



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume IV, Issue 20 | May 15, 2020



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Volume 4, Issue 20

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

[UN economic experts hail India's 'impressive' stimulus package to revive economy hit by coronavirus](#)

May 14, 2020, The Economic Times

Top UN economic experts have hailed as "impressive" the Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package, the largest so far among developing countries, announced by India to revive the country's economy, which has been severely hit by the coronavirus-triggered lockdown.

[Jaishankar raises terrorism at SCO Covid meet, says it's still overwhelming threat](#)

May 13, 2020, The Print

The statement by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar comes at a time when India is seeing a spurt in ceasefire violations from Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir.

[India needs 'whole-of-govt approach' to confront strategic uncertainties: Army Chief](#)

May 10, 2020, India Today

The time has come for India to adopt a "whole-of-government approach" indecisively confronting the "strategic uncertainties" looming on its horizon as well as non-traditional threats like pandemics, Army Chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has said, strongly pitching for broadening the country's national security doctrine.

[All major economies will be drawn into US-China contestations over international trade](#)

May 12, 2020, The Indian Express

Significant political contestations within the US and between the US and China to reform, reorient or bypass the WTO system are at hand. All major economies will be drawn into this conflict.

[Focus on Make in India in Defence: Projects under Make II category will go to MSMEs, says SIDM](#)

May 14, 2020, Financial Express

However, critical technologies which have been designed and developed by the Ordnance Factory Board and the Defence Research and Development Organisation can gradually be shared with the private sector and MSMEs.

[Army considers 'tour-of-duty' model to allow youth to serve for 3 years](#)

May 13, 2020, The Hindustan Times

The Indian Army is examining a proposal that seeks to allow the country's youth to serve the military for three years under a new "tour of duty" (ToD) model similar to the short-service commission that allows officers to serve for 10 to 14 years, two army officers familiar with the move said.

[India need to be self-reliant, net exporter of technology: Defence minister](#)

May 12, 2020, Northeast Now

Union defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday stressed on the need for India to become self-reliant and 'net exporter of technology'. He said this while addressing the scientists of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) on the occasion of National Technology Day (NTD) in New Delhi through video conference.

[India suspends 39 import licenses for refined palm oil: Report](#)

May 12, 2020, Hindustan Times

India has suspended 39 licences to import 452,303 tonnes of refined palm oil after a surge in duty-free purchases from neighbours such as Nepal and Bangladesh which are not key producers, government and trade sources said.

[Indian Navy Repatriation Voyages Under Way](#)

May 14, 2020, The Maritime Executive

The Indian Navy has completed two evacuation voyages to repatriate Indian nationals from the Maldives.

[India seeks local warplanes as \\$15 billion global order stalls](#)

May 14, 2020, Live Mint

India plans to switch to locally-made fighter jets, two years after asking global companies to submit proposals to supply 114 combat aircraft in the world's biggest warplane contract.

[IAF to buy 83 more Tejas fighters from HAL instead of foreign jets, CDS Rawat says](#)

May 14, 2020, The Print

India plans to switch to locally-made fighter jets, two years after asking global companies to submit proposals to supply 114 combat aircraft in the world's biggest warplane contract.

[India opposes Pakistan-China move to build major dam in Gilgit-Baltistan](#)

May 14, 2020, Hindustan Times

The Pakistan government on Wednesday signed a Rs 442-billion contract with a joint venture formed by China Power and the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), a commercial arm of the Pakistani military, for constructing the Diamer-Bhasha dam.

Pakistan

[US seeks Pak help in starting intra-Afghan dialogue](#)

May 10, 2020, The News

US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad visited Islamabad on May 8. He met with Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa. In a meeting he has sought Pakistan's help in starting intra-Afghan dialogue.

[Sindhi separatists JSQM-A, SRA, SLA banned](#)

May 12, 2020, The News

Pakistan Government has formally banned Sindhi separatist political entity namely Jaey Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (Arisar) or (JSQM-A) along with two militant groups namely Sindhu Desh Revolutionary Army (SRA) and Sindhu Desh Liberation Army (SLA) under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997.

[Millions return to work as virus cases continue to spike](#)

May 12, 2020, The Nation

Prime Minister Imran Khan said the lockdown restrictions were eased in phases keeping in view Pakistan's economic condition, the people's problems and the situation of other countries, so that a balance between economic activities and protection measures could be maintained.

[Debt relief of \\$2 bn: Pakistan receives draft MoU for signing from G20 countries](#)

May 12, 2020, The News

Pakistan has received draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for signing debt relief from G20 countries for eight months (May 1 to December 31, 2020) period to the tune of \$2 billion. Pakistan became the first country that applied for the debt relief from G20 countries. Now the draft MoU confirms that G20 accepted the application and is now ready to sign Memorandum of Understanding to this effect with Islamabad. The received MoU incorporated government to government (G2G) and government guaranteed debt for public sector enterprises

(PSEs) raising hopes that the amount of debt relief might go up from earlier projection of \$1.87 billion to close to \$2 billion.

[WB, ADB to provide \\$4 billion in budget, balance of payment support](#)

May 13, 2020, The Nation

The World Bank and Asian Development Bank would jointly provide about \$4 billion in budget and balance of payment support to Pakistan over the next 18 months to address the immediate impacts of COVID-19, mitigate socio-economic disruption and support reforms.

Afghanistan

[18 bodies of drowned Afghans recovered at Iran border](#)

May 9, 2020, The News

Afghanistan has recovered 18 bodies of migrants who were allegedly beaten and tortured before being forced into a river by Iranian border guards last week. Afghan authorities are investigating claims the migrants drowned while illegally crossing into neighbouring Iran from western Herat province.

['Taliban Maintains Close Ties to Terror Groups': Afghan NDS Chief](#)

May 10, 2020, Tolo News

Taliban's relations with other terrorist groups "continue to be close and mutually beneficial which is against the spirit of the peace agreement the group had signed with the United States," said the head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghanistan's intelligence agency.

[Mulla Omer's son made Taliban military chief](#)

May 10, 2020, The News

The son of the Afghan Taliban's late founder Mulla Mohammad Omer has been appointed as the Taliban military chief in a political reshuffle to check the power of his predecessor. Mulla Mohammad Yaqoob has been announced head of the military commission for the movement. His appointment was confirmed as the Taliban have significantly ramped up attacks following a withdrawal agreement with the United States.

[Afghan Forces Capture Key Figures From Islamic State's South Asia Branch](#)

May 11, 2020, RFERL

Afghan security forces say they have captured three senior members of the Islamic State (IS) extremist group's South Asia branch including the group's regional leader for South Asia, Abu Omar Khorasani. Afghanistan's Interior

Ministry announced on May 11 that Khorasani was arrested during a recent operation in Kabul.

[Afghan capital rocked by four bomb blasts](#)

May 12, 2020, The Nation

Four roadside bombs detonated in less than 90 minutes on May 11 in a northern district of Afghanistan's capital, wounding four civilians including a child. Militants have carried out several roadside bombings and rocket attacks in Kabul and other parts of the country in recent weeks, but Monday morning's blasts appeared to be the first coordinated effort for some months.

[Afghanistan to Resume Exports to Chinese, Indian Markets](#)

May 12, 2020, Tolo News

Afghan pine nuts exporters said they plan to resume their exports to the Chinese markets through air corridor starting on May 12 with exporting over 110 tons of pine nuts to Chinese markets. Meanwhile, officials from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment have said that the export of other products will be resumed soon through air corridor to the Indian markets.

[Afghan forces to resume offensive](#)

May 13, 2020, The Nation

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani ordered the country's security forces to resume offensive operations against the Taliban and other insurgent groups, following two separate attacks that killed dozens of people.

[40 die in attacks on hospital, funeral in Afghanistan](#)

May 13, 2020, The News

Gunmen stormed a maternity hospital in Kabul, killing at least 16 people including newborns and nurses and a suicide blast at a funeral in the country's restive east left two dozen mourners dead. The latest violence comes as Afghanistan grapples with myriad crises, including a rise in militant operations across the country, a surge in coronavirus infections, and a reduction in foreign military support.

[Pompeo urges Kabul and Taliban co-operation after 'appalling' attack](#)

May 13, 2020, The National

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday urged the Afghan government and Taliban to co-operate after deadly attacks on a maternity hospital and a funeral hurt prospect of ending the war. Mr Pompeo called the twin assaults appalling but said the Taliban, who signed a February 29 accord with the US in his presence in Qatar, denied carrying them out.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh to extend shutdown till May 30](#)

May 14, 2020, The Hindu

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given her nod to the proposed holiday extension until May 30, Junior Minister for Public Administration Ministry Farhad Hossain told media.

[Bangladesh's stimulus package tops Tk 1.0 trillion](#)

May 14, 2020, Financial Express

The government has announced an additional Tk 20 billion stimulus package to assist migrant workers, unemployed youth and rural population during the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, bdnews24.com reports.

[First coronavirus case found in Bangladesh Rohingya refugee camps](#)

May 15, 2020, Al Jazeera

The novel coronavirus has been detected in one of the camps in southern Bangladesh that are home to more than a million Rohingya refugees, according to officials.

[Dhaka, Ottawa discuss ways to absorb pandemic shock on economy](#)

May 15, 2020, The Financial Express

Canada has proposed forming an international alliance to address the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic.

[Virus fears: Over 2,000 trucks stranded at India-Bangladesh border](#)

May 13, 2020, The Hindu Business Line

More than 2,300 trucks of Indian origin are stuck or stranded along the India-Bangladesh border in the Petrapole-Benapole region, nearly 100 km from Kolkata, as vehicular movement between the countries has taken a massive hit because of local resistance and fears of a Covid outbreak.

Nepal

[Nepal can let India use link road: K.P. Sharma Oli](#)

May 13, 2020, The Hindu

Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli proposed a solution to the ongoing border tension saying that Nepal can allow India to use the link road to the Lipulekh Pass as part of an agreement, but will not surrender the Kalapani territory on which India has been carrying out construction.

[Nepal makes its position clear on Lipulekh with a diplomatic note to India](#)

May 12, 2020, The Kathmandu Post

Foreign Ministry hands over the diplomatic note to Indian envoy and seeks talks with Delhi to resolve boundary issues at the earliest possible date.

[Border talks with Nepal after pandemic: India](#)

May 14, 2020, The Hindu

The Ministry of External Affairs said both sides were in contact and a mutually convenient date for the Foreign Secretary-level dialogue would be decided to deal with the dispute over the construction of a link road to Tibet. An official spokesperson of the Ministry reiterated that the road was built on Indian land.

[The Kalapani Conundrum: Indo-Nepal Diplomatic Rifts](#)

May 14, 2020, Khabarhub

The government of Nepal raised objection after Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the link road from Dharchula to Lipulekh, identifying Lipulekh as "China border".

['Remove Indian forces from Nepali soil'](#)

May 13, 2020, The Himalayan Times

The International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives has directed the Government of Nepal to 'remove Indian security forces from the land encroached by the southern neighbour' and ensure its security and administrative presence in Kalapani areas, including Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh at the earliest.

[The India-Nepal-China geopolitical tri-junction](#)

May 10, 2020, Nepali Times

India's inauguration of the Lipulekh road was not 'unilateral' but a 'bilateral' deal with China.

[Road Inauguration Sparks India, Nepal Border Row](#)

May 11, 2020, The Diplomat

Nepal has cited the inauguration of a road by India as a violation of its sovereignty.

Sri Lanka

[Defense Ministry launches 'Itukama' media campaign to support the COVID-19 fund](#)

May 13, 2020, Colombo Page

The Defense Ministry has launched media campaign 'Itukama' today to raise funds for the COVID-19 Healthcare and Social Security Fund established by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to support and strengthen activities aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and related social welfare program.

[Three new envoys to Sri Lanka present credentials via video conferencing in a 'Historic First'](#)

May 14, 2020, Colombo Page

In a 'historic first' three new envoys to Sri Lanka virtually presented credentials to the President of Sri Lanka today via video conferencing.

[US supports Sri Lanka's border and maritime security](#)

May 13, 2020, Colombo Gazette

The United States (US) says it supports Sri Lanka's border and maritime security.

[Chinese President telephones President Rajapaksa](#)

May 13, 2020, Colombo Gazette

Chinese President Xi Jinping suggested that China and Sri Lanka, while ensuring COVID-19 prevention and control, gradually resume practical cooperation in various fields, advance major cooperation projects in an orderly manner and promote the high-quality construction of the Belt and Road, the Xinhua news agency reported.

[Sri Lanka ponders opening of borders in July](#)

May 14, 2020, Colombo Gazette

Sri Lanka is considering reopening its air and sea borders in July to foreign tourists, TTG Asia reported.

Maldives

[Operation Samudra Setu's phase two: INS Jalashwa returns to Maldives to repatriate Indians](#)

May 14, 2020, The New Indian Express

During the first phase of the operation between May 8 and May 12, INS Jalashwa and INS Magar repatriated 698 and 202 Indians, respectively, amid the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

[Mission SAGAR: Indian Naval Ship Kesari carrying 580 tonnes of essential food items reaches Maldives](#)

May 12, 2020, Zee News

Under the government's `Mission SAGAR` initiative, Indian Naval Ship Kesari on Tuesday (May 12) reached Male port in the Maldives, carrying 580 tonnes of essential food items. This move is part of a goodwill gesture from the people of India to the people of Maldives during the coronavirus COVID-19 crisis.

East & South East Asia

China

[Trump turns up election strategy nonsense with China 'cut-off' threat: Global Times editorial](#)

May 15, 2020, Global Times

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday the US "could cut off the whole relationship" with China, claiming that such a move would save the country \$500 billion. Trump made the remarks during an interview with Fox Business. The very idea should not come as a surprise for those who remember when Trump speculated if disinfectants could be used on humans "by injection" to wipe out the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

[US malicious rhetoric picking quarrels will feel China response](#)

May 14, 2020, Global Times

Over the past weeks, some US individuals, entities and state officials seem to have become addicted to the idea of filing lawsuits against China for alleged harms caused by the novel coronavirus. Finally, China started to mull retaliations, according to sources close to the matter. What made bilateral ties between China and the US to where it is today? What could possibly be China's countermeasures and the consequences to China-US relations? Two experts shared their insights with the Global Times.

[China-Australia ties tense over COVID-19 inquiry](#)

May 14, 2020, Global Times

There is no denying that the China-Australia relationship is fractured. Now is arguably the worst moment in bilateral ties in the past two decades. The last time the ties were this tense was during the Taiwan Straits crisis in the 1990s.

[China can withstand constant US tricks: Global Times editorial](#)

May 11, 2020, Global Times

Reported more than 20 local confirmed cases of COVID-19, all of which come respectively from the two infectious chains in Hubei's Wuhan and Jilin's Shulan. Although they are sporadic outbreaks, the Chinese people have paid deserved attention and raised their alert. On Monday, Shulan underwent a quasi "lockdown" state or "war" state.

[China needs to prepare for continued US provocations: Global Times editorial](#)

May 8, 2020, Global Times

US House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy announced on Thursday the establishment of a Republican-led "China task force" aimed at dealing with a perceived geopolitical threat from Beijing. Increasing hostility toward China and blaming China for the Trump administration's botched response to the coronavirus epidemic have become the core campaign strategy of the Republican Party. No Democrats have participated in the task force.

[Evil design behind US' Taiwan rant](#)

May 15, 2020, China Daily

From 2009 to 2016, the Chinese mainland agreed a special arrangement with the World Health Organization which allowed Taiwan to attend the meeting of the World Health Assembly, WHO's highest decision-making body, as an observer because the then Taiwan administration acknowledged the 1992 Consensus that there is only one China.

[Courage and sanity of speaking up against hate speech targeted at China](#)

May 15, 2020, China Daily

Having served as US ambassador to China from 2014 to 2017, Max Baucus knows China better than most Americans. He has travelled to all Chinese provinces and jocularly calls himself a "WeChat nut", referring to the popular Chinese messaging, social media and mobile payment app. But that doesn't mean the former US Senator from Montana has not been critical of China when speaking to US news media outlets in the past years.

[Imperative HK gets national anthem law: China Daily editorial](#)

May 13, 2020, China Daily

After the positive development on Monday enabling the legislature in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to resume its normal operations, the government has given priority to a second reading of the trademark amendment bill and national anthem bill.

[China firmly opposes Taiwan-related proposal to WHO by some countries](#)

May 14, 2020, Xinhua

China on Thursday expressed firm opposition to a so-called proposal by a few countries to invite Taiwan as an observer in the upcoming session of the World Health Assembly (WHA), a foreign ministry spokesperson said Thursday.

Japan

[Japan's Southeast Asian Diplomacy](#)

May 14, 2020, International Affairs Review

For Japan, Southeast Asia is vital. 42% of Japan's maritime trade and 80% of its oil imports pass through the South China Sea. Furthermore, as Japan has been relatively isolated in Northeast Asia due to its lingering historical grievances with China and the two Koreas, Southeast Asia presents Tokyo alternative diplomatic options.

[Japan Protests China Coast Guard Harassment of Fishing Vessel Near Senkaku Islands](#)

May 11, 2020, The Diplomat

China Coast Guard ships chased a Japanese fishing vessel, Japanese authorities said.

[China's chance to demonstrate leadership in the South China Sea](#)

May 12, 2020, The Japan Times

China, in a series of assertive and sometimes risky unilateral actions, has netted some significant gains in the South China Sea in the past decade.

[Japan could carry the day in a US-China conflict](#)

May 13, 2020, Asia Times

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said last month that the Covid-19 pandemic was the biggest national crisis since World War II, it was widely overlooked that just weeks earlier his government passed by far the nation's biggest defense budget since the end of that conflict.

[Is Japan pulling its companies out of China?](#)

May 13, 2020, The Japan Times

Is Japan pulling its companies out of China? This was Abe himself announcing a policy based on concerns about the risk of Japan's supply chains being excessively dependent on China.

Korea

[After Kim Jong Un](#)

May 14, 2020, Foreign Affairs

Kim's brief disappearance has underscored the urgent need for the United States to adopt a regional security strategy for North Korea—one that coordinates the

responses of the interested powers to the potential instability of the regime in Pyongyang.

[No, you're the puppet: why North Korea isn't a Chinese satellite](#)

May 14, 2020, NK News.org

Despite what some may say, China is not and has never been North Korea's puppet master. From a certain point of view, the DPRK has all the makings of a Chinese satellite state. It has for a long time distracted and irritated China's main rival, the United States, and is very much dependent on the Middle Kingdom for its economic survival.

[North Korea believed to have replaced military intelligence chief: report](#)

May 14, 2020, Daily News

The reason for the shakeup atop the agency wasn't immediately clear. The flow of information out of the mysterious country is tightly restricted.

[U.S. Drones to Monitor N.Korea's Submarines](#)

May 14, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

The U.S. Navy's MQ-4C Triton high-altitude drones are flying reconnaissance missions in East Asia, in part to spy on North Korean submarines.

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN fosters defence co-operation in response to pandemic](#)

May 15, 2020, Vietnam News

ASEAN defence senior officials held a video conference on Friday to share experiences of ASEAN defence forces in preventing the COVID-19 pandemic and discuss future co-operation direction for disease response.

[Experts see delay in drafting of ASEAN-China Code of Conduct for S. China Sea](#)

May 15, 2020, ABS-CBN News

Negotiations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China for a code of conduct (COC) on the disputed South China Sea have been delayed, and experts say the original target date for its conclusion is now "off the rails" because of the current situation at sea, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Under Cover of Pandemic, China Steps Up Brinkmanship in South China Sea](#)

May 14, 2020, Foreign Policy

Beijing has increased pressure on its nervous neighbors in its quest to dominate the entire South China Sea.

[Vietnam asks China to stop illegal East Sea military maneuvers](#)

May 14, 2020, VN Express

Vietnam's Foreign Ministry says China's dispatch of military aircraft to the Fiery Cross Reef on Vietnam's Spratly Islands is an illegal act.

[Indonesia summons China's ambassador over burials at sea on fishing fleet](#)

May 7, 2020, Reuters

Indonesia has summoned China's ambassador to clarify the deaths of four Indonesian crew from two Chinese-flagged vessels, Indonesia's foreign ministry said on Thursday, after rights groups alleged the crew were mistreated and exploited.

[How Duterte got Philippines into a US-China strategic stalemate](#)

May 12, 2020, Today Online

Unlike his China-sceptic predecessor Benigno Aquino – who took China to international court over South China Sea disputes – Mr Duterte made it clear that Beijing is a preferred national development partner. He also proudly told the Chinese media that the US is an unreliable partner, hence his preference for a "meek" and "humble" relationship with Beijing. This signals a largely transactional approach towards the great powers.

[Malaysian oil exploration vessel leaves South China Sea waters after standoff](#)

May 12, 2020, Malay Mail

An oil exploration vessel contracted by Malaysian state energy company Petronas that was involved in a standoff with a Chinese survey vessel in the South China Sea left the disputed waters today, three security sources and the vessel operator said.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Switzerland established telecommunication network of Kyrgyzstan healthcare organizations](#)

May 15, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The Government of Switzerland through its health project "Medical Education Reforms in the Kyrgyz Republic" provided primary healthcare organizations with equipment for teleconferencing and distance learning, the Embassy of Switzerland in the Kyrgyz Republic said on May 14.

[Germany, UNDP will support Kyrgyzstan in preparation for elections in 2020-2021](#)

May 14, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

An agreement has been signed between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Embassy of Germany to provide €500,000 from the German Government to promote and support measures within the project to improve the democratic electoral process in Kyrgyzstan in 2020-2021, UNDP in Kyrgyzstan said on May 13.

[US provides \\$750,000 to fight measles outbreak in Kazakhstan](#)

May 15, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The U.S. Government through its Agency for International Development (USAID) provided more than 321 million tenge (\$750,000) to support Kazakhstan's response efforts against the recent measles outbreak. USAID is providing these funds through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to identify root causes of the measles outbreak, raise public awareness about the issue, and train healthcare professionals to strengthen immunization efforts, the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan said on May 14.

[Kazakhstan continues reopening economic sectors](#)

May 14, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

After on May 11 Kazakhstan lifted its state of emergency to slow the spread of the coronavirus and had earlier allowed some industrial, trade and other businesses to resume operations, the government is gradually lifting the remaining restrictions.

[Technology and Policing a Pandemic in Central Asia](#)

May 13, 2020, The Diplomat

Regional governments are retooling surveillance systems in their “smart” cities to fight the pandemic, heightening existing concerns of rights and privacy.

West Asia

[Coronavirus: Indian Expats in the Gulf Demand More Repatriation Flights](#)

May 14, 2020, Gulf News

Over 3,000 Indian expatriates from six Gulf countries, including the UAE, have registered a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India asking the central government to increase the number of repatriation flights for stranded Indians in the wake of pandemic situation.

[Oil Production Cut to Deepen GCC Fiscal Deficits](#)

May 13, 2020, Gulf News

The OPEC+ agreement and the additional oil output cuts announced this week will push GCC budgets even deeper into deficit, according to Fitch Ratings.

[US to Israel: No More Chinese Deals](#)

May 13, 2020, Breaking Defence

The United States delivered a clear message to Jerusalem today – avoid further involvement of China in the Israeli economy. The message was one of the main reasons for the very short visit of American Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Jerusalem – one day before the new cabinet is sworn in.

[US Envoy Threatens to Trigger Return of all UN Sanctions on Iran](#)

May 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States publicly threatened on Wednesday (May 13) to trigger a return of all United Nations sanctions on Iran if the UN Security Council does not extend an arms embargo on Tehran that is due to expire in October under the Iran nuclear deal.

[China Says U.S. Has No Right to Extend Arms Embargo on Iran](#)

May 15, 2020, CGTN

The Chinese Mission to the United Nations said on Thursday that Washington has no right to extend a UN arms embargo on Tehran after the United States threatened to trigger a return of all sanctions on Iran at the UN Security Council.

[Anti-government Rallies Resume in Iraq Seeking Early Polls, Accountability](#)

May 10, 2020, TRT World

Anti-government rallies resumed in some Iraqi cities on Sunday (May 10), clashing with security forces and ending months of relative calm just days after Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhimi's government came to power.

[Saudi Arabia Urges OPEC+ to Further Reduce Oil Production to Restore Market Balance](#)

May 14, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia has called on OPEC+ countries to respect their commitment to the agreed oil production cuts and to reduce production even further to help restore balance to global oil markets.

[India Permits 835 Healthcare Professionals to Travel to Saudi Arabia for Fight against Covid-19](#)

May 14, 2020, Hindustan Times

The Indian government has facilitated the travel of 835 healthcare professionals to Saudi Arabia following a request from Riyadh, and the first batch of doctors and nurses departed from Kerala in a special flight on Wednesday, people familiar with developments said.

[Hassan Nasrallah: Israel Targeting Missile Sites in Syria](#)

May 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Iran-aligned Hezbollah movement in Lebanon, has said Israel is now concentrating its attacks in Syria on missile-manufacturing sites, while denying that Iranian troops were currently operating in the war-torn country beyond serving as "military advisers and experts".

United States

United States

[Trump threatens new taxes on companies that make goods outside United States](#)

May 14, 2020, Reuters

President Donald Trump has threatened to impose new taxes on American companies that produce goods outside the United States. It is another move his administration could make to push supply chains away from China and raise new trade barriers.

[Trump says US-China trade deal 'doesn't feel the same to me'](#)

May 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

United States President Donald Trump on Thursday said he was very disappointed in China over its failure to contain the novel coronavirus, saying the worldwide pandemic cast a pall over his trade deal with Beijing.

[US could cut ties with China over coronavirus, 'save \\$500 billion': Trump](#)

May 14, 2020, Deutsche Welle

The US president has said he does not want to speak to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping and threatened to sever ties with Beijing, as the standoff between the two countries continues.

[Pompeo says TSMC's \\$12 billion investment to increase U.S. economic independence from China](#)

May 15, 2020, Reuters

Chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co's (2330.TW) \$12 billion investment in the United States will increase U.S. economic independence from China, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement early on Friday.

['Obamagate': Donald Trump calls for Barack Obama to testify and wants officials to be 'jailed for 50 years'](#)

May 14, 2020, Telegraph

Donald Trump has called for Barack Obama to be hauled before Congress, and for his predecessor's officials to be "jailed for 50 years".

[U.S. Senate votes to extend government surveillance tools](#)

May 15, 2020, Reuters

The U.S. Senate comfortably approved a 2-1/2-year extension of parts of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) on May 14, two months after the divisive provisions allowing government data collection expired.

[Trump administration tightens visas for Chinese reporters](#)

May 9, 2020, The Economic Times

The Trump administration is tightening visa guidelines for Chinese journalists in response to the treatment of U.S. journalists in China, as tensions flare between the two nations over the coronavirus.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Europe halts delivery of 10 million 'poor quality' Chinese masks](#)

May 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

The European Commission said on Thursday it has suspended the delivery of 10 million Chinese masks to member states and the United Kingdom after two countries complained about the poor quality of the batches they received.

[Focus on COVID-19 battle, France tells China after Taiwan warning](#)

May 13, 2020, Reuters

France dismissed Chinese warnings on Wednesday about selling arms to self-ruled Taiwan, saying it was implementing existing deals and that Beijing should focus on battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Germany plans fiscal splurge despite plunging tax revenues](#)

May 14, 2020, Reuters

German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said on Thursday that a massive plunge in tax revenues will not stop the government from presenting a stimulus package next month to help companies recover from the coronavirus crisis.

[Poland appeals to EU 'food security' for more money](#)

May 15, 2020, EU Observer

Food security is one reason why the EU should give more money to farmers after the pandemic, Poland has said.

[Slovenia calls an end to its coronavirus epidemic, relaxes some border controls](#)

May 15, 2020, Reuters

The Slovenian government late on Thursday called an official end to its coronavirus epidemic, becoming the first European country to do so, after authorities confirmed less than seven new coronavirus cases each day for the past two weeks.

Russia

[How Kremlin Propaganda Destroyed Russian Healthcare](#)

May 11, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russian physicians are quitting en masse while receiving only empty sympathy from state media.

[Putin Withdraws From the Coronavirus Crisis in a Political Abdication](#)

May 12, 2020, The Moscow Times

Putin is clearly eager to avoid being identified with the pandemic and the difficult measures being adopted to fight it.

[New Prime Minister of Iraq invites Vladimir Putin to visit Baghdad](#)

May 15, 2020, TASS

The newly elected Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa al-Kadhimi handed over an invitation for Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Baghdad through Russian Ambassador to Iraq Maksim Maksimov, Iraq's INA news agency announced Thursday, citing the Prime Minister's office.

[Russian defense minister proposes exchanging combat ship visit to French counterpart](#)

May 14, 2020, TASS

Sergei Shoigu confirmed that French experts are invited to take part in the Army international technical forum and the International Army Games in August-September 2020.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[China continues to cut back Latin America loans](#)

May 10, 2020, Modern Diplomacy

For the fourth consecutive year, China's two main banks tasked with financing overseas development have reduced loans to Latin America, according to new research from Boston University and think tank the Inter-American Dialogue.

[President Bolsonaro in a political fix as Brazil turns into hotspot for Covid pandemic](#)

May 13, 2020, The Print

Pressure is piling on Bolsonaro, who is battling allegations that could lead to his ouster while facing a pandemic and its economic devastation.

[Mexico announces 'new normality' in plan to reopen economy](#)

May 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

More than 38,000 people have been infected with COVID-19 in Mexico, but health experts warn the number is much higher.

[Price, specification risks sap Brazil gasoline imports](#)

May 14, 2020, Argus Media

A widening gap between Brazilian domestic gasoline prices and international prices, combined with forthcoming changes in market specifications, are dampening importers' interest in booking fuel for delivery in June and July.

[US-Mexico border factories pressured to stay open despite Covid-19 risk](#)

May 14, 2020, The Guardian

Companies – and US government officials – have urged Mexican government to keep factories running at any cost

[Argentina debt talks deadlocked as deadline looms](#)

May 11, 2020, BBC News

The Argentine government has extended a deadline to restructure \$65bn (£53bn) of debt to 22 May in an effort to avert further financial turmoil.

Africa

[AU Leadership Absent From Egypt and Ethiopia Dam Dispute](#)

May 14, 2020, CFR

After years of negotiations, Egypt has written to the UN Security Council about what it considers to be Ethiopia's failure to reach an agreement over the filling and operations of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). The United States, Russia, and the World Bank, among others, have attempted to mediate the dispute. However, the apparent absence of African Union (AU) leadership in the negotiations reduces the AU's credibility.

[Confronting the hidden US war in Somalia](#)

May 13, 2020, Al Jazeera

The US military has acknowledged two civilian casualties from a 2019 air attack in Somalia. Human rights researchers say the toll is much higher.

[Somalia launches first offshore licensing round](#)

May 14, 2020, Oilfield Technology

The 2020 Somali licensing round – launched virtually due to Covid-19 – features up to 7 blocks up for bidding which are estimated to be among the most prospective areas for hydrocarbon explorations and production in Somalia. This licensing round will open on 4 August 2020 and will be closing on 12 March 2021.

[26 Killed in Attack on South Sudan Government Paramilitary Base](#)

May 14, 2020, VOA

Twenty-six people, including civilians, were killed when unidentified gunmen attacked a South Sudan Rapid Support Forces (RSF) base this week outside the town of Kadugli in South Kordofan state.

[Burundi expels WHO officials coordinating coronavirus response](#)

May 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

Burundi has ordered the country's top World Health Organization (WHO) representative and three other experts coordinating the coronavirus response to leave the country.

[Cuban doctors ready to help fight virus in S.Africa](#)

May 15, Andolou Agency

Doctors call it moral duty to immediately respond to request for assistance from South Africa to combat coronavirus.

[Zimbabwe to circulate higher bank notes as inflation soars](#)

May 14, 2020, Financial Post

Zimbabwe will introduce higher denomination bank notes to increase the amount of cash in circulation, the finance minister said in a government notice, at a time inflation is soaring and pushing prices beyond the reach of the majority.



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