

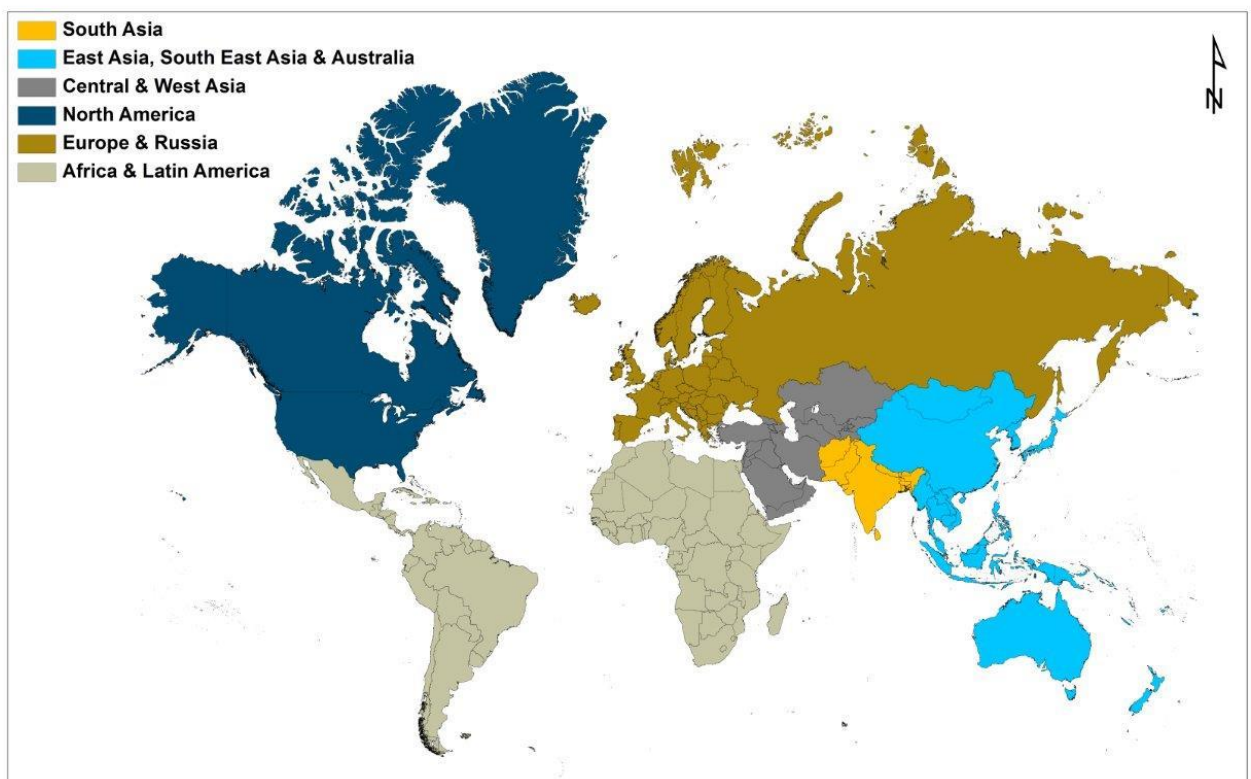


# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume 4, Issue 24

### ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## South Asia

### India

#### [Samudra Setu Operation: Indian Navy Ship Brings Back 233 Stranded Indians From Iran](#)

June 11, 2020, New Indian Express

Under the Indian Navy's 'Samudra Setu' operation, naval ship 'INS Shardul' on Thursday brought back 233 Indians to Gujarat from Iran, where they were stranded due to travel restrictions in view of the coronavirus -induced lockdown. Earlier, naval ships 'Jalashwa' and 'Magar' had evacuated 2,874 Indians from the Maldives and Sri Lanka to ports of Kochi and Tuticorin.

#### [China Now Has The Military Power To Alter Territorial Status Quo](#)

June 9, 2020, The Indian Express

The real challenge for Delhi in managing its expansive territorial dispute with Beijing, then, is to redress the growing power imbalance with China.

#### ["Our COVID Package As Large As Pak's GDP": India On Imran Khan's Help Offer](#)

June 11, 2020, NDTV

In a sharp retort to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's offer to share experience of his government's cash transfer scheme, India on Thursday reminded him that the size of its economic stimulus package to deal with the coronavirus pandemic is as large as Pakistan's GDP.

#### [India And Australia's 'Shared Vision': Setting The Stage For Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Engagement](#)

June 11, 2020, The Diploma

We are seeing the first steps toward a deeper India-Australia maritime security partnership in the Indo-Pacific.

#### [Not Just In Ladakh, India, China Moved Troops In All Three Sectors Last Month](#)

June 12, 2020, The Indian Express

Army sources said the troop movement, not similar to the deployment in eastern Ladakh, took place in the depth areas of all three sectors -- western, middle and eastern -- of the 3,488-km boundary that India shares with China.

## [Explained: The Strategic Road To DBO](#)

June 12, 2020, The Indian Express

In the reporting on the LAC stand-off, the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road has often appeared. What is this all-weather road built by India over nearly 20 years, and why does it matter?- the news item explains

## **Pakistan**

### [Pakistan's power generation capacity increases to 35,975MW](#)

June 12, 2020, The News

Economic survey for 2019-20 reveals that Pakistan's installed capacity to generate the electricity in the first 10 months of the current fiscal has increased by 7.5 percent to 35,975MW which was at 33,452MW in the same period of last financial year.

### [Quarantine centres being closed across Punjab](#)

June 11, 2020, Dawn

The government has started closing quarantine centres across Punjab, including six in Lahore, following a change in the policy under which the suspected Covid-19 patients were earlier required to quarantine at these centres. Under the new policy, those arriving at Lahore and other airports from abroad are just being screened through thermal scanners rather than tested on the spot.

### [Police ask prominent figures to make own security arrangements](#)

June 10, 2020, Dawn

The capital police have issued "security notices" to several prominent personalities in Pakistan, asking them to make their own security arrangements as the force is overstretched due to Covid-19 duties and many of the personnel have tested positive for the virus in recent days. Notices were sent to nearly 40 prominent personalities, including leaders of political and religious parties, businessmen and lawyers.

### [Economy to contract even more than estimated earlier: WB](#)

June 9, 2020, Dawn

The World Bank forecast that Pakistan's economy would actually perform even worse than what previous estimates had warned about, citing the Covid-19 fallout. In its latest report, Global Economic Prospects, WB assesses the country's

economy was likely to go into the red this fiscal year and would be unable to recover even next year. It forecast a negative GDP growth of -2.6pc for the current fiscal year (2019-20) and -0.2pc during the next (20-21).

#### [Pakistan, US review Afghan peace process](#)

June 8, 2020, Dawn

Reviewing the progress in the Afghan reconciliation process, Pakistan and the United States agreed to continue working towards “mutually agreed goals” defined in the landmark peace deal between the US and Taliban in Doha in February. The resolve to continue working together for bringing peace to the war-torn neighbouring country was made by US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Dr Zalmay Khalilzad and Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa during a meeting, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations.

#### [Pakistan names special envoy for Afghanistan](#)

June 7, 2020, Dawn

In what appears to be an attempt to strengthen its role in the ongoing Afghanistan peace process, the government has appointed veteran diplomat Mohammad Sadiq as Pakistan’s first special envoy for Afghanistan. As no official notification with regard to his appointment has been released, or posted on any government website, the responsibilities and the role of Ambassador Sadiq in the peace process is not yet clearly known.

#### [Pakistan tops ADB borrowers with \\$12bln outstanding in 2019](#)

June 6, 2020, The News

Pakistan was among the top 3 borrowers of the Asian Development Bank last year with the country’s outstanding loan exceeding \$12 billion. The document related to sovereign country exposure showed that the sum of disbursed and outstanding loan balances, present value of guaranteed obligations and fair values of equities amounted to \$12.3 billion – 11 percent of total exposure – as of December 31, 2019, compared to \$10.8 billion or 10 percent in 2018. ADB said the three largest borrowers— China, India, and Pakistan— represented 43 percent of the portfolio in 2019.

## Afghanistan

### [3 Weeks Later, Ghani-Abdullah Deal Not Fully Implemented](#)

June 12, 2020, Tolo News

While 25 days have passed since the signing of the political agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, many parts of the agreement have not yet been implemented. The four-page political agreement with five parts was signed last month to resolve tensions and break the political stalemate between Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah.

### [Pakistan Bars Afghan Goods, But Exports Freely into Afghanistan](#)

June 11, 2020, Tolo News

Pakistani products coming into Afghanistan flow as usual, but Afghan businesspeople are still not allowed to export goods to the Pakistani ports. Merchants called on the Afghan government to take action and raise the issue of the barring of Afghan exports with the Pakistani government.

### [US Gen: If Al-Qaeda Remains, US Troops Should Not Fully Withdraw](#)

June 11, 2020, Tolo News

The US Central Command's top general, Marine Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, said that he cannot recommend a full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan unless the Taliban demonstrate they no longer support al-Qaida forces there.

### [US Sanctions ICC Staff Probing Alleged War Crimes in Afghanistan](#)

June 11, 2020, VOA

President Donald Trump has issued an executive order authorizing U.S. sanctions against International Criminal Court personnel involved in an investigation into whether some American forces committed war crimes in Afghanistan. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says the Hague-based court is politically motivated and a threat to U.S. sovereignty.

### [Freed Taliban prisoners eye return to the battlefield](#)

June 10, 2020, The Daily Mail

Afghan authorities are opening prison doors for thousands of Taliban inmates in a high-risk gambit to ensure the insurgent group begins peace talks with Kabul. Security concerns are mounting as several of the newly liberated fighters say they are ready to resume their holy war.

### [Pakistan's Gen. Bajwa Meets with Afghan Leaders, Discusses Peace](#)

June 9, 2020, Tolo News

Pakistan's Army Chief of Staff Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, visited Kabul on May 9, held talks with President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, and discussed peace efforts and Pakistan's role.

### [Rift Over Marshal Rank for Dostum](#)

June 8, 2020, Tolo News

According to the reports there are some disagreements between President Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on promoting former vice president Abdul Rashid Dostum to marshal rank, which was included as a term in the political agreement signed between both sides in April. Based on the agreement, Dostum who was a supporter of Abdullah's campaign in last year's presidential election will not only be given the marshal rank but will also be given membership in the High Council of Government and the National Security Council.

### [The Taliban's emerging tactical terror alliances](#)

June 6, 2020, The Hill

A new type of threat has reportedly emerged in Afghanistan. Under the façade of negotiating peace, the Taliban's military hardliners have allegedly set in motion tactical alliances with other non-Taliban groups as part of their double game to continue fighting and disrupting peace efforts. One such emerging relationship relates to recent reports about the growing ties between the Haqqani Network and ISIS-Khorasan, the terror group's Afghan branch.

## **Bangladesh**

### [Bangladesh ranks 10th globally on daily increase in Covid-19 cases](#)

June 12, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh is now one of the top 10 countries in the world in terms of identifying new cases of coronavirus among 215 countries and regions.

### [Bangladesh to resume international flights on June 16](#)

June 11, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh is set to resume international flight operations from June 16 after a hiatus of almost two months due to the coronavirus pandemic.



### [Bangladesh-India trans-shipment trial run likely this month](#)

June 10, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

The first trial run of the trans-shipment of Indian goods through Bangladesh will take place this month amid the Covid-19 pandemic, according to sources.

### [Another span of Bangladesh's largest Padma Bridge installed](#)

June 10, 2020, Xinhua Net

China Railway Major Bridge Engineering Group Co, Ltd (MBEC) on Wednesday installed another span of Bangladesh's largest Padma Bridge.

## **Nepal**

### [As Nepal paints itself into a corner on Kalapani issue, India must tread carefully](#)

June 12, 2020, The Indian Express

India-Nepal relations are far too important to be derailed by this unfortunate display of cynical brinkmanship by Nepal's short-sighted leaders. India will need to tread carefully.

### [Amidst Nepal dispute, India sends out subtle reminder on assistance](#)

June 12, 2020, One India

India has subtly reminded Nepal of the humanitarian and development assistance it had provided, including medicines to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Is this the end of the 'special relationship'?](#)

June 11, 2020, Kathmandu Post

While Nepal has chafed at unequal ties and India's regional hegemony in the past, the new Kalapani chill is an outcome of the 2015 blockade and Kathmandu straining at Indian micro-management of Nepali politics.

### [Nepal's revised map is permanent: Foreign Minister Gyawali](#)

June 12, 2020, Khabarhub

Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Gyawali has reiterated the government of Nepal's stance that the revised new map would be permanent and will not be changed.

## [Nepal ruling party split over US aid threat to China relations](#)

June 11, 2020, Nikkei Asian Review

There are widening divisions in the leadership of Nepal's ruling party over a U.S. promise of aid that rivals of PM K.P. Sharma Oli worry will damage the country's blossoming relations with China.

## **Srilanka**

### [Foreign Ministry helps Sri Lankan exporters overcome adverse impact of COVID-19](#)

June 11, 2020, Colombo Page

According to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, comprehensive measures taken by the Ministry, in close coordination with the key Government economic agencies and the private sector to address and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 particularly on Sri Lankan exports, has helped in sustaining and regaining lost markets for traditional Sri Lankan exports, while enabling new opportunities.

### [Arab countries assure fullest support and cooperation towards Sri Lanka](#)

June 8, 2020, Colombo Page

Representatives of Arab countries in Sri Lanka assured the Arab world's fullest cooperation and support for continued excellent relations with Sri Lanka and also in continuing to look after the welfare of Sri Lankans in the Gulf region, the Ministry of Foreign Relations said.

### [United States donates equipment for Sri Lanka's frontline responders to COVID-19](#)

June 8, 2020, Colombo Page

U. S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives Alaina B. Teplitz today handed over a donation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials to Major General Sudantha Ranasinghe (ret'd), Director General of the Disaster Management Centre, to contribute to Sri Lanka's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

## [China overtakes Japan, World Bank as key Sri Lanka creditor](#)

June 12, 2020, Economy Next

China, which began financing Sri Lanka a little over a decade ago has overtaken traditional lenders Japan and the World Bank and is just behind the Asian Development Bank, official data show.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Eased border tensions bring China-India economic relations back to crossroads](#)

June 11, 2020, Global Times

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said that China and India have taken actions to ease tensions along the border in accordance with the consensus reached between the two sides.

#### [Will China 'suffer' following recent Vietnam-EU FTA?](#)

June 11, 2020, Global Times

Vietnam's National Assembly recently ratified the European Union Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and the EU-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA), aiming to eliminate almost 99 percent of customs duties between Vietnam and the EU over the next 10 years.

#### [Canberra might not directly play in new cold war with Beijing](#)

June 11, 2020, Global Times

US Republican Senator Rick Scott, known for his extreme anti-China stance, urged Australia to play a crucial role in helping the US win a new cold war against China, The Sydney Morning Herald reported .

#### [EU and China ink new deals as US blunders alone](#)

June 10, 2020, Global Times

The 10th round of the China-EU high-level strategic dialogue was held via video link. The two sides agreed to develop closer ties on a wide range of issues.

#### [US troop pullout makes Europe rethink](#)

June 10, 2020, Global Times

Tensions between the US and Germany over military spending and other security issues are ramping up. A senior US official said on Friday that US President Donald Trump has ordered the US military to remove 9,500 soldiers from Germany.

#### [EU chooses pragmatic approach to China, distances itself from US](#)

Global Times, June 10, 2020

Although the EU's attitude on some China-related issues is influenced by the US, Europe will not blindly follow US moves to oppose China, but instead will

proactively promote the development of China-Europe relations in the post-pandemic era.

#### [Restraint in South China Sea needed against US inflammatory opinions](#)

June 9, 2020, Global Times

Some Western media outlets have launched a new wave of public opinion offensive against China. A CNN report on Monday hyped up a standoff between China and Malaysia in the South China Sea that has lasted more than a month.

#### [Will Aussie, India coordinate to confront China?](#)

June 8, 2020, Global Times

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on June 4 signed a crucial defense pact to upgrade bilateral ties into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, according to media reports.

#### [Germany, France lead new EU engagement with China](#)

June 8, 2020, Global Times

Although the EU-China summit, originally set to take place in September in Leipzig, Germany, had to be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that he hoped the summit could take place later this year, when Berlin takes over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union.

#### [Huawei now in NATO's hostile sights: China Daily editorial](#)

June 11, 2020, China Daily

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday welcomed the security review the United Kingdom government is conducting over Chinese telecommunications equipment giant Huawei in building its 5G networks, saying it was "important".

#### [Rising anti-China sentiment justifies alerts: China Daily editorial](#)

June 9, 2020, China Daily

There is no denying that anti-Chinese sentiment has been on the rise in Australia, and it has been whipped up further recently as some media outlets and politicians have sought to blame China for the novel coronavirus outbreak, which has resulted in Chinese in Australia being insulted, spat at and assaulted.

[Border test for amity of neighbors: China Daily editorial](#)

June 4, 2020, China Daily

Tensions have risen again along the border between China and India as thousands of Chinese and Indian troops have reportedly moved in to face each other since early May at three or four locations, after India began building a road through the disputed area, with dozens of soldiers on both sides having been hurt during scuffles and stone-throwing.

[Changed global political landscape has left G7 outdated and divided: China Daily editorial](#)

June 3, 2020, China Daily

On Saturday, the US president expressed his intention to delay the annual G7 summit until September. Putting aside the question of will it be a real or virtual summit, at the moment one thing is certain – he has again sowed the seeds of trans-Atlantic discord by suggesting that the group be expanded to include Russia.

[China not to join so-called China-U.S.-Russia arms control negotiations: FM spokesperson](#)

June 11, 2020, Xinhua

China on Thursday reiterated that it has no intention to join the so-called China-U.S.-Russia trilateral arms control negotiations, and this position is "clear and consistent". Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks at a news briefing when responding to comments from U.S. Special Envoy for Arms Control Marshall Billingslea who on Tuesday called on China to "reconsider" its decision on not joining the negotiations.

[China condemns U.S. military aircraft flying over Taiwan: spokesperson](#)

June 11, 2020, Xinhua

China firmly opposes and strongly condemns the flight by a U.S. military aircraft over Taiwan earlier this week, and says it will take all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, security, and development interests, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesperson Thursday.

[Xi says ready to promote China-Philippines ties to new levels](#)

June 9, 2020, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that he is willing to work with his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte to continuously lift their countries' relationship of comprehensive strategic cooperation to new levels.

## Japan

### [U.S. naval buildup in Indo-Pacific seen as warning to China](#)

June 12, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

For the first time in nearly three years, three American aircraft carriers are patrolling the Indo-Pacific waters, a massive show of naval force in a region roiled by spiking tensions between the United States and China and a sign that the Navy has bounced back from the worst days of the coronavirus outbreak.

### [Tokyo to move to third and final stage of reopening](#)

June 11, 2020, The Japan Times

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government decided to deactivate its virus alert and move to the third and final stage of its plan to reboot businesses and reopen society.

### [India's appeasement policy toward China unravels](#)

June 8, 2020, The Japan Times

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "not in a good mood," U.S. President Donald Trump recently declared, as he offered to mediate India's resurgent border conflict with China. After years of bending over backward to appease China, Modi has received yet another Chinese encroachment on Indian territory. Will this be enough to persuade him to change his approach?

### [Abe says Japan wants to take lead for G7 statement on Hong Kong](#)

June 10, 2020, The Japan Times

Japan wants to take the lead among Group of Seven nations on issuing a statement about the situation in Hong Kong, where China has imposed a new security law, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said.

## Korea

### [N. Korea vows to build up 'more reliable' force against US threats](#)

June 12, 2020, The Korea Herald

North Korea vowed on June 12 to build up a "more reliable" force against military threats from the United States, saying the historic summit two years ago between leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump led to no improvement in relations between the two countries.

### [NK increases aggression against South, US](#)

June 11, 2020, The Korea Times

North Korea is ratcheting up its hostile rhetoric against South Korea in its latest expression of anger over the latter's "failure" to curb North Korean defectors' anti-Pyongyang leaflet campaigns.

### [Political dynamics of propaganda leaflets and inter-Korean relations](#)

June 11, 2020, The Korea Times

While South Korea wants to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first-ever inter-Korean summit on June 15 which it believes helped "thaw" inter-Korean relations, North Korea is increasing its vitriol toward the South over the sending of propaganda leaflets across the border by a defectors' group.

### [US says full normalization of ties with North Korea requires improving human rights](#)

June 11, 2020, The Korea Times

The United States has made clear to North Korea that an improvement in human rights conditions, including religious freedom, will be required for a full normalization of bilateral ties, a State Department report said.

### [North Korea says little reason to maintain Kim-Trump ties](#)

June 12, 2020, The Korea Times

North Korea sees little use maintaining a personal relationship between leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump if Washington sticks to hostile policies, state media reported on Friday - the two-year anniversary of the leaders' first summit.

## **Southeast Asia**

### [The Politics of Pandemic in Southeast Asia](#)

June 2, 2020, The Diplomat

No government is likely to fall as a result of its COVID-19 response, the impact on politics is still significant.



### [ASEAN now China's largest trading partner](#)

June 11, 2020, Shine

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations became China's largest trading partner in the January-May period, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

### [US Strikes A Deal With Indonesia To Relocate Its Companies From China?](#)

June 10, 2020, Eurasian Times

Indonesia has gained from the US-China trade war that has been continuing since last year and dangerously aggravated in the last few months with US President Donald Trump issuing threats to cut "all ties" with China.

### [Indonesia woos Japan as China-led high-speed-rail project stalls](#)

June 8, 2020, Nikkei Asian Review

The Indonesian government has begun discussions on possible Japanese participation in a planned high speed railway between Jakarta and Bandung, hoping to spur progress on the delayed Chinese led project as costs mount.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Turkey-Uzbekistan improve military ties after cold snap in bilateral relations](#)

June 11, 2020, Nordic Monitor

Turkey and Uzbekistan aim to strengthen bilateral cooperation, which gained momentum after the new Uzbek president, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, took office in December 2016.

#### [US presence in Central Asia: realities and perspectives](#)

June 10, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The countries of Central Asia are interested in enhanced relations with the United States as they need to have a partner whose presence in the region allows the Central Asian states to have more freedom of maneuver in their relations with Russia and China.

#### [Uzbekistan set to secure economic stability amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

June 11, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a government meeting on June 9 to discuss pressing issues of ensuring the stability of the national economy in the time of the coronavirus pandemic, the president's official website reported.

#### [Canada helps improve economic opportunities, access to clean water in Uzbekistan](#)

June 6, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The Government of Canada, through the Embassy of Canada's Fund for Local Initiatives on June 5 allocated 250,000 Canadian dollars to enhance the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) livelihood development activities in Uzbekistan's Syrdarya region and in the Aral Sea area of the country's Karakalpakstan region, UNDP in Uzbekistan said.

#### [Kazakhstan-China cooperation to focus on digital economy, medicine](#)

June 12, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The 18th meeting of the Kazakhstan-Chinese Commission on cooperation in the field of industrialization and investment was held on June 10, under the co-chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. A. Aidarov and Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Reform and

Development of China Mr. N. Jizhe, Kazakh Invest national investment promotion company reported.

[Kazakhstan accuses Kyrgyzstan of fiddling customs data](#)

June 10, 2020, Eurasianet.org

In the latest evidence of ill-feeling among members of a Russia-led trading bloc, Kazakhstan has levelled accusations at neighboring Kyrgyzstan of fiddling customs figures and abetting the proliferation of smuggling.

**West Asia**

[Covid-19: Bahrain MPs Favour Economic Stimulus Package Extension](#)

June 10, 2020, Gulf News

A majority of Bahrain's lawmakers have voiced backing for a proposal to extend a stimulus package launched to mitigate the economic impact of the new coronavirus for three more months, according to media reports.

[US Vows to Reduce Iraq Troop Presence in First Strategic Talks in over a Decade](#)

June 12, 2020, France 24

The United States said Thursday (June 11) it would reduce troops in Iraq in the coming months as friction between the two countries eased under a new US-friendly premier in Baghdad. The United States also promised support to prop up the struggling Iraqi economy as the two nations held their first strategic dialogue in more than a decade.

[Arms Seized by US, Missiles used to Attack Saudi Arabia are of 'Iranian Origin': UN](#)

June 12, 2020, Khaleej Times

Cruise missiles used in several attacks on oil facilities and an international airport in Saudi Arabia last year were of "Iranian origin," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the Security Council in a report.

[Wang Yi Opposes U.S. Move to Reimpose Arms Embargo on Iran in a Letter to UN](#)

June 11, 2020, CGTN

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has recently slammed U.S. threats to reimpose an arms embargo on Iran, saying it violates the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

### [Iran Says It Will Execute Man Convicted of Spying on Qassem Soleimani for CIA](#)

June 09, 2020, Reuters

An Iranian who spied for U.S. and Israeli intelligence on slain Revolutionary Guards commander Qassem Soleimani has been sentenced to death, Iran said on Tuesday (June 09), adding the case was not linked to Soleimani's killing earlier this year.

### [Kuwait Will No Longer Employ Expats in Oil Sector](#)

June 11, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Kuwait's Minister of Oil and acting Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr. Khaled Al Fadil announced that the Gulf state will no longer hire expatriate workers in state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries for the year 2020-21.

### [Oman Weighs Seeking Financial Aid from Gulf Countries](#)

June 11, 2020, Gulf News

Oman has discussed the possibility of financial aid with other Gulf States to help it cope with the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic and low oil prices, according to two officials in the region and a U.S. government official familiar with the contacts.

## United States

### United States

#### [Trump's embrace of Modi stokes India-China stand-off in Himalayas](#)

June 10, 2020, Financial Times

New Delhi's deepening alliance with Washington has alarmed Beijing and intensified border tensions

#### [Trump considering suspending H1B other visas report](#)

June 12, 2020, The Week

US President Donald Trump is considering suspending a number of employment visas including the H-1B, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, in view of the massive unemployment in America due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a media report.

#### [Trump, Biden hold events in key U.S. states as campaign begins to heat up](#)

June 12, 2020, Reuters

President Donald Trump and his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, headed to must-win election battlegrounds on Thursday, slowly resuming campaign activities in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### [North Korea Vows to Boost Nuclear Program, Saying U.S. Diplomacy Failed](#)

June 11, 2020, The New York Times

North Korea on June 11 said that two years of diplomacy with President Trump had "faded away into a dark nightmare," and vowed to increase its nuclear weapons capabilities.

#### [US Senate committee unveils \\$1 trillion defence Bill, targets China](#)

June 11, 2020, Straits Times

The United States Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday (June 11) unveiled its version of the annual National Defence Authorisation Act, or NDAA, a US\$740 billion (S\$1.03 trillion) Bill setting policy for the Defence Department on everything from troop salaries and equipment purchases to great power competition with China.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Europe Prepares to Restart Travel With Rest of World in July](#)

June 11, 2020, Bloomberg

European Union regulators proposed to ease a pandemic-induced ban on most travel to the bloc as of July 1 while leaving the details to be worked out later this month.

#### [E.U. Slams China Over Disinformation Campaign](#)

June 10, 2020, The New York Times

The European Union leveled its most forceful criticism yet of China's role in the spread of false information about the pandemic, saying on Wednesday that the country had engaged in "targeted influence operations and disinformation campaigns in the bloc."

#### [EU parliament considering UN court action against Hong Kong's national security law](#)

June 12, 2020, Wion

The members of the European Union's parliament are mulling to sue China in the highest court of the United Nations for imposing a national security law for Hong Kong, according to the South China Morning Post.

#### [Hong Kong government rejects UK criticism of new security law as biased](#)

June 12, 2020, Reuters

The Hong Kong government hit back on Friday at a report by Britain criticising Beijing's move to impose national security legislation on the global financial hub, saying the report was "inaccurate and biased".

#### [High level EU-UK talks set for Monday as new deadline looms](#)

June 12, 2020, CNBC

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will hold talks with top European Union officials to try to push forward trade discussions after post-Brexit negotiations ended last week with little sign of progress and a new deadline looming.

### [UK economy shrinks by record 20.4% in April lockdown](#)

June 12, 2020, Reuters

Britain's economy shrank by a record 20.4% in April from March as the country spent the month in a tight coronavirus lockdown, official data showed in what is likely to be the low point of the slump before a long and slow recovery.

### [UK abandons plan to introduce full border checks with EU on January 1: FT](#)

June 12, 2020, Reuters

The United Kingdom has abandoned its plan to introduce full border checks with the European Union on Jan. 1 as British ministers face pressure from businesses not to increase chaos already caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the Financial Times newspaper reported.

### [U.K. Plans for Soft Border Checks With the EU, Deal or No-Deal](#)

June 11, 2020, Bloomberg

The U.K. will introduce a temporary light-touch customs regime at its border with the European Union next year, in an attempt to avoid piling burdens on businesses already struggling with the impact of coronavirus.

### [Germany receives formal notice on US troop withdrawal plans](#)

June 11, 2020, Euractiv

Washington is planning to withdraw troops from Germany because Americans taxpayers are against "paying too much" for other countries' security, the outgoing US ambassador to Germany told Bild newspaper in an interview published on Wednesday (10 June), confirming earlier media reports.

### [Germany submits long-awaited climate plan to the EU](#)

June 12, 2020, Reuters

Germany submitted its ten-year energy and climate plan to the European Union on Thursday, six months after the deadline to do so, lending long-awaited support to the European Commission's plan to design a tougher 2030 emissions goal for the bloc.

### [EU Security and Defense Challenges: Toward a European Defense Winter?](#)

June 11, 2020, Carnegie Europe

Before the coronavirus pandemic, European security and defense cooperation reached a new level of ambition. With dark clouds building on many fronts, the

EU must safeguard strategic autonomy and ensure democratic quality in defense integration.

### [France pledges \\$17 billion to keep Europe in the aerospace race](#)

June 9, 2020, CNN

France has pledged nearly \$17 billion to support Airbus, Air France and its wider aviation industry, saying Europe cannot fall behind China and the United States in the global aerospace race as a result of the pandemic.

### [Euro zone agrees to transfer 748 million euros to Greece](#)

June 12, 2020, Reuters

Euro zone finance ministers agreed on Thursday to release a transfer of 748 million euros (671.09 million pounds) to Greece in recognition of the country's continued progress with agreed reforms, the ministers said in a statement.

## **Russia**

### [Russia's upgraded Ka-52 gunship with long-range cruise missile to complete trials in 2022](#)

June 11, 2020, TASS

The Kamov Ka-52M upgraded combat helicopter armed with a new long-range cruise missile is due to complete state trials by October 2022, according to the data posted on the government's procurement website.

### [North Korea's Kim Jong-un congratulates Putin upon Russia Day](#)

June 12, 2020, TASS

Kim Jong-un expressed warm wishes to the president, government and people of Russia on behalf of the government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

### [Foreign Adversaries Could Use Tundra Oil Spill to Discredit Russia, Security Chief Warns](#)

June 11, 2020, The Moscow Times

A massive fuel spill in Russia's Arctic could play into the hands of foreign foes that want to discredit Russia and its Arctic policy, Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev has said.



### [Moscow won't interfere in India-China tensions: Russian lawmaker](#)

June 10, 2020, The Hindu

Russia won't "interfere" and wants India and China to resolve their border dispute bilaterally, a senior Russian lawmaker said, referring to the five-week-long military standoff between the Indian and Chinese troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), drawing a contrast to the U.S. offer of mediation that India declined last week.

### [China not to join China-U.S.-Russia arms control negotiation](#)

June 12, 2020, CGTN

China reiterated that it has no intention to join the so-called China-U.S.-Russia trilateral arms control negotiations and this position is "clear and consistent."

### [Putin's Fury Over Diesel Spill May Force Green Reform in Russia](#)

June 11, 2020, Bloomberg

The mishandling of the biggest Arctic oil spill ever infuriated Russian President Vladimir Putin and could give a boost to the country's environmental regulation.

## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [Coronavirus cases are surging in Latin America](#)

June 10, 2020, The Economist

As the crisis has subsided in much of the rich world, Latin America has emerged as the new centre of the pandemic. The number of new covid-19 cases there has risen above 40,000 per day, according to Johns Hopkins University, making the outbreak there bigger than those seen in Europe or North America. Last week the region accounted for more than a third of new cases, and more than two-fifths of all deaths.

#### [China To Grow Stronger In Latin America In Aftermath Of Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

June 10, 2020, Forbes

Chinese economic influence in Latin America is likely to gain strength in the post-pandemic era, with the Asian country playing a key role in regional infrastructure projects and investing in sectors like power generation and mining, according to M&A advisors, industry sources and academics.

#### [Cuba declares COVID-19 'under control'](#)

June 9, 2020, Al Jazeera

The Cuban government says coronavirus pandemic is 'under control' after nine days without a death from COVID-19.

#### [The US-Mexico Border Wall – Environmental Catastrophe in Action](#)

June 11, 2020, Yucatan Times

Perhaps the greatest signature line – and policy – of the Trump administration has been to “build that wall”. In reality, however, the idea is not a new one, with the construction of some kind of barrier between the USA and its southern neighbor being a point of contention since the Clinton administration of the 1990s.

#### [The gravity of China's space base in Argentina](#)

June 9, 2020, The Interpreter

For most people, the first things that likely come to mind when imagining Patagonia in South America are mountains, glaciers, lakes and fjords. But there is also a lesser-known tourist destination: the visitors centre of a Chinese-owned space station in remote north-west Patagonia, Argentina.

## [Brazil Resumes Publishing Virus Death Count, Criticizes WHO](#)

June 10, 2020, NDTV

Brazil's government resumed publishing the country's total death count from the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, after facing accusations of trying to hide the magnitude of its raging health crisis.

## **Africa**

### [WHO says coronavirus outbreak in Africa 'accelerating'](#)

June 11, 2020, Al Jazeera

It took 98 days for the continent to reach 100,000 cases and just 18 days to reach 200,000, WHO says.

### [Kenya sets budget deficit of 7.5% of GDP in 2020/21 financial year](#)

June 11, 2020, CGTN

Kenya's finance minister Ukur Yatani on Thursday set a budget deficit of 7.5 percent of GDP for the fiscal year which begins in July, saying the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted the government's plan to reduce its reliance on debt.

### [IMF approves additional \\$111.06 mln to Rwanda to address COVID-19 pandemic](#)

June 12, 2020, Devidcourse

Authorities have since begun to gradually open up the economy, although some restrictions remain. "The unprecedented spending needs generated by the pandemic, combined with losses of revenues, are putting significant pressures on public finances," the IMF said.

### [Ethiopian parliament allows PM Abiy to stay in office beyond term](#)

June 11, 2020, Al Jazeera

The move comes after elections scheduled for August were postponed in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

### [Egyptian, U.S. leaders hold phone talks on Ethiopia Nile dam, Libya crisis](#)

June 12, 2020, CGTN Africa

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi held a phone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday, discussing the Ethiopian grand dam built on the Nile River and the development of the Libyan crisis.

[African Union urges Libyan forces to stop fighting](#)

June 8, 2020, Andolou Agency

The chairperson of the African Union Commission on Monday urged the forces in Libya to stop fighting.



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