said. S. Korea, US, Japan discuss NK talks

[Iran suspected of continuing missile cooperation with NK: CRS report](#)

October 10, 2019, The Korea Herald

Iran is suspected of continuing to cooperate with North Korea on missile development, a recent US congressional report said after the communist nation carried out a surprise test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile.

[Pyongyang media slams Seoul after Stockholm talks break down](#)

October 8, 2019, The Korea Times

A North Korean propaganda outlet lashed out at South Korea on Tuesday over its U.S. arms purchase plans, calling the move an "intolerable act of betrayal."

[Europeans urge strict sanctions enforcement on North Korea](#)

October 9, 2019, The Korea Times

European members of the UN Security Council called for the strict enforcement of international sanctions against North Korea, after a closed door meeting prompted by Pyongyang's latest missile test.

Southeast Asia

[US-China trade war leads to fierce battle for skilled labour in Vietnam](#)

October 11, 2019, SCMP

Companies shifting their manufacturing operations to Vietnam are facing a shortage of skilled labour, especially in IT and engineering.

[ISIL-linked Indonesia group blamed for attack on Wiranto](#)

October 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

Indonesia-based Jamaah Anshurat Daulah was also linked to 2018 church bombings in Surabaya and the 2016 Jakarta attacks.

[Malaysia arrests two politicians suspected of links to Sri Lanka rebel group](#)

October 10, 2019, Reuters

Malaysian police arrested seven people, including two politicians, suspected of having links to the now-defunct Sri Lankan Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist group.

[Abe meets Myanmar military chief](#)

October 10, 2019, NHK World

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has called on Myanmar's military chief to address allegations of human rights violations against minority Rohingya Muslims.

[Myanmar conflict: civilians caught in battle in north](#)

October 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

As fighting again flares in Myanmar's restive Shan State, civilians caught in battle between army and armed groups.

[Myanmar extends visa-on-arrival access to six more countries](#)

October 8, 2019, Business Traveller

According to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism of Myanmar, holders of ordinary passports issued from the six countries mentioned above arriving at Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport or Nay Pyi Taw International Airport can apply for a visa on arrival for tourism purposes for "one year probation period" starting from October 1 this year.

[Hong Kong instability is 'bad for us,' says Singapore PM](#)

October 10, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

The current instability in Hong Kong is a bad thing for Singapore and will affect the whole region, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said.

[Singapore replaces US at top of World Economic Forum competitiveness rankings](#)

October 9, 2019, SCMP

Hong Kong, the Netherlands and Switzerland made up the rest of the top five, according to the WEF survey published.

[Philippine police arrest 542 foreigners, mostly Chinese, in crackdown on illegal workers](#)

October 10, 2019, SCMP

Those arrested did not have work permits and were involved in defrauding victims mostly in China by blackmailing or tricking them into sending out money.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[U.S. Official Says Kazakhstan Could Be A Model For Rescuing Citizens From War Zones](#)

October 10, 2019, Caspian News

The U.S. State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, Nathan Sales, said the Kazakhstani government's process for repatriating its citizens that have been captured in Syria could serve as a roadmap for other countries to do the same.

[Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan to expand business partnership](#)

October 10, 2019, Kazinform

Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and Kazakh Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi met in Ashgabat, on Oct. 10.

[Will a Central Asian border dispute be resolved soon?](#)

October 10, 2019, Al Jazeera

A debate over who controls precious water resources has led to a 30-year-long border dispute between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

[Iran's policy preserving stability, security in Tajikistan: envoy](#)

October 10, 2019, Mehr News Agency

The Iranian ambassador emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is to maintain stability and security in Tajikistan, stating, Iran is fully prepared to transfer its experience to Tajikistan in fight against terrorists, particularly ISIS.

[IMF offers recommendations for Tajikistan's economy](#)

October 10, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Macroeconomic stability in Tajikistan has been maintained despite a widening of the fiscal and external deficits, and financial sector reforms have continued, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission said in a statement on October 9, after a visit to Dushanbe.

[Not So Fast: Will Uzbekistan Join the Eurasian Economic Union?](#)

October 7, 2019, The Diplomat

In Russian framing, the Uzbek decision to join the EAEU has already been made. But Tashkent is still exploring its options.

[Uzbekistan joins two int-l agreements](#)

October 7, 2019, Azer News

Uzbekistan In particular, the president approved an agreement between the governments of Uzbekistan and Belarus on inter-regional cooperation.joins two int-l agreements.

[Kazakh FM urges multilateral approach on Afghanistan at OSCE Roundtable](#)

October 10, 2019, The Astana Times

Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Mukhtar Tileuberdi called for a multilateral approach to achieve stability in Afghanistan Oct. 9 at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) roundtable on Afghanistan.

[Syria: Uzbekistan's Approach To Islamic State Detainees – Analysis](#)

October 10, 2019, Eurasia Review

Following IS' demise in Syria, the international community has grappled with several complex challenges, including how to deal with women and children who joined IS in the Iraq-Syria conflict zone and are seeking to return home.

West Asia

[Fighting rages as Turkey steps up assault against Kurdish forces](#)

October 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

Tens of thousands of civilians flee to seek safety as Turkish forces pound Kurdish fighters' positions for a second day.

[European powers urge Turkey to 'cease' Syria operation](#)

October 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

European members of UN Security Council register 'deep concern' as US warns Ankara of consequences if it flouts rules.

[US to hand over to Iraq IS members evacuated from Syria](#)

October 11, 2019, AP News

The U.S. will hand over to Iraqi authorities nearly 50 Islamic State members who were transferred from Syria in recent days, two Iraqi intelligence officials said.

[Iran's Nuclear Program Is Back To Pre-JCPOA Situation, Says Nuclear Chief](#)

October 08, 2019, Radio Farda

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Chief Ali Akbar Salehi says Iran will soon introduce a set of 30 modern IR-6 centrifuges within the next 2 or 3 weeks as the latest development in its nuclear program.

[Netanyahu on Iran: We Appreciate U.S. Support, but Israel Ready to Defend Itself](#)

October 10, 2019, Haaretz

Comments come days after it was revealed that Netanyahu is seeking to improve Israel's ability to identify Iranian cruise missiles by supplementing its defense budget.

[Israel uneasy over Trump's refusal to stand by Kurds](#)

October 10, 2019, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to stand aside as Turkey sends troops into Syria and fights Kurds allied with Washington has some Israelis wondering whether they too might eventually pay a price for his impatience with Middle East engagements.

[Saudi Arabia loses \\$2bn of output after oil attacks: Report](#)

October 10, 2019, Middle East eye

Saudi Aramco's crude oil output may have fallen by 1.3 million barrels per day. The country suffered a major setback from the attacks, which Saudi Arabia and the US blamed on Iran, and Riyadh's state oil company, Saudi Aramco, sustained a production cut equivalent to 5 percent of the world's oil supply.

[U.A.E. Pulls Out Some Aden Troops After Yemen Talks Breakthrough](#)

October 10, 2019, Bloomberg

The United Arab Emirates pulled some of its troops from Yemen after a breakthrough in peace talks between the internationally recognized government and southern separatist fighters, according to a Yemeni official.

[Yemen's Houthis offer Saudi-backed government new prisoner swap deal](#)

October 11, 2019, Reuters

The Houthi movement in control of Yemen's capital on Thursday offered the internationally recognized Yemeni government a prisoner swap involving 2,000 detainees after the group unilaterally freed hundreds of prisoners last month.

[Yemen to become world's poorest country if war continues: UN](#)

October 10, 2019, Al Jazeera

Because of war, poverty in Yemen has jumped from 47 percent of the population in 2014 to a projected 75 percent.

[OPEC crude oil output down in September](#)

October 10, 2019, Azer News

Crude oil output decreased mostly in Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iraq and IR Iran, while it increased mainly in Libya, Angola and Congo.

United States

United States

[Trump Says Day One of U.S.-China Trade Talks Went Very Well](#)

October 11, 2019, Bloomberg Quint

President Donald Trump said the first day of high-level trade negotiations between the U.S. and China on Thursday went “very well” and that he plans to meet with the top Chinese negotiator Friday.

[U.S. and China May Be Headed for Mini-Deal on Trade This Week](#)

October 10, 2019, The New York Times

The United States and China could announce a limited trade agreement this week that would prevent President Trump’s planned tariff increase from going into effect this month and set rules around how China manages its currency, according to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce official who has been briefed by both negotiating teams.

[The United States strikes a blow to China's AI ambitions](#)

October 10, 2019, CNN

Washingtonthis week targeted Chinese facial recognition start-ups SenseTime, Megvii and Yitu over national security concerns and foreign policy interests, aggravating the clash between the two economic superpowers over who will dominate the technologies of the future.

[Trump says he hopes he can 'mediate' between Turkey and the Kurds](#)

October 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

Trump tweets US has 'three choices' when it comes to its response to Turkey's assault on Kurdish forces in Syria. can 'mediate' between Turkey and the Kurds.

[U.S. warns Turkey of 'consequences' over Syria assault as U.N. Security Council meets](#)

October 10, 2019, Reuters

The United States warned Turkey at the United Nations on Thursday that it faced “consequences” if its assault against Kurdish militias in northeast Syria did not protect vulnerable populations or contain Islamic State militants.

[Former Ukraine envoy scheduled to testify in Trump impeachment probe](#)

October 11, 2019, Reuters

The White House's promise to stonewall a congressional impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump will get an early test on Friday, when the former ambassador to Ukraine is scheduled to testify to House of Representatives investigators.

[White House Declares War on Impeachment Inquiry, Claiming Effort to Undo Trump's Election](#)

October 10, 2019, The New York Times

The White House declared war on the House impeachment inquiry on Tuesday, announcing that it would not cooperate with what it called an illegitimate effort "to overturn the results of the 2016 election" and setting the stage for a constitutional clash with far-reaching consequences.

[U.S. Moves to Take 'High Value' ISIS Detainees, Including Britons Who Abused Hostages](#)

October 9, 2019, The New York Times

The American military is moving to take as many as several dozen Islamic State detainees out of Kurdish-run wartime prisons in northern Syria, and already has two British men in custody who are notorious for their roles in the torture and killing of Western hostages, according to United States officials.

[Republican anger grows as Trump disavows Kurds by saying they didn't help during WWII](#)

October 10, 2019, CNN

Republicans savaged President Donald Trump Wednesday for allowing Turkey to attack US allies in Syria as the President offered varying reasons for giving Turkey the green light, including the fact that Kurds did not fight alongside the US in World War II.

[Biden says he would withhold foreign aid if countries discriminate against LGBTQ people](#)

October 10, 2019, Reuters

Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said on Thursday he would withhold foreign aid from countries that persecute lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, as he joined eight other Democratic presidential candidates at a forum on LGBTQ issues.

[Top Saudi official holds talks with US state, defence secretaries](#)

October 10, 2019, Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia's deputy defence minister has said he discussed regional security and military cooperation with senior US government officials at a time of heightened tension with Iran following last month's attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

[US, Greece hail strategic relationship after signing defence deal](#)

October 6, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United States and Greece have signed a revised mutual defence cooperation agreement that analysts say will elevate Athens' strategic value and lead to US investments in Greek military facilities.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[France visit extremely productive: Rajnath Singh](#)

October 10, 2019, The Economic Times

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday left France at the end of a three-day visit, which he said had been extremely productive and would further strengthen bilateral defence ties.

[France says EU will impose sanctions on U.S. if aviation row not settled](#)

October 10, 2019, Reuters

France's Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Thursday the European Union would impose sanctions on U.S. products if no settlement was reached with Washington on a trade dispute over illegal EU subsidies to the aviation industry.

[Germany launches Alliance for Multilateralism](#)

October 6, 2019, Deutsche Welle

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Thursday welcomed his fellow foreign ministers from some 50 countries for the first meeting of the "Alliance for Multilateralism," a loose group of nations working to boost international cooperation, reform international institutions, and tackle various global issues such as disarmament, digitalization and climate change.

[EU challenges Poland over judicial independence](#)

October 10, 2019, The Guardian

Just three days before parliamentary elections on Sunday, the European commission announced it was referring Poland to the European court of justice over its disciplinary regime for Polish judges.

[EU civil war breaks out as Austria spearheads rebellion against post-Brexit budget hike](#)

October 11, 2019, Express

AUSTRIA is on a collision course with incoming president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen after reiterating its vehement opposition to the EU's insistence that each of the EU27 should pay a minimum annual contribution of 1.1 percent of GDP.

[Brexit secretary returns to Brussels after 'promising' UK-Ireland talks](#)

October 11, 2019, BBC

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay is meeting the EU's chief negotiator - after Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart agreed they could "see a pathway to a possible deal".

[EU 'terrified' as Brexit success to spark economic nightmare for bloc, says MEP](#)

October 10, 2019, Express

The Brexiteer claimed the European Union is terrified of Britain leaving because of the money the British Government will be taking away from the common budget. According to the Office of National Statistics, the UK contributed £15.5 billion to the bloc out of an estimated £20 billion due to the rebate Britain benefits from, and another £4.5 billion were returned the British public sector in the form of credit.

[EU citizens in Britain face deportation if they don't apply to stay after Brexit, says minister](#)

October 10, 2019, CNN

European Union citizens living in the UK could be deported if they do not apply for settled status after a no-deal Brexit, a British government minister has warned.

[Macron: Britain will have to pay price over any unacceptable Brexit move](#)

October 10, 2019, Reuters

Britain will have to pay the price should it decide to proceed with a position over Brexit that is unacceptable for the other 27 European Union countries, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday.

[EU, Germany condemn Turkish offensive in northern Syria](#)

October 9, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Germany and the European Union are among many voices speaking out against the Turkey's military invasion of northern Syria on Wednesday. World powers are deliberating how to respond.

[8 EU states push to raise 2030 climate goal, but Germany absent](#)

October 8, 2019, Deutsche Welle

The eight European Union member states have signed a letter urging the bloc to get tougher on climate action. Germany, however, was not among them.

Russia

[Putin Wants to Connect Russia's Arctic Coast and the Indian Ocean](#)

October 8, 2019, The Moscow Times

President Vladimir Putin wants to connect ports on Russia's Arctic coast with ports on the Indian Ocean, he said. The construction of a railway line to Sabetta is what is needed, the president said.

[Culture ministers of BRICS countries to meet in Brazil](#)

October 11, 2019, TASS

The fourth meeting of culture ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) member countries will take place in the Brazilian city of Curitiba on Friday. Russia will be represented by head of the Russian Culture Ministry's museum department Vladislav Kononov.

[Putin arrives in Ashgabat to take part in CIS summit on October 11](#)

October 11, 2019, TASS

Russian President Vladimir Putin will also hold talks with his Turkmenistani counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in Ashgabat.

[Russia rejects accusations of delaying Normandy Four summit – top diplomat](#)

October 10, 2019, TASS

Russia does not rule out that Kiev's demand to convene a Normandy Four summit stems from its desire to review the previous agreements reached by the leaders. Moscow will do its utmost to prevent that, the Russian foreign minister told reporters.

[Russian, North Korean State Media Team Up to Fight 'Fake News'](#)

October 9, 2019, The Moscow Times

State media outlets in Russia and North Korea have signed a new cooperation agreement that includes plans to counteract "fake news" together.

[Georgia's stance on dialogue with Russia should be clarified to resume flights – ministry](#)

October 10, 2019, TASS

Tbilisi has expressed interest in improving relations with Moscow, particularly in the economic field, according to the senior diplomat.

[What Does Turkey's Syria Offensive Mean For Russia?](#)

October 10, 2019, The Moscow Times

Turkish troops and their Syrian rebel allies attacked Kurdish militia in northeast Syria on Wednesday, pounding them with air strikes and artillery before starting a cross-border ground operation that could transform an eight-year war.

[Putin's Russia is now a Middle Eastern country](#)

October 8, 2019, The Japan Times

Much has been made of Russia's pivot to China as a danger to the U.S.-led world order, and the Kremlin has done its best to play up these fears in an effort to keep Russia punching above its weight.

[Putin Eyes Geopolitical Spoils from the UAE-Saudi Rift in Yemen](#)

October 9, 2019, International Policy Digest

When news broke of UAE-backed "separatists" in August of this year taking the Yemen capital Aden from the hands of Saudi-UAE backed government forces, Yemen started to get complicated.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Brazil's Strategic Expansion in the Indo-Pacific](#)

October 8, 2019, The Diplomat

As part of its grander geostrategic ambitions, Brazil aims to expand its strategic reach in the Indo-Pacific region.

[Reliance to resume Venezuela oil loadings after four-month pause](#)

October 10, 2019, Business Today

The US in January imposed the toughest sanctions yet on Venezuela's oil industry, depriving the OPEC-member nation of the main destination for its crude exports.

[Brazil Says Oil Polluting Its Coast Probably Came From Venezuela](#)

October 10, 2019, Bloomberg

Brazil's efforts to uncover the origin of oil washing up on more than 130 beaches along its pristine northeastern coastline are pointing to Venezuela as the likely culprit.

[Ecuador In State Of Emergency: End Of Fuel Subsidies Sparks Mass Protests](#)

October 4, 2019, NPR

Large protests have triggered a state of emergency in Ecuador, after President Lenín Moreno moved ahead with his plan to end fuel subsidies. Moreno says he's ending the "perverse" gasoline subsidy after 40 years because it was distorting Ecuador's economy.

[Apprehensions At The U.S.-Mexico Border Decline For The 4th Consecutive Month](#)

October 8, 2019, NPR

The number of migrants taken into custody after crossing the southern border declined for the fourth consecutive month, according to new figures released by the Trump administration.

[An Analysis Of The Failure Of Mauricio Macri's Economic Plan](#)

October 9, 2019, Forbes

At its core, Macri understood the economy as a traditional liberal where the issue was too much spending and no saving. Micro-managing the economy like a

private company – where there are no alternatives to austerity when there's little left in the bank – seemed to be his solution. At the same time, Macri sought to "build the future" through public works projects, spending on roads and sewers while lowering subsidies on public utilities to essentially "force savings" on a population too used to the largesse of populism.

[Bolivia's Morales faces threat to re-election over widespread destruction from wildfires](#)

October 8, 2019, CTV News

After being in power for 14 years, Bolivia's president Evo Morales is facing a threat to his re-election -- mass protests and demonstrations over his perceived inaction on the forest fires sweeping across the country.

Africa

[Asia Rice-African demand boosts Vietnam rates, India prices dip to 4-month low](#)

October 10, 2019, Financial Post

Vietnamese rice export prices rose to their highest in two months this week as demand from African buyers increased, while prices in top exporter India fell to a four-month low on sluggish demand.

[Zimbabwean, Ugandan leaders blast Western sanctions](#)

October 9, 2019, Andolou Agency

Western countries slap sanctions on defenseless African countries that cannot fight back, says Uganda's president.

[Museveni defends China's loans to Uganda, Africa](#)

October 9, 2019, The Observer

President Yoweri Museveni has praised the Chinese government for extending loans to Uganda and Africa where other development partners have been hesitant.

[UN, African Union officials discuss peace with Sudan's prime minister](#)

October 10, 2019, Sudan Tribune

Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok discussed with United Nations and African Union officials his government plans to achieve peace in Sudan and ways for regional and international support to the process.

[Inflation-hit Zimbabwe public workers seek U.S. dollar-indexed pay](#)

October 9, 2019, Nehandaradio

Zimbabwe's public sector workers demanded to be paid U.S. dollar-indexed salaries on Wednesday to cushion them against soaring inflation, and will decide this week whether to strike.

[The awkward history behind Nigeria and South Africa's turbulent relationship](#)

October 9, 2019, Quartz Africa

The awkward history behind Nigeria and South Africa's turbulent relationship. Since the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994, South Africa and Nigeria have never had an easy relationship. Over the years, as different presidents have come and gone, the two countries have often been at loggerheads for different reasons.

[DR Congo political leaders urged to support winds of change](#)

October 10, 2019, Sierra Leone Times

Leila Zerrougui listed some of these developments which have occurred since the installation of new President Felix Tshisekedi this past January.

[Terrorists target gov't installations in northern Rwanda attack: army official](#)

October 10, 2019, Xinhua

Terrorists targeted government installations in last Friday's terror attack that killed 14 people in Musanze District, northern Rwanda, security organs foiled their plan in time, an army official said.

[Egypt denounces Ethiopia for moving ahead with Nile dam amid water: shortage fears](#)

October 9, 2019, Reuters

Egypt denounced Ethiopia on Wednesday for moving forward with building and operating a hydropower dam on the Nile, which Cairo worries will threaten already scarce water supplies.



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