

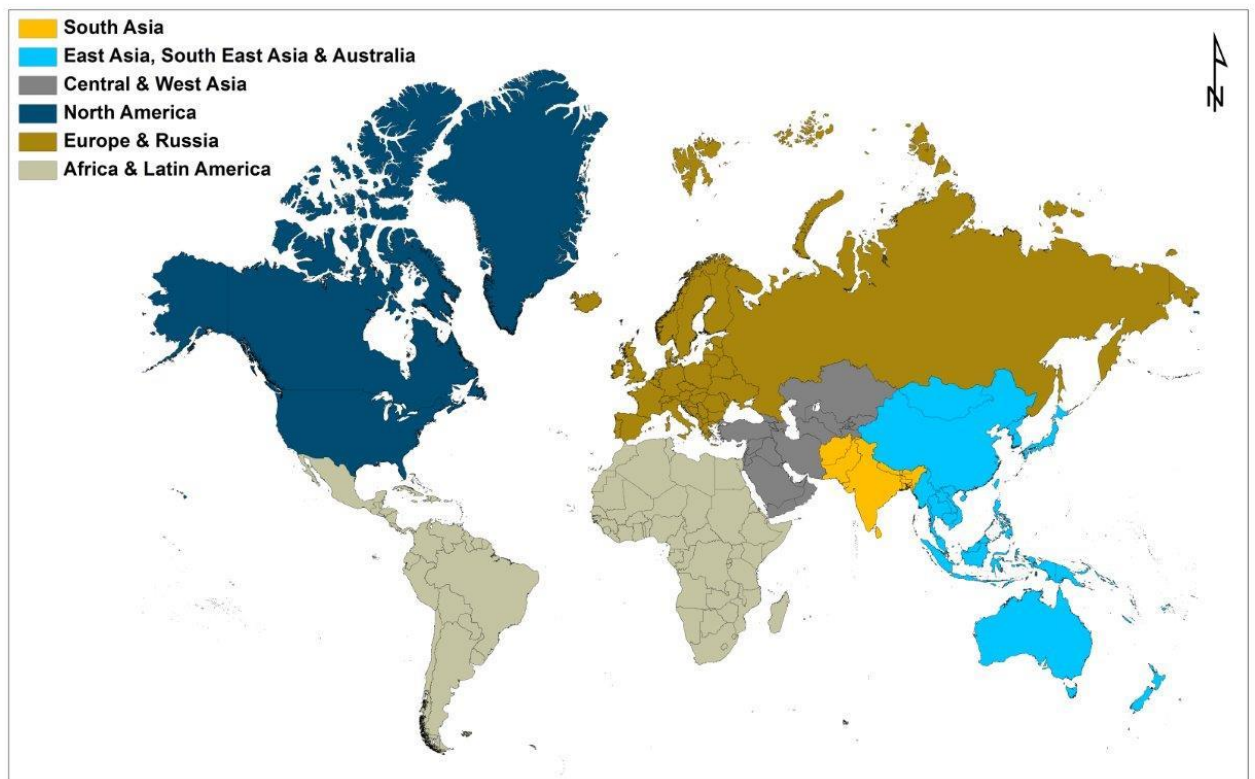


Delhi Policy Group

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

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South Asia

India

[India and Egypt work towards building strategic relationship with focus on defence & security](#)

July 2, 2022, The Print

From holding joint military exercises to exporting wheat as Russia and Ukraine stop supplies, New Delhi and Cairo are redrawing their relationship as geopolitical tensions rise.

[Indian Ocean a great asset to India, has been an ocean of peace: NSA Ajit Doval](#)

June 30, 2022, Financial Express

Security forces, agencies and all stakeholders in maritime affairs met to address maritime contingencies which require urgent and coordinated response.

[Jaishankar to attend G20 meet amid Pakistan, China protests against India holding summit in J&K](#)

July 2, 2022, Deccan Herald

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of the G20 nations next week in Indonesia amid protests by China and Pakistan over India's plan to host some of the events related with the 2023 summit of the bloc in Jammu and Kashmir.

[Boosting our maritime capabilities crucial: NSA Doval at security group meeting](#)

July 1, 2022, Hindustan Times

NSA Ajit Doval said that security related to border areas and other parts of the country are very different.

Pakistan

[Army chief awarded S. Arabia's highest medal](#)

June 27, 2022, Dawn

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was conferred with the King Abdulaziz Medal – the highest award of Saudi Arabia – for his contributions towards enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries.

[PM Shehbaz orders coal import from Afghanistan](#)

June 28, 2022, Dawn

In a bid to produce cheap electricity to provide relief to domestic consumers and industries, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the authorities concerned to import coal from Afghanistan. Presiding over a meeting, the prime minister approved the import of high-quality coal from Afghanistan in rupees instead of dollars to save the country's foreign exchange.

[\\$108m debt suspension signed with France](#)

June 28, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan signed a debt relief agreement with France for suspension of \$107 million loan under the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) framework allowed to the poor nations to absorb Covid-19 shock. This amount, initially repayable between July and December 2021 will now be repaid over a period of six years, including one-year grace period in semi-annual installments.

[Visa regime relaxed to promote Pak-Afghan trade](#)

June 29, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan government decided to relax the visa policy for bilateral trade with neighbouring Afghanistan and hoped the decision will help improve economies of the two countries. The decision was taken in the federal cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

[Two policemen, health worker martyred in attack on polio team](#)

June 29, 2022, Dawn

Two policemen and a health worker were martyred, and a passer-by sustained bullet injuries when unidentified gunmen attacked a polio vaccination team in North Waziristan tribal district.

[Top Chinese diplomat promises to help reinvigorate ties](#)

June 30, 2022, Dawn

High-ranking Chinese politician Yang Jiechi pledged to help in reinvigorating ties with longstanding ally Pakistan as he opened his two-day trip to Islamabad with a meeting with Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

[TTP refuses to budge from demand for FATA merger reversal](#)

June 30, 2022, Dawn

The proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has categorically stated that the insurgent group would not back down from its demand for the reversal of the merger of erstwhile FATA with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Negotiations between the government of Pakistan and TTP have been held in Kabul under the auspices of the Afghan Taliban's interim government in the neighbouring country. A 57-member jirga comprising elders of major tribes and clans from KP visited Kabul and held talks with the TTP leaders.

[Top LeT man Sajid Mir quietly held, jailed in terror financing case](#)

June 25, 2022, Dawn

As Pakistani officials ticked items off their to-do list for submission of report to Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on the implementation of the action plan for getting out of its 'grey-list', something that strengthened their case was the conviction and sentencing of top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Sajid Majeed Mir. Mir, 44, who allegedly directed the 2008 Mumbai attacks, was sentenced by an anti-terrorism court in Lahore, in the first week of this month, to 15 and a half years in jail after convicting him in a terror financing case. He was also fined Rs420,000. He is currently serving sentence in Kot Lakhpat jail, according to a source.

[SBP gets \\$2.3bn Chinese loan](#)

June 25, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan government succeeded to get rollover the Chinese loan of \$2.3 billion and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) received the amount in its account. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail tweeted he was pleased to announce that Chinese Consortium loan of RMB15bn (roughly \$2.3bn) has been credited into SBP account, increasing foreign exchange reserves.

[Current account deficit spikes](#)

June 29, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan's current account deficit – the gap between foreign expenditures and income – widened to a four-month high at \$1.425 billion in May 2022 following a slowdown in inflow of export earnings and workers' remittances.

[Govt raises Rs1.7 trillion in T-bills auction](#)

June 30, 2022, The Express Tribune

The government raised Rs1.715 trillion through the auction of sovereign debt securities (T-bills) to commercial banks, which was more than double the target of Rs800 billion, as its requirement remained high for bridging the fiscal deficit.

[Pakistan refuses to abolish death penalty for GSP+](#)

July 1, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan has refused to ratify the "tough conditions" placed by the European Union (EU) including the abolition of death penalty for the extension of new

Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status for 2024 due to “legal and political implications”. Islamabad has decided to expedite engagement with the EU to seek some waiver regarding the ratification of new protocols.

[Pakistan’s ability to generate dollar inflows through loans, grants diminishes](#)

June 29, 2022, The News

Pakistan’s ability to generate dollar inflows in the shape of loans and grants has diminished as the government could obtain only \$505 million in loans/grants in May 2022 against \$699 million in the same month of the last financial year.

[Imran responsible for strained ties: US senator](#)

June 28, 2022, The News

US Senate Majority Leader Charles E Schumer has said that he is ready to use his good offices for normalising the bilateral relationship between the US and Pakistan marred by former prime minister Imran Khan’s anti-US rants. Addressing a gathering of American-Pakistan Advocacy Group (APAG) in New York, the US senator said that he reiterated the stance of the Biden administration with regard to Imran Khan’s allegations of the involvement of US government in toppling his government.

[Ex-ISI chief supports PTI](#)

June 28, 2022, The News

Lt-Gen (retd) Zaheerul Islam, former director-general (DG) Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), said supporting former premier and Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan was need of the hour.

Afghanistan

[Deadly earthquake in Khost and Paktika leaves hundreds killed and thousands injured](#)

June 27, 2022, ReliefWeb

Following the earthquake that struck Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan on the night of 21-22 June, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) sent teams made up of medical and logistical staff to the worst-affected areas. Hundreds of people are thought to have been killed, over a thousand wounded, and many homes have been destroyed and damaged.

[US, Taliban Agree to Continue Talks](#)

June 30, 2022, VoA

The United States and Afghanistan’s ruling Taliban concluded a two-day meeting in Doha, Qatar, the first in-person talks between the two sides in more

than three months. Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West and Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi led their respective delegations at the negotiating table.

[India Sends 6 Tons Of Medical Assistance To Afghanistan After Earthquake](#)

July 1, 2022, NDTV

India supplied the seventh batch of medical assistance to Afghanistan consisting of 6 tons of essential medicines as a part of its ongoing humanitarian assistance. The consignment was handed over to the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kabul.

[Gunfire, explosions heard close to venue of Taliban's grand assembly 'Loya jirga'](#)

June 30, 2022, Hindustan Times

Chaos erupted in Kabul as several explosions and gun fires were reported close to the hall where the 'Loya Jirga' or the grand assembly of religious scholars and elders is underway. The exact cause and location of the gunfire is not clear yet. The Freedom Fighters Front in its statement said that its 'special forces' had attacked the Taliban gathering. But the Taliban regime has not said anything.

Bangladesh

[8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge to be inaugurated soon](#)

July 3, 2022, Dhaka Tribune

Local residents, who now use ferries and boats to cross the Kocha River, will benefit immensely once the 2.96-km bridge is opened to traffic.

[Rice imports from India set to surge in flood-hit Bangladesh](#)

June 28, 2022, Siasat

Rice imports in flood-hit Bangladesh will rise in the coming months. Sources said that several private importers have already placed orders with Indian rice exporters. "These are not government-to-government deals but mostly in the private sector domain," a person with direct knowledge told India Narrative.

Nepal

[Explained: Nepal's abandoned partnership with US troops, and how its Army weighed in](#)

June 28, 2022, The Indian Express

The SPP would have brought the Utah State National Guard and the Nepal Army working together on "humanitarian and disaster management". It was to be

signed during Deuba's proposed visit to the US in July. It is now shelved for the foreseeable future.

[China Encroaches Nepal's Territory, Civic Group Protests But Govt Official Feigns Ignorance](#)

June 28, 2022, News 18

Nepal civic group Rashtriya Ekata Abhiyan protested this week against Chinese encroachment into Nepal's territories. The protest was sparked after China expanded the wire-fence within no-man's land in Gorkha and encroached into Nepal's area in the northern part of the country.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka Overestimates its Importance to China](#)

June 30, 2022, The Diplomat

India is a massive market that has great potential. If letting go of Sri Lanka allows China to improve its relationship with India, it will.

[Indian fishermen back again and 'crushing' our livelihoods, say Sri Lankan counterparts](#)

June 30, 2022, The hindu

Just after Tamil Nadu's annual fishing ban ended mid-June, Indian fishing trawlers are back near Sri Lanka's northern coast, "crushing" fishermen's livelihoods that are already under enormous strain during the island's economic crisis, according to northern Sri Lankan fisher leaders.

East & South East Asia

China

[UAE president meets senior Chinese diplomat on bilateral ties, cooperation](#)

July 1, 2022, Xinhua

President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met with visiting senior Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi to discuss bilateral ties and ways to boost cooperation.

[China faces challenges posed by new resurgences, links with policy adjustment dismissed](#)

July 3, 2022, Global Times

The Chinese mainland reported 385 positive COVID-19 infections on Saturday, scattered across seven provincial-level regions, with East China's Anhui the hardest-hit province.

[Beware, RIMPAC brings back Cold War specter to Asia-Pacific region: Global Times editorial](#)

July 2, 2022, Global Times

The RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) 2022 led by the US began on June 29 and will continue until August 4. This year, a total of more than 25,000 personnel from 26 countries are participating in the world's largest multinational maritime military exercise and the deployment of unmanned systems, fighter jets, and large-scale warships has reportedly set a record.

[Xi's speech hailed for drawing blueprint for Hong Kong's brighter future](#)

July 3, 2022, China Daily

President Xi Jinping made an address at the meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Japan

[Japan, Philippines vow to maintain rules-based maritime order](#)

July, 01, 2022, Japan Today

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and new Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr agreed Thursday the two nations will closely cooperate to maintain and reinforce the rules-based maritime order amid China's rise in the Indo-Pacific. Hayashi's visit came as Japan aims to strengthen relations with

the new Philippine administration amid China's intensifying military activities in the East and South China seas, where Tokyo and Manila, both U.S. allies, are respectively challenged by Beijing's territorial claims.

[Japan Warns On 'Interests' After Russia Gas Project Decree](#)

July 01, 2022, International Business Times

Japan's energy "interests must not be undermined", Tokyo said Friday, after Moscow issued a decree transferring operations of a key oil and gas project to a new Russian company. The decree calls for the establishment of a new Russian operator and requires existing foreign shareholders to apply for the right to participate in the new firm, with Moscow deciding on their inclusion. Energy resource-poor Japan relies heavily on LNG imports and had previously ruled out withdrawal from the Sakhalin-2 project despite joining Western-led energy sanctions on Russia over the invasion of Ukraine.

[Kishida seeks major upgrade of NATO partnership](#)

June 30, 2022, Japan Today

Japan intends to upgrade its partnership with NATO significantly after Russia's war against Ukraine as the security of Europe is inseparable from that of Asia, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday, hailing the Western alliance's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. The Asian nation plans to bolster its defences over the next five years and substantially increase defence spending to cope with growing security threats, including those caused by China and its opaque military buildup.

[Japan says China has built another gas drilling facility in contested sea](#)

June 30, Japan Today

Japan's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday confirmed that China has finished building a new drilling facility for gas fields in a contested area of the East China Sea for the second time in two weeks. Japan and China agreed on joint gas development in the area in 2008, but negotiations were suspended in 2010 when bilateral tensions increased following a Chinese trawler's collision with a Japan Coast Guard vessel. Japan regards the median line as the demarcation line between the two neighbours under domestic law, but China says its EEZ extends much further.

[Japan to host G7 summit in Hiroshima on May 19-21 next year](#)

June 29, 2022, Japan Today

Japan will host a Group of Seven summit under its presidency in Hiroshima between May 19 and 21 next year, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday in Germany. Next year's summit is intended to send a message of peace from

Hiroshima, one of the two nuclear-bombed cities in Japan during World War II, as Russia has dangled the threat of nuclear weapons since it invaded Ukraine in late February. The leaders underlined the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons, or NPT, as the "foundation" of pursuing nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

[Japan to extend additional \\$100 million in humanitarian aid to Ukraine](#)

June 29, 2022, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in Germany to attend the Group of Seven leaders summit, said on Tuesday that Japan will extend an additional \$100 million in humanitarian aid to Ukraine. He added that Japan would also provide support to expand Ukraine's grain storage capacity as the harvest season nears.

[After support for Ukraine, Kishida aims for NATO unity on China](#)

June 28, 2022, The Japan Times

The Japanese leader is hoping to raise the alarm over Beijing's economic and military assertiveness in Asia and beyond. At the NATO summit in Madrid, Kishida will find a welcoming partner with intersecting interests on the challenge posed by China. Kishida's strong criticism of the Russian invasion — he has repeatedly warned that "Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow" — is expected to help galvanize support for NATO's growing presence in the region and contribute to shaping its new strategy toward China. For NATO, the implications of a potential Taiwan crisis echo fears in Tokyo. According to the report, such a conflict could go well beyond China and raise major questions about the nature and purpose of the bloc's crisis management capabilities.

Korea

[Yoon, French president discuss cooperation in nuclear power, space](#)

Jun 30, 2022 The Korean Herald

President Yoon Suk-yeol met with French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday and discussed cooperation in various sectors, including nuclear power and space, the presidential office said. The two leaders agreed on the importance of nuclear energy in achieving carbon neutrality and promised to expand bilateral cooperation to ensure the safety of nuclear power generation and strengthen the competitiveness of the nuclear power industry, the office said. On North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Yoon requested that France continue to take an interest in the issue as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

[N.Korea 'Capable of Producing over 100 Nukes'](#)

June 30, Chosun Ilbon

The U.S. Council on Foreign Relations on Tuesday claimed North Korea has enough material to make more than 100 nuclear weapons. "The North Korean regime possesses the know-how to produce nuclear bombs with weapons-grade uranium or plutonium," the CFR said in a report. "North Korea could have the material for more than one hundred nuclear weapons... It has successfully tested missiles that could strike the United States with a nuclear warhead." The estimate is based on the U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency's earlier analysis that the North has secured enough material to produce 12 more nuclear weapons every year.

[S. Korea's defense procurement subpanel approves new F-35A purchase proposal: officials](#)

June 29, 2022, The Korean Herald

A subcommittee of South Korea's state defence procurement committee has endorsed a basic proposal to purchase some 20 F-35A radar-evading fighters, Seoul officials said Wednesday. The Défense Project Promotion Committee's subcommittee approved it on June 9 in a push for a 3.9 trillion won (\$3 billion) project to introduce the fighters, manufactured by the US defence giant Lockheed Martin from 2023 through the mid to late 2020s. The approval came as the conservative Yoon Suk-yeol administration is striving to beef up defense capabilities to counter North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

[Yoon, Australian PM discuss cooperation on energy, N. Korea](#)

June 29, 2022, The Korean Herald

Yoon and Albanese held a bilateral meeting on the side-lines of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit scheduled for Wednesday in the Spanish capital. In particular, Yoon expressed hope for South Korean businesses' participation in the green hydrogen sector, where Australia is a strong player. The two leaders discussed North Korea's nuclear weapons program, with Australia promising to continue its strong and strict enforcement of sanctions on the regime and reaffirming its support for denuclearization of North Korea and policies to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula.

[Leaders of U.S., South Korea and Japan agree closer cooperation over North Korea threat](#)

June 30, 2022 Reuters

The leaders of the United States, South Korea and Japan on Wednesday expressed deep concern over North Korea's missile tests and said they would

cooperate more closely to address the threat posed by Pyongyang. The three leaders agreed to explore further means to reinforce "extended deterrence" against North Korea - the ability of the U.S. military, particularly its nuclear forces, to deter attacks on U.S. allies - along with security cooperation.

[N. Korea denounces US, key allies for seeking to build 'Asian NATO'](#)

June 29, 2022 The Korean Herald

North Korea on Wednesday accused South Korea, the United States and Japan of gearing up to establish an "Asian version of NATO," claiming that the recent move to step up trilateral military exercises is a "dangerous prelude" to that end. The KCNA dismissed the recent trilateral move to step up security cooperation against North Korea's mounting ballistic missile threats as a precursor to establishing an Asian version of NATO. North Korea's claim of an Asian NATO is analogous to China's repeated statements to undermine the first-ever participation of NATO's Asia-Pacific partners -- South Korea, Australia, Japan and New Zealand -- in the summit.

[S.Korean military to join US-led major, multinational cyber exercise for first time](#)

June 27, 2022 The Korean Herald

South Korea plans to participate in the US-led multilateral cyber defence exercise this year for the first time next year. South Korea's participation in Cyber Flag came after President Yoon Suk-yeol and US President Joe Biden agreed in May to deepen cooperation in cybersecurity in a bid to step up joint efforts and address 21st-century challenges. The South Korean and US leaders also committed to "significantly" expanding cooperation to confront a range of cyber threats posed by North Korea to help reinforce alliance deterrence against the North's destabilizing activities.

[Korea, Canada eye deeper security, economic ties](#)

June 30, 2022 The Korean Herald

President Yoon Suk-yeol had a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday, reaffirming their efforts to deal with North Korean provocations and the Ukraine crisis, on the sidelines of the NATO summit. The two leaders suggested that bilateral cooperation be further expanded and deepened with a focus on future high-tech, artificial intelligence and low-carbon energy industries. They agreed to materialize the collaboration in the supply chain of key minerals such as lithium, nickel and cobalt.

[Yoon, NATO chief hail new partnership, new S. Korean mission to NATO](#)

June 30, 2022, Korea Times

President Yoon Suk-yeol met with the chief of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Thursday and discussed South Korea's plans to enter into a new partnership agreement with the organization and open a mission to NATO in Belgium, his office said. During the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Madrid, Yoon and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg assessed the cooperative relationship between South Korea and NATO since their establishment of a global partnership in 2006.

Southeast Asia

[Indonesian President Joko Widodo says he gave Vladimir Putin message from Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky](#)

July 01, 2022, South China Morning Post

The Russian leader hosted his Indonesian counterpart as Moscow seeks to pivot to Asia and Africa in wake of Western sanctions over his invasion. Indonesian President Joko Widodo said in Moscow he delivered a message from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to Russian leader Vladimir Putin. Jakarta has come under Western pressure to exclude Putin from the G20 gathering after announcing in April he had been invited.

[Asean special envoy visits Myanmar again as part of efforts to resolve turmoil](#)

29 June, 2022, The Straits Times

ASEAN special envoy Prak Sokhonn travelled to Myanmar on Wednesday (June 29) for the second time in three months as part of the bloc's effort to tackle the country's political crisis. His visit comes just two days after he issued a statement appealing against the Myanmar junta's decision to transfer deposed state counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi from a home to a jail in Naypyitaw. According to Myanmar media outlet Irrawaddy, Mr Sokhonn will not meet Ms Suu Kyi this time, but instead six minor ethnic armed groups that are not fighting the junta.

[World Health Organisation asks South-East Asian countries to scale up Covid vaccination](#)

July 01, 2022, The Indian Express

The World Health Organisation on Friday called on countries in South-East Asia to accelerate Covid-19 vaccination coverage as the region again witnessing a rise in cases. While significant progress has been made in the region towards vaccinating populations against Covid-19, several countries

missed the global target to fully vaccinate 70 per cent of their total population with all primary doses of the vaccine by June end, a WHO statement said. WHO also recommends countries to prioritize primary series and booster doses to all high priority groups, emphasizing that many deaths can be avoided if target groups such as healthcare workers, elderly are vaccinated first.

[Philippines-China energy sharing dead in the water](#)

June 28, 2022, Asia Times

Outgoing Duterte administration announces collapse of joint energy exploration talks for the South China Sea. Manila has also been peeved by Chinese militia vessel harassment of Filipino boats in the South China Sea, including during the Reed Bank (2019) and Whitsun Reef incidents (2021). With Duterte having little to show for his years-long lean towards China, incoming President Marcos Jr has chosen to strike, at least initially, a more assertive tone to please his domestic audience.

[Singapore and Malaysia agree to deepen cooperation in the digital and green economies](#)

June 30, 2022, CNA

Singapore and Malaysia have agreed to deepen cooperation in the digital economy and green economy, said the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) in a news release on Thursday (Jun 30). Both ministers recognised that the digital and green economies are "key to sustainable and inclusive growth" for Singapore and Malaysia. The two ministers also discussed their recent engagement at the Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) held in Paris. They affirmed the strategic and economic significance of the IPEF as a "valuable platform" for the US to engage with the region.

[Indonesia and United Arab Emirates reach trade pact](#)

July 01, 2022, CNA

Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates on Friday (Jul 1) signed a free trade agreement, strengthening economic ties between Southeast Asia's largest economy and the major oil producing Gulf state. The accord, reached during a visit by Indonesian President Joko Widodo to Abu Dhabi, will remove or sharply reduce duties on most goods traded between the Muslim countries. The accord includes chapters on services, investments, intellectual property rights and mutual recognition of each other's halal certification, Indonesia's trade ministry said.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan border, a crisscross of smuggler tunnels](#)

June 27, 2022, Eurasianet

Over the last few weeks, Kyrgyzstan's security services have discovered four smuggling tunnels to Uzbekistan. The most recent find was made on June 24 in Kaytpas, in the southwestern Kyrgyz region of Batken, and lay only 60 metres from the border with Uzbekistan.

[Uzbek Constitutional Amendments To Change Status Of Karakalpakstan](#)

June 27, 2022, RFE/RL

Constitutional amendments initiated by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoev will annul the current right of the Karakalpakstan region to seek independence. According to the draft amendments, Karakalpakstan will retain its autonomy, but a constitutional clause giving it the right to secede based on a referendum will be taken out.

[Putin Arrives In Tajikistan For First Stop On Trip To Central Asia](#)

June 28, 2022, RFE/RL

Russian President Vladimir Putin has started a one-day visit to Tajikistan, where he is holding talks with his Tajik counterpart, Emomali Rahmon, as Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine continues to raise concerns in Central Asia.

[Tajikistan: As dust settles on Pamir conflict, Chinese roadworks begin](#)

June 29, 2022, Eurasianet

The revamp of the road linking Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast with China and the rest of Tajikistan will be overseen by the China Road and Bridge Corporation, according to the Tajik Transportation Ministry, whose head Azim Ibrohim joined representatives of the Chinese company at a June 23 ceremony to mark the beginning of the project.

[U.S. slaps secondary sanctions on Uzbekistan firm](#)

June 29, 2022, Eurasianet

The U.S. government has imposed punitive measures on an Uzbek company over its dealings with a sanctioned Russian firm that Washington says amounted to collusion in sanctions dodging.

[The Revival of Islam in Turkmenistan](#)

June 30, 2022, The Diplomat

Based on anecdotal evidence, Islam's popularity has been growing in Turkmen society in the last decade. Although Islam has been a part of Turkmen culture for centuries, public practice of Islam was largely suppressed during the Soviet Union and in the early independence era, too.

West Asia

[India-UAE Relations Are Dynamic, Robust, Widespread: FS Kwatra](#)

June 25, 2022, Times of Oman

Addressing a briefing ahead of PM Modi's visit to Germany and UAE, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said security, education and investment are among areas of discussion between India and UAE and bilateral relations are "dynamic, robust, and widespread".

[India Offers to Set Up Production Facilities for Light Combat Aircraft, Copters in Egypt](#)

June 27, 2022, The Economic Times

India has offered to set up production facilities for the manufacturing of light combat aircraft (LCA) as well as helicopters in Egypt as it pursues export opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa region.

[Egypt Contracts to Buy 180,000 Tonnes of Wheat from India: Aly Moselhy](#)

June 26, 2022, Business Standard

Egypt has contracted to buy 180,000 tonnes of wheat from India, Supply Minister Aly Moselhy said, less than previously agreed, a deal that is part of the country's efforts to diversify its wheat supplies.

[Iranian President Makes Speech at BRICS Summit](#)

June 24, 2022, Tehran Times

At the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi virtually addressed the BRICS plus summit, emphasising the importance of the group in global development.

[Iran and US Ready to Restart Talks on Nuclear Deal](#)

June 25, 2022, The Guardian

Josep Borrell, the EU foreign affairs chief, has said talks will restart on the Iran nuclear deal, averting a complete collapse in the agreement which could spark a nuclear arms race across the Middle East.

[Qatar Likely To Host Iran-US Nuclear Deal Talks](#)

June 26, 2022, Anadolu Agency

Qatar is most likely to host the upcoming talks between Iran and the US, mediated by the European Union, to close the remaining gaps in efforts to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal.

[Negev Forum to Meet in Bahrain on Security Alliance as Iran Talks Revived](#)

June 26, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

With an eye to a regional security alliance and in advance of US President Joe Biden's visit to the Middle East, Israel is set to meet with Bahraini, Emirati, Moroccan, Egyptian and US officials in Bahrain.

[U.S. Held Secret Meeting With Israeli, Arab Military Chiefs to Counter Iran Air Threat](#)

June 26, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. convened a secret meeting of top military officials from Israel and Arab countries in March to explore how they could coordinate against Iran's growing missile and drone capabilities, according to officials from the U.S. and the region.

[Jordan's King Abdullah Backs Plans for a 'Middle East NATO'](#)

June 26, 2022, The New Arab

Jordan's King Abdullah said he would be in favour of a Middle Eastern military alliance built on the same model as NATO.

[On The Way Out: Why is Israel's Government About to Fall?](#)

June 21, 2022, AL Jazeera

The main thing that united the Naftali Bennett-led coalition was opposition to Benjamin Netanyahu, but ultimately that has not been enough to keep them together.

[Oil Turbulence Could Last Five Years, ExxonMobil Boss Warns](#)

June 21, 2022, The Economic Times

Consumers must be prepared to endure up to five years of turbulent oil markets, the head of ExxonMobil said, citing under-investment and the coronavirus pandemic.

[Saudi Crown Prince's Visit to Turkey Signals an 'Utterly Remarkable' Posture Change for President Erdogan](#)

June 24, 2022, CNBC

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has visited Turkey for the first time in years, marking a rapprochement between two of the wider region's most important political, military and economic players after a period of strained relations.

[Sweden Hasn't Alleviated NATO Concerns, Says Turkish President Erdogan](#)

June 26, 2022, Business Standard

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has told Sweden's prime minister that he has not seen any tangible moves to address Turkey's concerns about her country joining NATO, Erdogan's office said.

[Turkey Intent on Blocking Nordic Bids at NATO Summit If Security Concerns Persist](#)

June 24, 2022, Xinhua

Turkey seems determined to block Sweden and Finland's NATO memberships in the alliance's upcoming summit if they do not address Turkey's security concerns, although the NATO chief has vowed "a common way forward" on the issue at stake.

United States

United States

[Biden vows to back Ukraine 'as long as it takes' despite economic toll](#)

June 30, 2022, Boston Globe

President Biden vowed Thursday that the United States and NATO would support Ukraine for as long as necessary to repel Russia's invasion, despite waves of economic pain rolling through world markets and voters' homes, saying it was the Kremlin that had miscalculated in its aggression, and not the West in opposing it.

[U.S. Urges New Tactic to Curb Putin's War Machine and Lower Fuel Prices](#)

June 27, 2022, The New York Times

Group of 7 leaders meeting in Germany were receptive to a Biden administration plan to cap the price of Russian oil in world markets, limiting Kremlin revenue. Meeting on Monday in the Bavarian Alps, President Biden and the other Group of 7 leaders were poised to embrace an aggressive but untried plan to manipulate the price of oil and restrict the revenue that underwrites Mr. Putin's war machine.

[Greece formally requests to buy F-35 fighter jets from US](#)

July 1, 2022, ABC News

Greece has sent a letter of request to the United States to buy a squadron of F-35 fighter jets, the country's prime minister said Thursday, part of efforts to bolster its defence capabilities amid continuing tensions with neighbouring Turkey.

[U.S. Kills Suspected Militant Linked to Al Qaeda in Syria](#)

June 27, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. conducted an airstrike in Syria on Monday that killed a suspected militant leader affiliated with al Qaeda, the U.S. military announced. The attack, which was carried out in Syria's Idlib province, was aimed at Abu Hamzah al Yemeni, whom the U.S. Central Command said was a senior leader of the Hurras al-Din organization, which it said is connected to al Qaeda.

[Supreme Court clears Biden to end Trump's 'Remain in Mexico' policy](#)

June 30, 2022, The Washington Post

The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled for the Biden administration on a controversial immigration policy, saying it had the authority to reverse a Trump-era initiative that requires asylum seekers to remain in Mexico while

their cases are reviewed in U.S. courts. Lower courts had gone too far in requiring President Biden to keep in place policies that intruded on his ability to carry out the nation's immigration procedures and foreign policy, wrote Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU countries approve climate laws, 2035 fossil fuel car ban](#)

June 29, 2022, Al Jazeera

The 27 EU countries agree to support the 2035 fossil fuel car ban and compromise on fund to shield citizens from CO2 costs. European Union countries have reached a deal backing stricter climate rules that will eliminate carbon emissions from new cars by 2035 and a multibillion-euro fund to shield poorer citizens from carbon dioxide (CO2) costs.

[Turkey supports Finland and Sweden NATO bid](#)

June 29, 2022, BBC News

NATO member Turkey has agreed to support Sweden and Finland's membership of the alliance. It had initially opposed the Nordic countries' bids to join. Turkey was angered by what it saw as their willingness to host Kurdish militants. Sweden and Finland could not join NATO without Turkey's support.

[Northern Ireland protocol bill passes Commons vote](#)

June 27, 2022, The Guardian

Proposed legislation to allow the UK to unilaterally rip up Brexit arrangements for Northern Ireland at the risk of a trade war with the EU passed the second reading stage in the House of Commons on Monday night.

[Australia, France seek to mend ties after sub spat.](#)

July 01, 2022, DW

Australian and French leaders have held their first meeting since a diplomatic row last year over a cancelled submarine contract. Australia's prime minister is promising a reset in relations between the two countries.

Russia

[Putin Says Russia To Supply Belarus With Iskander-M Missile Systems](#)

June 25, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia will supply ally Belarus with Iskander-M missile systems, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised meeting with Belarusian ruler Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Putin said in the June 25 remarks that delivery of the weapons systems would take place within a few months.

[Russia's Krasnoyarsk nuclear sub heads out for first sea trials, source says](#)

June 27, 2022, TASS News Agency

The Krasnoyarsk, Russia's second serial submarine of project 885M, currently under construction at the country's largest shipyard in Severodvinsk, set out for its first sea trials in the White Sea on June 26, an industry source told.

[Russia warns Norway over conflict in Arctic](#)

June 29, 2022, Russia Today

Moscow has summoned Norway's charge d'affaires Solveig Rossebo over the "unacceptable" ban on the delivery of supplies to a Russian Arctic mining operation in the Svalbard Islands, the Foreign Ministry has announced.

[NATO Officially Declares Russia A 'Significant And Direct Threat' To Members' Peace And Security](#)

June 29, 2022, RFE/RL

NATO has declared Russia the "most significant and direct threat" to its members' peace and security amid Moscow's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The Western military alliance made the declaration in a statement as its leaders met in Madrid on June 29 to confront what NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg called the biggest security crisis since World War II.

[Russia warns of new 'Iron Curtain'](#)

June 30, 2022, Russia Today

A new "Iron Curtain" is being drawn across Europe, this time by Western powers seeking to cut off Russia and Belarus over the conflict in Ukraine. While meeting his Belarusian counterpart in Minsk, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the EU destroyed all of the relations with Moscow it had been building for decades, practically overnight.

[Russian Lawmakers Approve Bill to Fast-Track Foreign Media Bans](#)

June 30, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian lawmakers approved legislation allowing officials to block foreign news outlets in retaliation for clampdowns against Russian state media abroad. The bill gives Russia's Prosecutor General the right to ban foreign outlets without court approval if another government is found carrying out "hostile actions against Russian media abroad."

[Russia makes 'goodwill gesture' to alleviate food crisis](#)

June 30, 2022, Russia Today

Russian troops were withdrawn from Ukraine's Snake Island on June 30, the defence ministry announced during a daily briefing. The move was described

as a goodwill gesture meant to alleviate concerns over Moscow allegedly blocking attempts to haul grain out of Ukraine.

[Russian geological company sends out 4 vessels for Arctic subsoil exploration](#)

July 1, 2022, TASS News Agency

For the first time in history, four vessels of the Russian geological company Rosgeologia (RosGeo) will leave Murmansk within one week to conduct the Arctic subsoil exploration, RosGeo's Director General Sergey Gorkov told reporters.

[Russia Threatens to Shut Down Bulgaria Embassy](#)

July 1, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia threatened to close its embassy in Bulgaria and shut down the EU country's Mission in Moscow as tensions rage over Moscow's offensive in Ukraine and espionage concerns. This week Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov said his country would expel 70 Russian diplomatic staff; the biggest number ordered out from the Balkan nation.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Sudan: At least 7 killed in anti-coup rally, medic group](#)

July 1, 2022, Africa News

The group said in a tweet that four people were fatally shot in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city. The Doctors Committee which tracks casualties during protests said, a fifth person died after being shot in the head in Khartoum as well as a child who was shot in the chest.

[Ghana back to IMF as economic conditions worsen](#)

July 1, 2022, Africa News

Ghana's president, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, has authorized Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta to commence formal engagements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to support the country's economy.

[Nigeria, UK sign migration deal for deportation of illegal immigrants and criminals](#)

July 1, 2022, Africa News

Nigeria has signed a deportation agreement with the United Kingdom, which will see the deportation of illegal Nigerian immigrants and criminals.

[China's interventions in the Horn of Africa](#)

June 28, 2022, The Hindu

China has been investing across the African continent throughout the last decade. While the emphasis has been on investments and raw materials, it took a new turn on June 20, with the first "China-Horn of Africa Peace, Governance and Development Conference."

Latin America

[Argentina's economy minister makes sudden exit](#)

July 3, 2022, BBC

Argentina's economy minister, Martin Guzmán, has resigned as the country's economic crisis intensifies.

[Remain In Mexico: Biden can end Trump-era policy, court rules](#)

July 1, 2022, BBC

The Biden administration can terminate a controversial Trump-era policy that required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while claims are processed, the Supreme Court has ruled.

[Chile's new constitution finalised after turbulent process](#)

July 3, 2022, Al Jazeera

On Monday, the assembly will hand over the finished draft to President Gabriel Boric before it is made available to the public.

[Argentine bodies reject US interference in Latin America](#)

July 2, 2022, Prensa latina

Buenos Aires, Jul 2 (Prensa Latina) Argentine social bodies will reaffirm their rejection of US interference in Latin America as well as the blockade imposed on Cuba for over 60 years.



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