

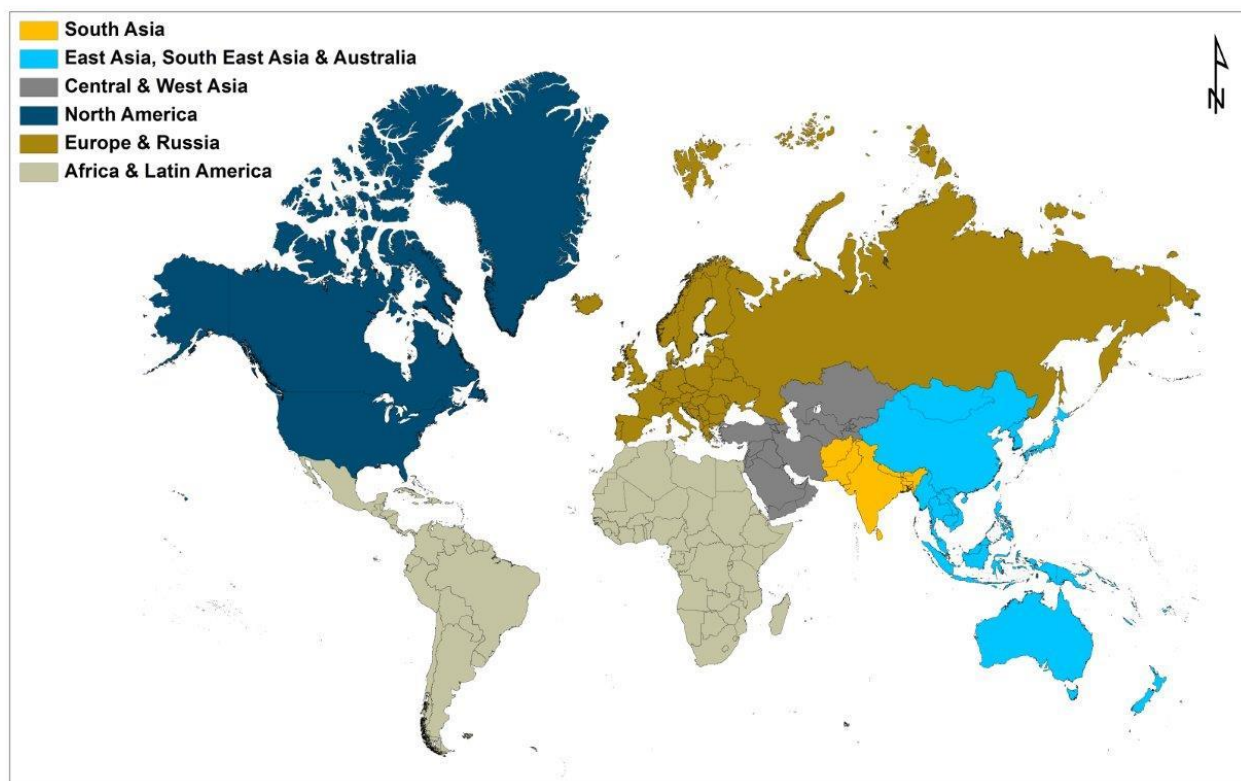


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

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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.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Defence ministry to allow private companies to develop military helicopters](#)

July 17, 2022. Hindustan Times

The Defence Ministry has decided to amend the DAP rules to allow private defence companies to collaborate with Indian Defence PSUs with a majority stake and produce required weapon systems.

[Defence Minister Rajnath Singh likely to attend SCO meeting in Uzbekistan next month](#)

July 20, 2022. Times Now

Indian defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence meeting in Uzbekistan in late August. The meeting, likely to be around August 25, assumes importance as the defence ministers of Russia, China and Pakistan are also invited. All three countries, apart from India, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan-- are members of the SCO and Afghanistan has observer status along with Belarus and Iran.

[Africa Plays Important Role In India's Foreign Policy: EAM Jaishankar](#)

July 20, 2022. Outlook

The African continent plays an important role in India's foreign policy outlook and the two-way engagement has seen a major upswing in the last eight years, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

[Assam CM Himanta Sarma plans to visit Bangladesh to strengthen ties](#)

July 20, 2022. Business Standard

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recalling the contribution of Assam to the 1971 war of liberation fought jointly by Bangladesh's Mukti Bahini and Indian forces, said he is likely to visit the neighbouring country soon to further strengthen the age-old relations between the two countries.

[US Senate version of NDAA seeks to enhance defence partnership with India](#)

July 21, 2022. Financial Express

The move by the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee comes a week after the House of Representatives passed a legislative amendment as part of the National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA) that waived off punitive CAATSA sanctions for India. NDAA is the annual budget of the United States.

[India and Maldives to sign MoU on judicial cooperation](#)

July 21, 2022, Hindu

The Union Cabinet, on Wednesday, approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the field of judicial cooperation, between India and the Judicial Service Commission of Maldives. The MoU will provide a platform to tap the benefits of Information Technology for court digitization and can be a potential growth area for the IT companies and start-ups in both countries, a statement from the Law Ministry said.

Pakistan

[\\$1.17bn tranche to be released in three to six weeks: IMF](#)

July 16, 2022, Dawn

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that its agreement with Pakistan would lead to a "straight away" disbursement of \$1.17 billion to the country, as an outcome of the seventh and eighth review of the programme.

[Body of slain army officer's cousin found](#)

July 17, 2022, Dawn

The body of Umer Javed, who was kidnapped along with his cousin Lt Col Laiq Baig Mirza from Ziarat four days ago, was recovered during an operation by security forces in Ziarat's Warchoom area. Mr Javed's body was found in a drain some 5km from Warchoom towards the Khalifat mountains, the military's media wing said in a statement, adding that he was probably killed immediately after abduction.

[Nine terrorists killed, soldier martyred in Balochistan in search for abducted man](#)

July 16, 2022, Dawn

Nine terrorists were killed and a havildar was martyred during an operation against the killers of Lt Col Laiq Baig Mirza, an army officer who was kidnapped earlier this week while travelling to Quetta from Ziarat.

[WB to provide \\$200 million to help transform agricultural sector](#)

July 17, 2022, Dawn

The World Bank (WB) has approved \$200 million to support Pakistan in its efforts to transform its agricultural sector by adopting climate-smart technologies to improve water-use efficiency, build resilience to extreme weather events and increase income of small farmers in Punjab.

[PML-N concedes defeat in Punjab by-elections](#)

July 18, 2022, The News

The PML-N conceded defeat in the crucial Punjab by-elections after the PTI took a lead in the majority of 20 provincial assembly constituencies, which were up for grabs. As the unofficial results started pouring in, showing the PTI in the lead, the party's Vice President Maryam Nawaz took to Twitter and said that the defeat should be accepted with an open hearts.

[Pakistani delegation visited Kabul to discuss trade issues](#)

July 18, 2022, Dawn

A Pakistani delegation paid a 3-day (July 18-20) visit to Kabul for negotiations with the interim Afghan government for resolution of trade, transit and transportation issues facing the two sides, including night-time operations of border facilities for coal imports.

[Pakistanis remit record \\$31.2bn](#)

July 19, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan received record remittances of over \$31 billion in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22), an increase of 6.1 per cent over FY21. The central bank said remittances in June FY22 were 18.4pc higher than the previous month, showing an increasing trend. However, remittances in June were only 2pc higher than in the same month in FY21.

[Neelum-Jhelum plant shut down for six months](#)

July 19, 2022, The News

Neelum-Jhelum hydro-power plant, which is non-operational since July 06, will take six months to restore power supply in the national grid. The 969 MW project malfunctioned due to blockage in its tail race tunnel. Apparently, it is the geological failure in the tunnel, but the real cause will be traced once the dewatering process is completed.

[Barrick Gold to invest \\$7bn in Reko Diq](#)

July 19, 2022, The News

After resolving disputes with Pakistan amicably, Barrick Gold Corporation's visiting Chief Executive Mark Bristow has said that they plan to invest approximately \$7 billion in Reko Diq mines for developing gold and copper in two phases.

[Fitch revises Pakistan's outlook to negative; affirms at B-](#)

July 20, 2022, The News

Fitch revised Pakistan's outlook to negative from stable, while affirming its Long-Term Foreign-Currency (LTFC) Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B-' citing deterioration in external liquidity position and financing conditions since early 2022.

Afghanistan

[Defence bill limits US role in Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan](#)

July 15, 2022, Dawn

The US Congress passed the national defence bill for 2023 this week that will effectively end the delivery of US humanitarian aid and currency to Afghanistan using Defence Department resources. It also closes the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and limits the use of US weapons in Yemen. The House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2023 defence bill earlier this week on a 32-26 vote.

[Cash-Strapped Taliban 'Exploiting' Afghanistan's Natural Resources To Boost Revenue](#)

July 15, 2022, RFERL

Cash-strapped and cut off from international aid, the Taliban-led government is tapping into Afghanistan's natural resources to boost revenue. Since the Taliban toppled the Western-backed government in Kabul and seized power in August 2021, the export of and custom duties from coal have become a key source of revenue for the militant group.

[University Lecturer Allegedly Tortured to Death in Southeastern Afghanistan](#)

July 17, 2022, Khaama Press

Mumtaz Sherzai, a lecturer at Khost University in the province of Khost in southeast Afghanistan, has reportedly been found dead on July 16, after going missing for a few days.

[Ashgabat to Implement Power Project for Afghanistan: DABS](#)

July 21, 2022, Tolo News

Da Afghanistan Breshna (DABS) Sherkat said that it held three days of talks with the delegations of the Çalık Energy of Turkey and Anargo Industrial Electric company of Turkmenistan. "One of them was for a 500 kilovolt power line, for which Turkmenistan expressed full readiness and promised to form a technical

and economic proposal for the project and submit it to Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat," said Hekmatullah Maiwandi, a spokesman for DABS.

[Al Qaeda, IS gaining strength in Afghanistan: UNSC report](#)

July 21, 2022, Dawn

Transnational terrorist groups Al Qaeda and the self-proclaimed Islamic State are growing in strength in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and could potentially pose threat for the outside world, a recently launched United Nations report warned.

[U.N. sheds light on human rights abuses in Afghanistan since Taliban takeover](#)

July 21, 2022, Japan Times

In a damning report, the United Nations has accused the Taliban of committing hundreds of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, torture and arbitrary detentions, since regaining control over Afghanistan in August last year.

Bangladesh

[Greece plane crash: Cargo aircraft was carrying weapons to Bangladesh - minister](#)

July 18, 2022. BBC

A cargo plane which crashed in northern Greece was carrying 11 tonnes of weapons - including landmines - to Bangladesh, officials say. People living within two kilometres of the site where the Antonov-12 came down have been warned to stay indoors. The aircraft was flying from Serbia to Jordan when it crashed late on Saturday close to the city of Kavala, killing all eight people on board.

[Indian Army chief Gen Pande meets Bangladesh's top military commanders on his maiden visit to Dhaka](#)

July 18, 2022. The Print.

Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande met Bangladesh's top military commanders, including the Prime Minister's defence advisor Maj Gen (retd.) Tareq Ahmed Siddiqui, on Monday on the first day of his maiden visit and discussed issues related to bilateral interests including increasing defence cooperation.

[Indonesia, Bangladesh push for completion of trade agreement](#)

July 18, 2022. Antara News

Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi, at a bilateral meeting with her counterpart from Bangladesh, Abdul Momen, agreed to push for the completion of negotiations on the preferential trade agreement (PTA) between both nations.

[Bangladesh, Brazil sign visa exemption agreement](#)

July 19, 2022. Dhaka Tribune

The two countries are exploring PTA, FTA to strengthen economic ties. Bangladesh and Brazil have signed an agreement on visa exemption marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Nepal

[Nepal continues import ban on 10 goods items as foreign exchange reserves dwindle](#)

July 17, 2022. The Kathmandu Post

The government has continued the restriction on the imports of 10 goods, which it considers luxury, for another one and a half months, saying the country has not seen much improvement in its foreign currency reserves. The latest restriction has been imposed on importing mobile sets that are priced over \$300 and motorcycles with capacity over 150cc.

[India, Nepal need to address 'issues left by history', says 'Prachanda'](#)

July 17, 2022. The Print

India and Nepal can realise the full potential of their bilateral ties when some of the "issues left by history" is addressed by the two sides, Nepal's former prime minister Pushpa Kumar Dahal 'Prachanda' has said.

[As Nepal politicians call on BJP leaders, new bridges built, old ones dismantled](#)

July 19, 2022. The Indian Express.

Nepal Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda on Sunday wound up his three-day visit to India by calling on BJP president J P Nadda. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and the BJP's foreign affairs cell chief Vijaya Chauthaiwale were present during the meeting at which Prachanda discussed bilateral relations between the two countries.

[Nepal's civic group submits memorandum to claim China-encroached land](#)

July 20, 2022. Hindustan Times

A civic group in Nepal has submitted a memorandum to Minister of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation Shashi Shrestha, demanding to claim country's territory occupied by China.

Sri Lanka

[Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn-in as new Sri Lankan president](#)

July 21, 2022. The Hindu Business Line

Veteran politician Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday was sworn in as Sri Lanka's eight president. A cabinet of 20-25 members will be appointed within the next few days to serve under President Wickremesinghe

[Arms, drugs smuggling from Sri Lanka: 'LTTE revival', 'Pakistan connection' - NIA conducts raids in Tamil Nadu](#)

July 21, 2022. Times Now

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on July 19 conducted searches at 22 locations of Tamil Nadu in the case of illegal activities of Sri Lankan drug mafia operated by C Gunashekharan and Pushparajah in association with Haji Salim, drugs and arms supplier based in Pakistan. The drugs and arms traffickers have been operating in India and Sri Lanka and working for the revival of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and to further its violent activities.

[Sri Lanka braced for more unrest as new president vows crackdown on 'fascist' protests](#)

July 21, 2022. The Guardian

Sri Lanka was braced for more unrest after newly appointed president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, vowed to crack down on the protests that toppled his predecessor, condemning them as "against the law". Speaking after MPs picked him as successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Wickremesinghe made it clear he would not tolerate those he perceived to be stirring up violence.

[Sri Lanka made 'dumb bets' on China: CIA chief on crises-hit country](#)

July 21, 2022. Hindustan Times

The chief of the US spy agency on Wednesday blamed "dumb bets" on high-debt Chinese investment as a factor in Sri Lanka's economic collapse that triggered a political crisis in the island nation. Speaking at the Aspen Security Forum, CIA chief Bill Burns said the mistake should serve as a warning to other nations.

East & South East Asia

China

[Chinese FM Wang Yi asks US to stop 'meddling' in Middle East](#)

July 17, 2022. The Print

Taking a dig at Biden's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a virtual meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Faisal Mekdad, called on the US to refrain from "meddling" in the internal affairs of the Middle East on Friday.

[China demands U.S. cancel potential arms sale to Taiwan](#)

July 18, 2022. Reuters

China has demanded that the United States immediately cancel its latest arms sale to Taiwan, the Chinese state broadcaster reported on Monday, citing the country's Ministry of National Defence. The Pentagon said on Friday that the U.S. State Department had approved the potential sale of military technical assistance to Taiwan worth an estimated \$108 million.

[China's military puts advanced rocket launch system to the test at high altitude](#)

July 19, 2022. South China Morning Post

China's Military has put the precision strike capability of its new rocket launch system to the test at high altitude, according to state broadcaster CCTV. The People's Liberation Army used the PCL 191 multiple launch rocket system – which is mounted on a truck – to hit a target several kilometres away at a desert shooting range in the west of China during a recent test, Sunday's report said.

[China plans another highway in Aksai Chin](#)

July 20, 2022. The Hindu

China is planning to build another highway through Aksai Chin, running along the India border and connecting Xinjiang with Tibet, according to a newly released highway construction plan. The new highway, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Wednesday, will run even closer to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) than G219.

[US Navy destroyer enters Chinese-claimed waters for third time in a week](#)

July 20, 2022. CNN

A US Navy warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait, the third time in a week, as claimed by China, heightening tensions between Washington and Beijing.

[China eyes military base in Indian Ocean Region in Madagascar](#)

July 20, 2022. The Economic Times.

China is making forays in the Western Indian Ocean Region, an area where India traditionally has a big presence, and upping its defence cooperation eyeing a military base in Madagascar. High level visits have been taking place between the defence forces of China and Madagascar and a military base could be set up by Beijing in the island, ET has reliably gathered. China also provides over 20 slots to Madagascar military personnel for training.

[US military believes not good idea for Pelosi to travel to Taiwan: Biden](#)

July 21, 2022. ANI

President Joe Biden said the US military believes it is not a "good idea" for House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to travel to Taiwan as planned. Pelosi is reportedly planning to visit Taiwan in August, but the White House said her plans have not been locked in yet.

[China fines Didi Global \\$1.2 bln for violating data security laws](#)

July 21, 2022. Reuters

China's cybersecurity regulator said on Thursday it has fined Didi Global Inc 8.026 billion yuan (\$1.19 billion), concluding a probe that forced the ride-hailing giant to delist from New York within a year and cast a gloom over the Chinese tech sector.

[Beijing warns AUKUS submarine project sets a 'dangerous precedent' and threatens non-proliferation](#)

July 21, 2022. ABC News

China's government is ramping up its campaign against Australia's push to build nuclear-powered submarines with the United States and the United Kingdom, publishing a new report which declares the project is a grave risk to non-proliferation and warns that Australia may be intent on developing nuclear weapons.

[Uruguay seeking China trade deal despite misgivings from neighbours](#)

July 21, 2022. Reuters

Uruguay will push for a free trade agreement with China, the South American country's top diplomat said on Wednesday, even as it faces resistance from some of its neighbours who favour regional trade talks over deals involving just one nation.

[China to Repay More Victims Next Week in Biggest Bank Scam](#)

July 21, 2022. Bloomberg

Chinese authorities will repay more victims of the nation's biggest bank scam as it seeks to placate angry customers who have been denied access to tens of billions of yuan of deposits for months.

Japan

[Japan to drop setting ceiling on next year's defense spending: Nikkei](#)

July 16, 2022, Japan Today

Japan will forgo setting a ceiling on defense spending in next fiscal year's annual budget, the Nikkei newspaper reported on Saturday, highlighting Tokyo's interest in boosting defense at a time of tension with its powerful neighbour China. The move would open the scope for the government to respond to a proposal by the ruling party to increase defense spending to 2% of Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) within five years.

[Britain, Japan said to be looking to merge Tempest and F-X fighter programs](#)

July 17, 2022, Japan Today

Britain and Japan are close to an agreement to merge their next-generation Tempest and F-X fighter jet programs, with the two countries aiming for a deal on a new joint project by year-end, three sources told Reuters. Japan's partnership with Britain is a chance for BAE and other European Tempest companies, such as Rolls-Royce, missile maker MBDA and Italian defense group Leonardo to tap a growing market long-dominated by U.S. companies. Efforts to merge the fighter jet projects follow deepening cooperation between the UK and Japan in recent years from the JNAAM missile project to sensor work and a deal to develop an engine demonstrator.

[Japan aims to maintain stakes in Russia's Sakhalin 2 energy project](#)

July 17, 2022, Japan Today

Japan has decided to maintain its interests in the Sakhalin 2 oil and liquefied natural gas project in the Russian Far East, with the government coordinating with two Japanese stakeholders to that end, government sources said Saturday. Japan, reeling from the effects of higher energy prices following Russia's war in Ukraine, might be forced to source LNG from the market at higher prices. Around 9 percent of Japan's LNG imports come from Russia, almost all of them supplied by Sakhalin 2.

[With Russia's war in Ukraine, Japan renews focus on nuclear deterrence](#)

July 20, 2022, Japan Today

Nuclear deterrence is taking centre stage in Japan's security policy after Russia's threat to use nuclear weapons in its war against Ukraine, with Tokyo re-emphasizing the centrality of the U.S. nuclear umbrella amid regional tensions heightened by China's muscle flexing. Japan and the United States, for their part, recently reaffirmed the importance of ensuring that "extended deterrence" -- U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan using a range of weapons capabilities, including nuclear - remains credible and resilient.

[Japan, Saudi Arabia vow to work together for stable international oil market](#)

July 20, 2022, Japan Today

The foreign ministers of Japan and Saudi Arabia agreed Tuesday that the two nations will work together to stabilize the global oil market as oil prices have surged following Russia's war with Ukraine. At the meeting, Hayashi and Faisal also confirmed that they will continue close cooperation toward the peace and stability of the Middle East, the Japanese ministry said.

[Japanese, Irish leaders agree Russia must face 'severe consequences'](#)

July 21, 2022, Japan Today

The leaders of Japan and Ireland agreed Wednesday to make sure Russia faces "severe consequences" for its invasion of Ukraine through economic sanctions, while keeping a watchful eye on China's growing military clout in the Indo-Pacific. Japan and Ireland have joined in imposing a spate of sanctions led by the United States against Russia, such as freezing the assets of Russian President Vladimir Putin and its central bank and excluding some major Russian lenders from a key international payment network.

Korea

[Top Korea, Japan diplomats discuss bilateral ties, NK issues](#)

July 18, 2022, The Korea Herald

On Monday, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin met with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi to discuss a series of contentious issues between the two countries, as well as North Korea-related issues. Park mentioned the need for stable operation of the General Security of Military Information Agreement, an intelligence-sharing pact forged between Seoul and Tokyo in 2016.

[Yoon expected to discuss economic security with Janet Yellen on Tuesday](#)

July 18, 2022, The Korea Herald

President Yoon Suk-yeol will meet with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in Yongsan, Seoul, on Tuesday, and they are expected to discuss issues related to economic security, including supply chains and the establishment of economic partnerships between the two countries. They are also expected to discuss how to cap Russian crude oil prices as part of sanctions against Russia.

[KF-21 takes off for first time](#)

July 20, 2022, The Korea Times

The KF-21 Boramae, the nation's first domestically developed fighter jet, made history with a successful maiden flight, Tuesday, making Korea the world's eighth country to develop an advanced supersonic warplane. Ahead of the flight test, KAI successfully completed a ground test earlier this month, aimed at checking the aircraft's basic integrity and operability.

[Hungarian, Colombian ambassadors become honorary Seoul citizens](#)

July 21, 2022, The Korea Herald

The Hungarian and Colombian ambassadors to South Korea were awarded honorary citizenship of Seoul on Thursday in recognition of their contributions to developing bilateral ties. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon presented a certificate of honorary citizenship to Hungarian Ambassador to South Korea Mozes Csoma and Colombian Ambassador to South Korea Juan Carlos Caiza Rosero in a ceremony at City Hall.

[S. Korea's defense minister meets new U.S. ambassador](#)

July 21, 2022, The Korea Times

Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup met with new U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Philip Goldberg on Thursday for discussions on regional security and the bilateral alliance, Lee's ministry said. During the meeting, Lee stressed the ambassador's role for communication between the two countries is "more important than at any other time" as North Korea's military threats have continued, according to the ministry.

[S. Korea protests against Japan's claims to Dokdo in defense white paper](#)

July 21, 2022, The Korea Herald

The South Korean government strongly condemned Japan on Friday for laying repeated claim to the easternmost islets of Dokdo in its annual defense white paper. The paper was published just days after Foreign Minister Park Jin visited Tokyo for talks with his local counterpart, demonstrating President Yoon Suk-

yeol's commitment to a resolution to disputes over shared history, especially Japan's colonization of Korea from 1910-45.

[S. Korea, US poised to reinstate combined drills abolished in 2018](#)

July 22, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea and the United States are expected to revive a comprehensive combined military exercise abolished in 2018, Seoul officials said Thursday, amid the allies' efforts to reinforce deterrence against North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats. The exercise set for Aug. 22-Sept. 1 is likely to combine the computer simulation-based command post training, field manoeuvres and Ulchi civil contingency drills — a makeup tantamount to a revival of the Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) drills.

Southeast Asia

[In a reset, Marcos scraps Duterte's China loans](#)

July 19, 2022, Asia Times

Just weeks into Ferdinand Marcos Jr's presidency, the Philippines is seriously recalibrating its once-intimate relations with China. The Philippine Department of Transportation (DOTr) has announced that it has effectively cancelled three major railway projects with Chinese counterparts initiated under the previous Rodrigo Duterte administration.

[Laos Nominated for 2024 ASEAN Summit](#)

July 19, 2022, The Laotian Times

Laos has had the honour of hosting the ASEAN summit in 2004-2005 and again in 2016. Laos will be honoured with ASEAN Chairmanship for the third time in 2024. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, discussed the preparations for the ASEAN summit in 2024 in the presence of ministers, deputy ministers, and the Governor of Vientiane.

[Vietnam, Cambodia and Brunei join Malaysia on US trafficking blacklist](#)

July 20, 2022, SCMP

The United States has added Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei and Macau to a human trafficking blacklist that already includes Malaysia, alleging weak efforts to stop forced sex work or assist migrant labourers. Nations that are put on the blacklist are subject to US sanctions, though friendly nations are routinely spared punishment if they promise to improve.

[ASEAN special envoy plans third trip to Myanmar; hopes to use Aung San Suu Kyi's influence to end violence](#)

July 20, 2022, CNA

The Southeast Asian bloc's special envoy for the crisis in Myanmar said on Wednesday (Jul 20) that he is planning a third official trip to the crisis-hit country in an effort to meet Aung San Suu Kyi, to use her influence to end the violence there. In his two previous official trips, Mr Sokhonn was denied access to Aung San Suu Kyi by the Myanmar military. The junta has repeatedly denied Cambodia's requests to meet Aung San Suu Kyi, citing her ongoing trials, which include multiple accusations of corruption and electoral fraud. She denies all charges.

[Chinese People's Liberation Army Medics Arrive in Laos for Exercises](#)

July 21, 2022, The Laotian Times

A regiment of the Chinese People's Liberation Army medical corps crossed the border and arrived in Laos on Tuesday at Vientiane Railway Station via the Laos-China Railway. The medical team arrived in Laos for a five-day humanitarian and medical rescue exercise with a focus on emergency rescue and disaster relief work in relation to national defense, Vientiane Times reports. The medical corps arrived on what has been dubbed the "Peace Train 2022," with joint emergency and rescue exercises to be held in Vientiane Capital and Vientiane Province from 25 to 29 July.

[Jokowi to Visit China, Japan, S. Korea](#)

July 21, 2022, Jakarta Global

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo is slated for a three-nation trip to Asia's largest economies from July 26-28, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said on Thursday. Jokowi will become the first state leader to be received by President Xi since the Covid-19 pandemic began, apart from the Beijing Winter Olympics when several heads of state also visited the Chinese capital, Retno said.

[China campaigns against AUKUS as Joko Widodo prepares to visit Beijing](#)

July 22, 2022, The Sydney Morning Herald

Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to raise the AUKUS deal when he meets with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Beijing next week, as China ramps up its campaign against the nuclear submarine agreement. China released a report by two of its state-backed think tanks on Thursday criticising the deal between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, warning it could lead to nuclear proliferation in the region.

[East Timor's President Jose Ramos-Horta hopes Indonesia will aid 'symbolic' Asean entry in 2023](#)

July 22, 2022, SCMP

East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta is hoping Indonesia will play a crucial role in pushing through his country's long-standing plan to become the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' 11th member state. East Timor this year marks two decades of full independence from Indonesia following a brutal occupation stretching back to 1975.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakhstan claws millions back from Nazarbayev associates](#)

July 18, 2022, Eurasianet

The Kazakh government has recouped nearly half a billion dollars in allegedly ill-gotten gains in cases involving relatives and associates of former President Nursultan Nazarbayev, new data show.

[Relatives Say Two Tajiks Held In Kyrgyzstan On Charges Related To Border Dispute Freed](#)

July 18, 2022, RFE/RL

Two Tajik men have been released from Kyrgyz custody after being held on charges of robbery and crossing the border illegally amid an ongoing border dispute, according to the men's relatives.

[Turkmenistan: Just passing through](#)

July 19, 2022, Eurasianet

On July 18, Ashgabat played host to an event under the title International Transport-Transit Corridors: Interconnection and Development. In his speech to the conference, Turkmen Foreign Ministry representative Serdar Durdyev talked about how mobility was key to stability.

[Tajikistan Steps Up Attacks On Independent Media To 'Control Public Opinion'](#)

July 19, 2022, RFE/RL

At least seven Tajik journalists and bloggers have been detained in recent weeks, with some facing up to 15 years in prison on dubious charges of plotting to overthrow the government and participating in extremist organisations.

[Kyrgyzstan heatwave spells power problems for Central Asia](#)

July 20, 2022, Eurasianet

Kyrgyzstan's state power supplier has warned of possible energy shortages as consumers set a new daily record for power consumption in summer. Central Asia is being gripped by the same heatwave blanketing much of the northern hemisphere.

[Central Asian Leaders Meet Amid Russia's 'Declining Role' In Region](#)

July 20, 2022, RFE/RL

The presidents of the five Central Asian countries are in Kyrgyzstan to discuss political and economic cooperation after violent unrest in three countries in the region and a change in attitudes toward Russian influence in the former Soviet countries.

[Islamic State launches new Tajik propaganda network](#)

July 20, 2022, Eurasianet

In line with its recent rocket assaults on Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, ISKP has intensified its hostile rhetoric against post-Soviet Central Asia's authoritarian leaders. With Al-Azaim on Telegram, the group has ramped up efforts to broaden appeal among speakers of Central Asian languages, promising new attacks weekly.

West Asia

[Saudi Arabia's Ties to The U.S. and China Are Not Mutually Exclusive, Minister Says](#)

July 16, 2022, CNBC

Saudi Arabia will continue to strengthen its relationships with both the U.S. and China, one of the kingdom's top diplomats said as President Biden visited the Middle East.

[Saudi Foreign Minister: Not Aware of Any Discussions on Gulf-Israel Defence Alliance](#)

July 16, 2022, Reuters

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said he was not aware of any discussions on a Gulf-Israeli defence alliance and that the kingdom was not involved in such talks.

[Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis Say They Will Not Extend Truce Despite Saudi Pledge](#)

July 17, 2022, AL Arabiya

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia, slamming US President Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia, said they would not agree to extend a truce in the seven-year war.

[UAE, France Issue Joint Statement on Ukraine Crisis, Energy Security, Climate Action](#)

July 19, 2022, Khaleej Times

Paris and Abu Dhabi emphasised a joint commitment to expand their collaboration across all fields, working closely together to tackle global and regional challenges.

[Iran's Khamenei Warns Erdogan Against Syria Military Operation](#)

July 19, 2022, AL Jazeera

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has advised Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan not to launch a new military operation in Syria.

[New Horizons of Tehran-Moscow Partnership Against West](#)

July 20, 2022, Tehran Times

As major players in the world and West Asia's political and economic scene, Iran and Russia have been expanding political and economic ties for many years, however, the relations between the two countries have entered a whole new level as President Putin visited Tehran.

[US Warns Iran Risks Becoming Dependent on Russia After Hosting Putin](#)

July 21, 2022, The Times of Israel

The United States warned Iran that it risked dependency on an isolated Russia after it welcomed President Vladimir Putin, although the CIA chief acknowledged the two nations have uneasy ties.

[UAE Highest FDI Investor in India, Host To 35 Lakh Indians, Says MEA](#)

July 22, 2022, The New Indian Express

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the highest contributor to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India from the Gulf region. Between 2017 and 2021, around \$6,488.35 million was invested by the UAE in India.

[Iran To Gradually Eliminate Dollar in Trade with Russia](#)

July 22, 2022, The New Indian Express

Iran's Chief Banker said the U.S. dollar will be gradually eliminated from Iranian-Russian economic transactions as Tehran and Moscow enhance trade ties.

United States

United States

[Biden aims to 'reinvigorate' Israeli-Palestinian peace process with West Bank visit](#)

July 15, 2022, Politico

President Joe Biden on Friday called for a "reinvigorated" peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, using his visit to the West Bank to push for progress in the intractable conflict. After two days of warm meetings with Israeli leaders, Biden travelled to Bethlehem for a sit-down with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

[Biden issues executive order aimed at American hostages abroad](#)

July 19, 2022, Politico

President Joe Biden on Tuesday issued an executive order aimed at repatriating American hostages and other U.S. citizens wrongfully detained abroad.

[Senate Advances Bill to Bolster U.S. Competitiveness With China](#)

July 20, 2022, The New York Times

A broad bipartisan bill to bolster American competitiveness with China gained traction in the Senate on Wednesday after the top Democrat moved to restore critical investments in manufacturing and technology that were at risk of being dropped after a month's long negotiation.

[U.S. seeks to avoid broader war, nuclear conflict over Ukraine, Air Force chief says](#)

July 21, 2022, NBC News

If Russia used nuclear weapons in Ukraine, the U.S. military would provide possible "options" on how to respond but America's goal remains to avoid a nuclear conflict with Moscow, the top general in the U.S. Air Force said Wednesday.

[White House clash with Pelosi over Taiwan spills into the open](#)

July 22, 2022, Politico

The Biden administration's dispute with Speaker Nancy Pelosi over her planned trip to Taiwan next month spilled into public view this week when the president himself asserted that the military "thinks it's not a good idea right now." Pentagon officials are concerned that Speaker Nancy Pelosi's planned Taiwan trip could increase tensions with China.

[After the House, US Senate moves to deepen ties with India on defence, tech](#)

July 22, 2022, Hindustan Times

Among other issues, the Senate has identified intelligence collection capabilities, unmanned aerial vehicles, 5G, fourth and fifth generation aircraft, and joint research and development, as areas for cooperation with India.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Europe braces as Nord Stream Russian gas link set to restart](#)

July 21, 2022, Reuters

Europe is on edge about the restart of the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline from Russia after annual maintenance is set to end on Thursday, with governments bracing for possible further supply cuts.

[Italy's president dissolves parliament, calls snap election](#)

July 21, 2022, Al Jazeera

Italian President Sergio Mattarella has dissolved parliament, clearing the way for an early election after prime minister Mario Draghi quit following the collapse of his national unity government.

[Hungary foreign minister in Moscow for gas supply talks](#)

July 21, 2022, Al Jazeera

Hungary's foreign minister has arrived in Moscow where he wants to talk about ensuring gas supplies for his country and finding a peaceful solution to the war in Ukraine.

[French lawmakers back Macron's promised inflation relief](#)

July 22, 2022, Reuters

French President Emmanuel Macron's government honoured on Friday a re-election promise to boost household purchasing power amid soaring inflation as the National Assembly passed a bill lifting pensions and temporarily freezing rent hikes.

[EU launches four legal procedures against UK over Northern Ireland](#)

July 22, 2022, Reuters

The European Commission launched four new legal procedures against Britain on Friday, accusing London of failing to comply with significant parts of the protocol governing post-Brexit trading arrangements for Northern Ireland.

Russia

[Russia's defence minister pays surprise visit to Ukraine](#)

July 16, 2022, Russia Today

Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu has inspected Russian troops involved in the ongoing military operation in neighbouring Ukraine, the ministry revealed. Shoigu met the commanding officers of the 'South' and 'Centre' troops, Army General Sergey Surovikin and Colonel General Alexander Lapin, as well as other senior commanding officers.

[Russia, China to Break Ground on Gas Pipeline Via Mongolia in 2024 – PM](#)

July 18, 2022, The Moscow Times

Construction of a Russian-Chinese natural gas pipeline transiting through Mongolia will begin in 2024, the landlocked country's prime minister has said. The Power of Siberia-2 pipeline, which will deliver Europe-bound gas from western Siberian fields to China for the first time, is expected to go online in 2030.

[Russia Remains China's Largest Oil Supplier For Second Month Running](#)

July 20, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia was China's main oil supplier for the second month running in June as buyers shunned Saudi Arabian crude to take advantage of lower-priced supplies offered by Moscow. Market data showed Chinese imports of Russian oil totalled 7.29 million tonnes in June, up nearly 10 percent from a year ago.

[There can be no winner in nuclear war – Russian FM](#)

July 20, 2022, Russia Today

There can be no winner in a nuclear conflict, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday in an interview with RT and Sputnik. The Russian FM also reiterated that Russia has its own "doctrine that clearly stipulates what could be the case when we would be forced to use nuclear weapons."

[Putin slams 'golden billion' idea as neocolonial and racist](#)

July 20, 2022, TASS News Agency

The idea of total domination of the 'golden billion' is racist and neo-colonial, dividing the peoples into first and second-rate, Russian President Vladimir Putin said while speaking at the Strong Ideas for a New Time forum.

[Russia to Scrap World's Largest Nuclear Sub – Reports](#)

July 20, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia has decommissioned the world's largest nuclear ballistic missile submarine, state media reported. The Dmitry Donskoy, a Typhoon-class submarine, served in the Russian Navy's Northern Fleet since 1980. Its status as the world's largest submarine will be taken by the Oscar II-class Belgorod nuclear submarine, which was commissioned earlier in July.

[Russian bulk carrier detained in India released on court's decision, says envoy](#)

July 20, 2022, TASS News Agency

The Russian bulk carrier MV MAIA-1, detained in India's Cochin port, has been released by a court's decision, Russian Consul General in Chennai Oleg Avdeev told TASS.

[Russia Reopens Key Gas Pipeline To Europe After Break](#)

July 21, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia on July 21 resumed critical gas supplies to Europe through Germany, reopening the Nord Stream gas pipeline after a 10-day shutdown for maintenance, but the gas flow was expected to fall well short of full capacity.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Al-Shabab Attacks Somali Towns Close to Ethiopian Border](#)

July 20, 2022

Heavy fighting was reported after al-Shabab militants attacked two Somali towns along the border with Ethiopia. Regional officials who confirmed the attack with VOA Somali said militants clashed with Liyu police, members of Ethiopia's controversial paramilitary forces that have long been present in Somalia's southwestern Bakool region towns of Yeed and Aato.

[Biden to host African leaders for December summit - White House](#)

July 21, 2022. Africa News

The U.S.-Africa leaders' summit will be held from December 13 to December 15, President Joe Biden announced Wednesday. He described the U.S. commitment to Africa as "enduring". The United States vowed to support the African Development Bank's (AfDB) initiative aimed at increasing food production on the continent in order to avert the looming food crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

[AU selects Rwanda to host HQ of new African Medicines Agency](#)

July 18, 2022. Africa News

On July 14 and 15, the Executive Council of the African Union held its 41st Ordinary Session. The Council chose Rwanda to host the headquarters of the African Medicines Agency by the Executive Council.

[Egypt seeks more African recognition in combating climate change](#)

July 19, 2022

The 12th Petersberg Climate Change conference started Monday in Berlin with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock highlighting the importance of staying focused on climate issues.

Latin America

[US calls Mexico's energy policies 'unfair'; seeks talks](#)

July 20, 2022. AlJazeera

The United States is putting pressure on Mexico over energy policies that Washington says unfairly favor Mexico's state-owned electricity and oil companies over American competitors and clean-energy suppliers. The US is demanding talks to resolve the dispute, starting a process Wednesday that could end in trade sanctions against Mexico.

[Mexico says receives Canadian request for trade consultation](#)

July 21, 2022. Reuters

Canada has sent Mexico a request to initiate a dispute consultation under the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade pact, the Mexican economy ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

[Uruguay seeking China trade deal despite misgivings from neighbors](#)

July 20, 2022. Reuters

Uruguay will push for a free trade agreement with China, the South American country's top diplomat said on Wednesday, even as it faces resistance from some of its neighbors who favor regional trade talks over deals involving just one nation.

[Colombian forces kill FARC dissident leader](#)

July 18, 2022. Buenos Aires Times

Colombian forces have killed top FARC dissident leader Nestor Vera in a raid the government said Friday had dealt the "final blow" to the movement. Vera, aka Iván Mordisco, died with nine other rebels in a raid in the country's southwest last week, according to Defense Minister Diego Molano.

