

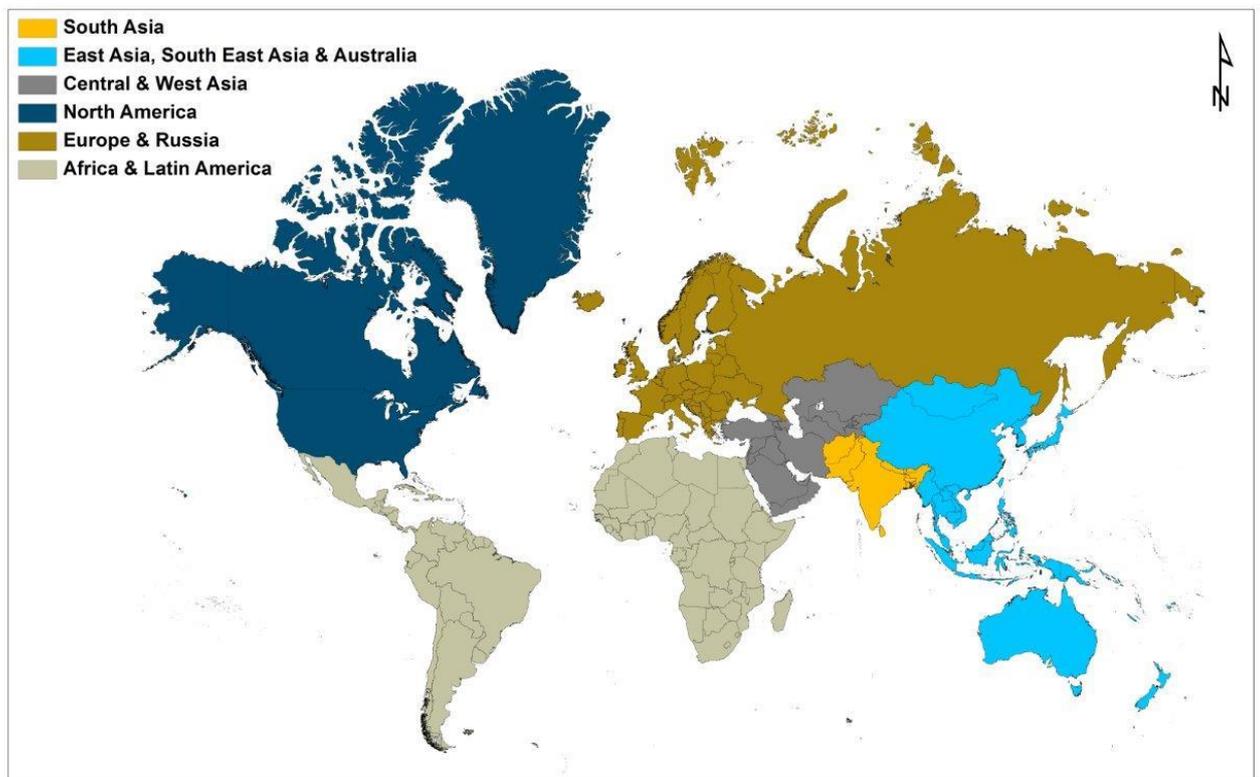


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 22 | June 4, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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

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ABOUT US

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Defence Ministry signs over Rs 2,900 crore contract for procurement of missile system for IAF, Navy](#)

June 1, 2022, India Today

The Ministry of Defence signed over Rs 2,900 crore contract for procurement of a missile system for the IAF and Navy.

[India, Israel adopt vision statement to further defence cooperation](#)

June 2, 2022, The Hindu

India and Israel on Thursday signed a 'vision Statement' to further deepen the long-standing defence cooperation. This was adopted at a meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his visiting Israeli counterpart Benny Gantz.

[Indian Navy to bid farewell to two frontline ships after over 3 decades of service](#)

June 2, 2022, The Economic Times

The Indian Navy will decommission two of its frontline warships on Friday, marking an end to their glorious voyages of protecting the nation's maritime interests for around 32 years. The two ships -- Nishank and Akshay -- were among the key naval assets that were at the forefront of several key missions and crucial maritime operations.

[India for a rules-based, peaceful environment in Indian Ocean region, says Rajnath](#)

June 1, 2022, The Indian Express

Addressing the annual commanders' conference of the Indian Coast Guard, the defence minister says India's location in the region is crucial from the strategic and economic points of view.

[Minister of External Affairs of India S. Jaishankar speaks to Canadian foreign minister](#)

June 1, 2022, Money Control

During a telephone chat with his Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly on Wednesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed the "misuse" of freedom and the perils of extremism. The two foreign ministers also discussed the Indo-Pacific region and the global implications of the Ukraine war, as well as ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

Pakistan

[PM Shehbaz Sharif orders release of Rs50bn to Chinese IPPs](#)

May 31, 2022, The News

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the authorities concerned to immediately release Rs50 billion to Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as the first instalment out of outstanding dues of Rs340 billion. The PM chaired a meeting here and approved the immediate payment. With failure in opening up a revolving account as envisaged under CPEC and delays in payments over four years, the amount piled up to Rs340 billion.

[Pakistan says Saudi Arabia, Dubai won't lend without IMF deal](#)

May 31, 2022, The News

Pakistan's finance minister said countries that have typically been generous in lending to the crisis-hit nation are proceeding more cautiously now. "We went to Saudi Arabia, Dubai and spoken to other countries -- they are ready to give money, but all of them say we need to go to the IMF first," said the minister, Miftah Ismail, on May 28.

[Security for Chinese nationals in Punjab beefed up](#)

June 1, 2022, The News

Punjab Home Department pledged to provide fool proof security to all the Chinese nationals across the province, in addition to the Chinese on the CPEC and Non-CPEC projects.

[Joint Task Force to resolve trade issues: Shehbaz Sharif, Turkish President Erdogan pledge to upgrade bilateral ties](#)

June 2, 2022, The News

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan renewed their pledge to upgrade the excellent bilateral ties between the two brotherly countries to new heights by infusing new vigour of bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

[IMF seeks fiscal adjustments in coming budget](#)

June 2, 2022, The News

The revival of stalled IMF program for Pakistan hinges upon the government's ability to make fiscal adjustments of almost 2.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product, equivalent to Rs2,000 billion, through raising revenues and curtailing expenditures in the upcoming budget.

[Trade deficit widens to record \\$43.33bn in July-May FY22](#)

June 3, 2022, The News

Trade deficit has widened to a record \$43.33 billion in July-May period of the current fiscal year on sky-high oil import bill, an official data showed, which may worsen the country's current account balance and further weaken the rupee.

[Pakistan tribal jirga in Kabul pushing for peace with TTP](#)

June 3, 2022, The Express Tribune

As part of the latest efforts to seek a peace deal with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and its affiliates, a Pakistani tribal jirga comprising at least 53 members arrived in Kabul from Peshawar. The jirga, which flew in a C130 aircraft and includes elders from erstwhile tribal areas and some politicians from K-P, reached the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul for the three-day talks.

[TTP confirms ceasefire, Fata merger still sticking point](#)

June 3, 2022, Dawn

The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) formally announced an "indefinite ceasefire" with the government, following two days of intense talks with a grand tribal jirga in Kabul. A statement issued by the TTP spokesman, Muhammad Khurasani, said that substantive progress had been made in talks with the grand jirga of "Pashtun nation, particularly tribal elders and ulema".

[Moody's downgrades Pakistan outlook to 'negative'](#)

June 3, 2022, Dawn

With deteriorating external and fiscal indicators, Moody's Investor Service downgraded Pakistan's outlook to negative from stable amid a delay in a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for an economic bailout.

Afghanistan

[India's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan](#)

June 2, 2022, MEA

A team led by Joint Secretary (PAI), Indian Ministry of External Affairs, visited Kabul to oversee the delivery operations of our humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. During the visit, the team met representatives of the International Organisations involved in distribution of the humanitarian assistance. In addition, the team is expected to visit various places where Indian programmes / projects are being implemented. In this connection, the Indian team met the

senior members of the Taliban, and hold discussions on India's humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

[Jaish, Lashkar Maintain Training Camps In Afghanistan: UN Report](#)

May 30, 2022, NDTV

Pakistan-based terror groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, led by 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed, maintain their training camps in some provinces of Afghanistan and some of them are directly under the Taliban control, according to a UN report.

[NSA Ajit Doval pushes for 'terror free' Afghanistan, says India stands with Afghan people](#)

May 27, 2022, The Print

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval made a strong pitch for the need to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan, and combating terrorism risks emanating from the region. The issue was being discussed during Doval's meeting with regional counterparts in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

[US State Dept: Kabul's Legitimacy Depends on Women's Rights](#)

May 27, 2022, Tolo News

The US State Department criticized the Islamic Emirate policies on women and girls, saying that these strategies will have a negative impact on the relations of the Islamic Emirate with Washington and the world.

Bangladesh

[China tells Bangladesh to 'reject Cold War mentality and bloc politics'](#)

June 2, 2022, Hindustan Times

The regional countries should safeguard true multilateralism and defend the hard-won environment for peace and development in the region, Liu told Zaman during their meeting here, according to a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry here.

Nepal

[China snatches employment opportunities of Nepali youth](#)

June 1, 2022, WION

The death of the three Chinese nationals in a loader accident in Nepal last month revealed that Beijing has been bringing its citizens to work, due to which people of Himalayan nation have been deprived of employment. According to

Khabar Hub, the loader accident on the Kathmandu-Terai (Madhesh) Fast Track in the last week of April has revealed that a huge number of them are employed in the project while only a few Nepali technicians are employed in the project.

[Nepal Exports Surplus Electricity To India For 2nd Consecutive Year](#)

June 3, 2022, NDTV

Nepal has started exporting 39 MW of electricity to India from midnight of Thursday due to the continuous rainfall in recent months, state-owned Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) said.

[Nepal suspends Chinese contractors for failing to expedite Fast Track construction work](#)

June 3, 2022, The Print

In a blow to China, the Nepal Army (NA) on Thursday suspended Chinese contractors for failing to expedite construction work on the Kathmandu-Terai Fast Track Expressway.

Sri Lanka

[India gives 3.3 tonnes of medical supplies to ambulance service in Sri Lanka](#)

The Telegraph Online, June 3, 2022

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa instructed officials to use Rs 1.8 billion from Covid-19 Healthcare and Social Security Fund to import essential medicines.

[PM Modi assures Sri Lanka of immediate supply of fertilizer](#)

June 2, 2022, The Hindu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured Sri Lanka of immediate supply of fertilizer, the Sri Lankan President has said, as the island braces for a food crisis amid a crushing economic meltdown.

[Sri Lanka plans to develop Trincomalee port as industrial hub, stirs global interest](#)

June 2, 2022, The Indian Express

The proposal to develop an industrial harbour in Trincomalee is a long-standing plan to monetise land that belongs to the Sri Lanka Port Authority, by getting foreign and local investment for a special economic zone, an industrial park, or an energy hub.

East & South East Asia

China

[Chinese FM criticizes US 'invest, align, compete strategy'](#)

June 2, 2022, Global Times

China's Foreign Ministry slammed the US plan to counter China, saying the so-called "invest, align, compete" approach outlined in a recent speech by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is just a replica of the previous so-called "competition, confrontation and cooperation" strategy.

[China won't accept Philippines accusation on fishing ban](#)

June 1, 2022, Global Times

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that the fishing ban in the South China Sea is a normal measure and will not accept groundless accusations after the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Philippines filed a diplomatic protest over China's so-called unilateral imposition of the ban.

[US senator's trip to Taiwan 'very dangerous'; PLA sent warplanes](#)

May 31, 2022, Global Times

China launched strong opposition with both diplomatic and military means in protest against US senator Tammy Duckworth's surprise visit to the island of Taiwan and talks with secessionists.

[PLA sends 30 warplanes near Taiwan island amid US senator visit, carrier drills](#)

May 31, 2022, Global Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) reportedly dispatched 30 warplanes to the vicinity of the island of Taiwan on Monday, the same day a US senator arrived on the island for a surprise visit, and also at the same time the US Navy was holding dual carrier drills not far away from the region.

Japan

[Is Japan overtaking China on infrastructure financing in Kenya?](#)

June 1, 2022, The Japan Times

Does this represent a 'win' for Japan and the G7 against the Belt and Road Initiative in Africa? Not likely.

[Japan and U.S. hold first strategic talks on ASEAN, with China in sight](#)

June 1, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan and the United States held their first strategic dialogue on Southeast Asian affairs on Wednesday, as part of broader policy coordination in an area under increasing Chinese influence.

[Kishida's 'new capitalism' plan to include aid for 1 million workers](#)

May 30, 2022, The Japan Times

The government has drawn up a draft of the "grand design" and action plan of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's "new capitalism" initiative, including a plan to provide aid, such as skill development support and "recurrent education," to some 1 million workers, including so-called nonregular employees.

[What does 'normalization' really mean for Japan-China ties?](#)

May 30, 2022, The Japan Times

2022 marks 50 years since Japan and China normalized diplomatic relations. But after consideration of that concept and its history, the idea does not sit quite right.

Korea

[S. Korea, US, Japan set for trilateral consultations on N. Korea](#)

June 3, 2022, The Korea Herald

The top nuclear envoys of South Korea, the United States and Japan are set to hold a meeting in Seoul on Friday to discuss the security situation on the Korean Peninsula amid reports that North Korea has completed preparations for another nuclear test.

[Growing security threat from North Korea: Korea Herald](#)

June 1, 2022, The Straits Times

The paper says South Korea has entered an emergency situation where threat to its security is growing.

[Defense chiefs of S.Korea, China to meet at Shangri-La Dialogue](#)

June 2, 2022, The Korea Herald

Rare defense-ministerial talks will be held in around 2.5 years as Seoul seeks to align regional policy to the US Indo-Pacific strategy.

[Talks for alternative trading system gain steam](#)

June 2, 2022, The Korea Herald

Brokerages join forces to end Korea Exchange's decades of monopoly

[S. Korea, China hold high-level phone talks on N. Korea, bilateral ties](#)

June 2, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea and China held high-level phone talks Thursday, during which the two sides discussed bilateral ties and the security situation on the Korean Peninsula, the presidential office said.

[South Korea, Japan agree on 'speedy' efforts to mend ties in working-level talks](#)

June 2, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea and Japan agreed Thursday to continue communication in a "speedy" manner to improve bilateral ties during their working-level diplomatic consultations held here, the foreign ministry said, amid a renewed stand-off over the East Sea islets of Dokdo.

Southeast Asia

[With China in sight, Japan, US hold first strategic talks on ASEAN](#)

June 2, 2022, The Print

Japan and the United States held their first strategic dialogue Wednesday on Southeast Asian affairs as part of broader policy coordination amid increasing Chinese influence in the region.

[India to host foreign ministers of 10 ASEAN countries from June 15 to 17](#)

June 2, 2022, DNA

For the first time India will host foreign ministers of 10 ASEAN countries from June 15 to 17. ASEAN is an association of Southeast Asian nations.

[New Delhi to Exclude Myanmar Junta From Upcoming India-ASEAN Meeting](#)

June 2, 2022, The Diplomat

India has aligned its position with that of the Southeast Asian bloc, which has excluded the junta's representatives from high-level meetings.

[China criticises Japan's 'selfish' attempt to extend claim in Philippine Sea](#)

May 31, 2022, South China Morning Post

Tokyo has applied to the United Nations to extend the exclusive economic zone and limits of the continental shelf around Okinotori reef. China and South Korea have both criticised the move and said that as a reef Tokyo has no right to extend its claims.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[New railway linking Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China to start being built soon](#)

May 28, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said at the online economic forum of the Eurasian Economic Union that his country, Kyrgyzstan, and China plan to start construction of a new railway line connecting the three Asian nations,

[Fundamentalist Islamic Group Still Active In Kyrgyzstan Despite Ban And Crackdown](#)

May 30, 2022, RFE/RL

Kyrgyz security services say the banned Yakyn Inkar religious group remains active in the country, running underground schools and promoting its ideology despite being outlawed as an extremist organisation five years ago.

[Kazakhstan: Weak information campaign leaves voters in the dark ahead of constitutional referendum](#)

June 1, 2022, Eurasianet

This weekend, voters in Kazakhstan will go to the polls to approve a revised constitution that authorities insist will guarantee a democratic future for all.

[Jailed Former Kyrgyz President Faces Additional Charge](#)

June 1, 2022, RFE/RL

Kyrgyz authorities have added an abuse of office charge against jailed former President Almazbek Atambaev over deadly ethnic clashes in 2010 that claimed almost 450 lives.

[Perspectives | Islamic State uses Tajikistan's dictator in recruitment drive](#)

June 2, 2022, Eurasianet

Tajik militants fighting in Afghanistan with the local IS affiliate, Islamic State Khurasan Province, are increasingly using Tajikistan's authoritarian president as a recruiting tool. Emomali Rahmon is now appearing almost daily on ISKP-linked social media networks.

West Asia

[Iran Wants To Develop Economic, Trade Relations Beyond Energy And Petrochemical Products: Iranian Ambassador to India](#)

May 30, 2022, The Financial Express

Amidst the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war, Iran has already said it is ready to help India meet its energy security needs. Reports indicate that the talks are going on between the countries to start importing crude from there and payment mechanisms too are being worked out.

[Israeli Defence Minister Gantz To Make Delayed India Visit This Week, Marking 30 Years of Security Ties](#)

May 25, 2022, The Times of Israel

Defence Minister Benny Gantz travelled to India this week to sign a "special security declaration" marking 30 years of security and diplomatic relations between the countries, his office said.

[Vice President Naidu Expected to Launch India-Qatar Startup Bridge During Visit to Qatar](#)

May 27, 2022, The Print

During his upcoming visit to Qatar, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu is expected to launch the India-Qatar Startup Bridge to link the ecosystem of the two countries.

[Abu Dhabi's IHC Completes INR 15,400 Cr Investment in Three Adani Companies](#)

May 17, 2022, Business Standard

International Holding Company PJSC (IHC) of Abu Dhabi completed its INR 15,400 crore investment transaction in three Adani companies -- Adani Green Energy (AGEL), Adani Transmission (ATL) and flagship, Adani Enterprises (AEL), a statement from Adani said.

[Brent Crude Rises Above \\$120 A Barrel as UK Fuel Prices Hit Record Highs](#)

May 30, 2022, The Guardian

Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose on Monday (May 30) to \$120 a barrel for the first time since late March, lifted by the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in Shanghai and Beijing, a move that could lead to higher demand for energy from China.

[US Disturbed by Iraqi Law Criminalising Israel Ties](#)

May 27, 2022, AL-Monitor

The Biden administration says it is "deeply disturbed" by a new Iraqi law that criminalises a range of "normalisation" interactions with Israel.

[U.S. Senators Voice Frustration At Biden's Iran Policy](#)

May 26, 2022, Reuters

"We do not have a deal ... and prospects for reaching one are, at best, tenuous," U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, alluding to indirect U.S.-Iran talks in Vienna that unravelled in March 2022.

[U.S. Seizes Iranian Oil Cargo Near Greek Island - Sources](#)

May 26, 2022, Reuters

The United States has confiscated Iranian oil held on a Russian-operated ship near Greece and will send the cargo to the United States aboard another vessel, three sources familiar with the matter said.

[Iran Seizes 2 Greek Tankers in Persian Gulf as Tensions Rise](#)

May 28, 2022, Associated Press

Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) seized two Greek oil tankers in helicopter-launched raids in the Persian Gulf, officials said. The action appeared to be retaliation for Athens' assistance in the U.S. seizure of crude oil from an Iranian-flagged tanker this week in the Mediterranean Sea over violating Washington's crushing sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

[Israel's NSA Set To Visit US For Talks Focused on Saudi Arabia](#)

May 27, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel's National Security Adviser Eyal Hulata is due to meet with his US counterpart Jake Sullivan in Washington next week for talks that will include potential steps toward normalisation between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

[U.S. Negotiating Deal Among Saudis, Israelis and Egyptians](#)

May 24, 2022, Axios

The Biden administration has been quietly mediating among Saudi Arabia, Israel and Egypt on negotiations that, if successful, could be a first step on the road to the normalisation of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

[UK Says Qatar Set To Invest \\$12.5bn Pounds in Britain](#)

May 24, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Britain said that it had agreed on a new Strategic Investment Partnership with Qatar which will see the Gulf State invest up to £10 billion (\$12.5 billion) in the next five years.

[Saudi Arabia, UAE Refuse to Back Pakistan's Economy Until IMF Provides Funding First](#)

May 30, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have refused to lend money to Pakistan until it secures funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) first, marking a new precedent in how allies treat the South Asian nation amid its lowest economic crisis.

[Russia Says Ready to Work with Turkey to Free Up Ukraine's Grain Exports](#)

May 30, 2022, Daily Sabah

Russia is ready to free up maritime shipping and facilitate the unhindered export of grain from Ukrainian ports in coordination with Turkey, its President Vladimir Putin told his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

United States

United States

[Biden Urges Gun Legislation Following Mass Shootings](#)

June 2, 2022, Wall Street Journal

President Biden stepped up his calls for legislation to reduce gun violence in a speech Thursday evening, as House Democrats pressed ahead with their own bill and Senate negotiators worked to reach a narrow bipartisan deal following a series of deadly mass shootings. Mr. Biden, in a somber address from the White House, said too many places in America had become killing fields, marked by names such as Columbine, Sandy Hook and Parkland. "For God's sake, how much more carnage are we willing to accept?" he asked.

[Fed's Logan Says Digital Money Could Affect Central Bank Operations](#)

June 2, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York official responsible for managing the central bank's balance sheet says private digital money could have notable effects on how monetary policy is implemented and could lead to greater variability in the size of central bank balance sheets. Lorie Logan, who is currently the manager of the Fed's \$9 trillion System Open Market Account and will become this summer president of the Dallas Fed, took stock of how things like cryptocurrencies, including stablecoins and central bank digital money, might impact how central banks make monetary policy. Ms. Logan didn't comment on the U.S. monetary policy outlook and cautioned that her remarks were general in nature and not confined to issues facing the Fed alone.

[Biden Says No Short-Term Fix to High Energy, Grocery Prices](#)

June 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

President Biden warned there was little the administration can do in the short term to lower high energy and food prices as the White House struggles to contain the fallout of sky-high inflation. Soaring prices have become a major liability for the president and Democratic Party as they seek to bolster their standing with voters ahead of November's midterm elections.

[To Draw Asia Closer, U.S. Tries an Alternative to Traditional Trade Pacts](#)

June 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

As the U.S. seeks allies in a new cold war with Russia and China, it does so without a lever that helped win the last one: new economic pacts like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement. They are nonstarters in a Congress in which both parties have

turned more protectionist. "In the era between World War II and now, the U.S. has used traditional trade agreements to get close to our allies," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said in an interview on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

[Jury Finds in Favor of Johnny Depp in Defamation Lawsuit Against Amber Heard](#)

June 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

A Virginia jury found in favor of actor Johnny Depp in his case against Amber Heard, closing a widely watched and emotional trial centered on defamation and abuse accusations between the former couple. The seven-member jury found Mr. Depp proved all three claims of defamation against his former spouse regarding statements in an opinion article she wrote for the Washington Post in 2018, awarding him \$15 million. Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Penney Azcarate reduced the punitive damages the jury awarded to Mr. Depp to \$350,000, the state's statutory cap, amending his total damages to \$10.4 million.

[While China makes Pacific islands tour, US Coast Guard is already on patrol](#)

June 2, 2022, CNN

As China's foreign minister began a Pacific islands tour to promote economic and security cooperation with Beijing, the smallest of the US government's armed services was already on the scene, reinforcing Washington's longstanding commitment to the region. Reacting to a request from the Solomon Islands, the first stop in Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's 10-day regional diplomatic tour, the US Coast Guard diverted its cutter Myrtle Hazard to patrol the island nation's exclusive economic zone after a Solomons police vessel needed repairs.

[Biden says Second Amendment is 'not absolute' in call to reinstate assault weapons ban](#)

June 2, 2022, Fox News

President Biden said the Second Amendment is "not absolute" in a speech Thursday following a wave of mass shootings across the nation, pleading with Congress to pass what he called "common sense" gun control legislation, including reinstating an assault weapons ban, requiring background checks, and limiting magazine capacity. The president, speaking from the Cross Hall of the White House, told Americans that the issue of restricting access to guns "is one of conscience and common sense."

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Eurozone Inflation Hits Fresh High as More Energy Sanctions Loom](#)

May 31, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Inflation in the eurozone reached an annual 8.1% in May, underlining the growing cost to households of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and of the sanctions European governments have imposed in response. The data from the European Union's statistics agency marked a sharp acceleration from the 7.4% rate of inflation recorded in both April and March. Consumer prices rose at the fastest pace since records began at the start of 1997.

[Chinese Investments in Netherlands Seen as a Security Threat](#)

June 3, 2022, ANI

China is looking to expand its trade and investment in various sectors including high tech, energy, maritime and life sciences and health sectors in Europe, especially in the Netherlands, according to a media report. China is attracted to the Netherlands for various sectors, despite the fact that Amsterdam is not a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) signatory.

[EU looks at boosting trade with Taiwan](#)

June 2, 2022, Deutsche Welle

Keen to enhance trade relations with Taiwan and tap into the island's semiconductor sector, the European Union is set to hold a virtual trade dialogue on June 2 with the Taiwanese minister for economic affairs, Wang Mei-hua. "Taiwan is a very important player in the area of semiconductors – if not the most important player," the EU Commissioner for trade, Valdis Dombrovskis, told the European Parliament last month.

[Oil prices firm up as EU agrees to Russian energy ban, China ends lockdown](#)

June 1, 2022, Business Standard

Oil prices firmed on Wednesday after European Union leaders agreed to a partial and phased ban on Russian oil and as China ended its COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai. Brent crude was up \$1.71, or 1.5%, at \$117.31 a barrel by 0817 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$1.67, or 1.5%, to \$116.34. Both benchmarks registered gains over May, marking the sixth straight month of rising prices.

[Russia widens Europe gas cuts and halts Dutch, Danish and German contracts](#)

May 31, 2022, Reuters

Russia widened its gas cuts to Europe on Tuesday with Gazprom (GAZP.MM) saying it will turn off supplies to several "unfriendly" countries which have refused to accept Moscow's roubles-for-gas payment scheme. The move comes a day after Denmark flagged a potential end to its Russian gas supply and the European Union's toughest measure yet against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, an agreement to halt sea-borne imports of its oil.

Russia

[Russia Announces Hypersonic Zircon Missile Test](#)

May 28, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia announced on May 28 that its navy had conducted a further test of one of several hypersonic missiles in development against the backdrop of Moscow's war in Ukraine and the resulting international isolation.

[Russia's Moon mission gets new launch window](#)

May 30, 2022, Russia Today

The long-delayed Luna-25 moon lander mission is expected to be launched in September this year, Dmitry Rogozin, the head of Russia's national space agency Roscosmos said. Luna-25 is expected to carry some 30kg of scientific equipment. The lander also boasts a robotic arm and a drill, to perform various experiments and take samples of lunar regolith.

[Russia Floats Payment System For Eurobonds As Default Deadline Nears](#)

May 30, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia is looking to use a system to pay its debt obligations through one similar to what it has set up for gas payments as a deadline looms for Moscow to avoid a historic default on its Eurobond obligations amid international sanctions imposed over its invasion of Ukraine.

[Russia sounds alarm on risk of direct conflict with US](#)

June 1, 2022, Russia Today

Washington's arming of Ukraine with heavier weapons increases the risk of direct US-Russia confrontation regardless of American statements about mitigating such a possibility, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said.

[Russia's Oil Output Up 5% in May – Vedomosti](#)

June 3, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia's oil production increased by 5% in May after it saw one of its steepest drops the previous month under Western pressure over the war in Ukraine, the Vedomosti business daily reported. Russian crude output last month totalled 43.1 million tons and averaged 10.2 million barrels per day.

[Russian Navy drills involving over 40 vessels begin in Pacific Ocean – ministry](#)

June 3, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russian Pacific Fleet's exercises involving over 40 warships and support vessels, as well as 20 planes and helicopters, have begun in the Pacific Ocean, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[India organises Def expo in Tanzania to expand defence sector footprints in Africa](#)

May 30, 2022, The Economic Times

India has sought to expand its defence partnership with Southeast African state of Tanzania through a defence expo held in Dar-es-Salaam.

[Xi vows closer relations with Zambia, UAE](#)

June 1, 2022, China Daily

China stands ready to work with Zambia and the United Arab Emirates in supporting each other's core interests and upholding the shared rights and interests of developing countries, President Xi Jinping said.

[The Secrets of China's Economic Statecraft in Africa](#)

June 1, 2022, The Diplomat

Beijing has succeeded by responding to African governments' precise needs, against a backdrop of lingering mistrust of the West.

[US cautions China against violations of human rights in Africa](#)

June 2, 2022, The Print

The US has asked the Chinese government to respect the interests of Africans while asking Beijing to follow human rights, including workers' rights and protection of the environment.

[US troops back in Somalia to fight al-Shabab](#)

June 1, 2022, BBC

The US' decision to redeploy 500 troops to Somalia to help in the fight against militant Islamists is a clear sign of its support for new President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

[US suspends Abraham Accords assistance to Sudan, urges Israel to call for democracy](#)

May 31, 2022, The Times of Israel

The Biden administration has suspended assistance to Sudan, including assistance related to its normalization deal with Israel. Jerusalem has yet to comment on last year's coup, when the military seized power and arrested the prime minister.

Latin America

[Brazilian rice exports booming; challenge for all three Mercosur partners](#)

May 31, 2022, Merco Press

Brazilian rice exports (husk base) totaled 451.3 thousand tones during the first quarter, more than double the same period in 2021 when 207.7 thousand tons were shipped, reports the Brazilian Rice Industry Association (Abiarroz).

[BRICS financing, a life-changer for Amazonia residents](#)

May 31, 2022, Merco Press

Financing from the BRICS bank has been pivotal in boosting pavement, drainage, basic sanitation and sidewalk construction works in Brazil's Amazonia, it was reported.

[US lifts Cuba flight restrictions imposed under President Trump](#)

June 2, 2022, CNBC

The administration of President Joe Biden revoked a series of restrictions on flights to Cuba imposed by his predecessor, including ending a prohibition on US airline flights to Cuban airports other than Havana.

[Argentina expects record US\\$90 billion exports on commodities boom](#)

June 2, 2022, Buenos Aires Times

Government expects record export levels this year as the country benefits from rising commodity prices.

[President Fernández to attend Summit of the Americas, secures bilateral with Biden](#)

June 2, 2022, Buenos Aires Times

President Alberto Fernández confirms to US government that he will travel to Los Angeles for key regional summit next week, despite reservations over exclusions.



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