



Weekly Asia Pacific Monitor

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Weekly Asia Pacific Monitor is based on daily screening of 28 newspapers published from different countries of the region. The document provides a brief summary of interaction among Asia Pacific countries in security, economy and diplomacy sectors.

Consortium of Asia Pacific Studies (CAPS)

DEFENCE/SECURITY

Pakistan–Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group holds inaugural briefing to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The first official briefing session of the Pakistan–Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at Parliament House in Islamabad, marking a new step toward deepening bilateral ties between the two nations. Discussions focused on expanding Pakistan-Vietnam cooperation in trade, investment, and tourism.

Education, tourism and trade: Punjab Governor, Philippines CG discuss cooperation. Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that Pakistan attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation with the Philippines. "There are vast opportunities to expand relations between Pakistan and the Philippines in the fields of education, trade and tourism, especially in the textile and pharmaceutical sectors," the governor said, adding: "People-to-people contacts between the two countries should increase so that they can benefit from each other's experiences."

Ishaq Dar reassures Australia of Pakistan's responsible stance amid crisis. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Australian Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and responsible conduct during the recent tensions with India, according to Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan.

UK, France & Australia urge Pakistan to exercise restraint. Welcoming the ceasefire understanding between Pakistan and India following days' long escalation, the United Kingdom (UK), France and Australia have urged Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint so that lasting peace and tranquility could prevail in South Asia.

Australia, Pakistan discuss ceasefire amid regional tension. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Ishaq Dar, has received a telephone call from Australian Foreign Minister Hon Penny Wong to discuss the escalating tensions between Pakistan and India and the recent ceasefire.

Australia, New Zealand players narrowly avoid missile attack in Pakistan amid Indo-Pak war. Cricketers from Australia, New Zealand, and other countries narrowly avoided a deadly missile strike in Pakistan while departing.

Luxon calls on India, Pakistan to de-escalate tensions as death toll rises. Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has called on India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions, urging the nuclear-armed neighbours to resolve their differences through dialogue.

Pakistan reportedly downed an Indian Rafale jet from 182 km using a J-10C fighter and a Chinese PL-15 missile, potentially setting a record for the longest air-to-air kill. The clash occurred during a massive BVR-focused aerial battle between India and Pakistan, with over 120 jets involved. Pakistan claims it downed five Indian aircraft, though India has not officially acknowledged the losses.

Just before a ceasefire with India, Pakistan used its advanced Fatah-1 and Fatah-II guided rocket systems, signaling a major shift toward precision, long-range warfare. These weapons targeted deep Indian military sites, challenging India's Cold Start doctrine and air defenses. The Fatah-series marks Pakistan's move from unguided artillery to high-precision strikes, reshaping South Asia's conventional battlefield strategy.

Pakistan condemned Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks on its nuclear arsenal as irresponsible, rejecting India's "nuclear blackmail" mindset. It highlighted its own conventional deterrence and raised concerns over repeated nuclear security breaches in India, urging global scrutiny and immediate corrective action by New Delhi.

India's recent four-day conflict with Pakistan marked a notable first: Pakistan employed advanced Chinese fighter jets and missiles against India's Western-made military hardware, highlighting a significant shift in regional military dynamics.

The Taliban-led Afghan government emphasized mutual respect and regional cooperation during meetings with Chinese and Pakistani envoys in Kabul. The talks focused on political, security, and economic collaboration under the trilateral forum, with commitments to combat terrorism and boost trade through joint projects, investment, and special economic zones. The sixth round of the Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue is planned in Kabul, reflecting efforts to deepen ties and regional stability.

Chinese scholar Victor Gao reaffirmed China's strong ties with Pakistan, stating that China will defend Pakistan if its sovereignty is threatened. He expressed serious concern over escalating tensions between Pakistan and India, urging both sides to

exercise restraint, implement an immediate ceasefire, and avoid further conflict to preserve regional peace.

In the recent India-Pakistan conflict, Pakistan used Chinese-made PL-15 missiles to down Indian Rafale jets, marking a shift in military technology. The PL-15's long-range capabilities give Pakistan an advantage over India's Western systems, such as the Meteor missile. This highlights China's growing influence in South Asia's arms market.

Pakistan used an advanced "ABC" data-sharing combat system in a recent clash with India, where targets were locked by ground radar, missiles launched by jets, and guided by airborne warning systems. This coordinated approach, reported by China Space News, marked a shift from traditional air combat and reportedly led to the downing of five Indian aircraft.

The India-Pakistan conflict caused massive economic losses—about \$1 billion per hour—with India bearing the bulk. Pakistan's finance ministry said the impact was manageable. Despite the tension, Pakistan's stock market rebounded strongly. Experts warned continued conflict would deter investors and worsen poverty in both countries.

PCJCCI hosted a delegation from Lahore's Daroghawala Industry Owner Association, led by the Bani Group, to explore collaboration in the auto parts sector with China. Discussions focused on technology transfer, joint ventures, and expanding trade. PCJCCI pledged full support, and both sides agreed to form a working group and consider an MoU to strengthen long-term industrial ties.

Australia's Albanese touts defense ties during Indonesia visit. Australian PM Anthony Albanese emphasized deepening defence cooperation with Indonesia during his Jakarta visit, citing shared regional security concerns.

Prabowo receives Australian PM Albanese at Merdeka Palace. President Prabowo met PM Albanese to reinforce defence collaboration and bilateral ties, ahead of comprehensive strategic talks.

Indonesia revokes ex-marine's citizenship over Russian service. Indonesia annulled the citizenship of a former marine for serving in the Russian military, citing national security grounds.

Malaysia and Italy to Forge Strategic Defence Partnership. Malaysia and Italy have agreed to establish a strategic defence partnership aimed at enhancing military cooperation and joint training initiatives. This collaboration seeks to strengthen both nations' defence capabilities and regional security.

Kelantan Tightens Security to Curb Cattle Smuggling After Anthrax Outbreak in Thailand. In response to an anthrax outbreak in Thailand, Kelantan authorities have intensified border security measures to prevent illegal cattle smuggling. The move aims to safeguard public health and the local livestock industry.

Brunei and Timor-Leste Enhance Defence Cooperation. Brunei and Timor-Leste have agreed to boost their defence collaboration through joint training exercises and increased military exchanges. This partnership aims to strengthen regional stability and mutual security interests.

Brunei Attends UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Berlin. Brunei participated in the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting held in Berlin, reaffirming its commitment to international peacekeeping efforts. The meeting focused on enhancing the effectiveness of UN missions worldwide.

China and Singapore conducted a two-day joint naval drill in the South China Sea. focusing on countermeasures to enhance regional security in the vicinity of the strategic Strait of Malacca. Chinese experts highlighted the drill's role in strengthening defense ties and showcasing China's military capabilities.

The U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency warned that China could develop dozens of nuclear-armed missiles in orbit within a decade. capable of striking the U.S. faster than traditional intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). A released chart also showed China's nuclear ICBM arsenal potentially growing from 400 to 700 by 2035.

Shares of Dassault Aviation dropped 9.48% amid reports that three Indian Rafale jets were downed by Pakistan's J-10c fighters in the recent India-Pakistan conflict. This boosted the reputation of China's Avic Chengdu, whose stock surged 61.6%. The incident has impacted Rafale's global image and arms sales.

China and Cambodia began their expanded Golden Dragon military drills on May 14. showcasing advanced systems like drones and robotic dogs. It comes shortly after the U.S.-Philippines Balikatan drills, reflecting rising regional tensions.

Taiwanese observers and officials have warned that Pakistan's successful use of Chinese-supplied weapons against India highlights the urgent need for integrated weapons systems. The clash demonstrated how China's system-centric warfare and exported technology can outperform the diverse, less-coordinated arsenals used by

Western-aligned forces like India's, offering a cautionary example for Taiwan's defense preparedness.

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Pakistan's acquisition of up to 40 Chinese J-35A stealth fighters represents a significant leap in South Asia's airpower dynamics. providing a potential 12–14-year technological edge over India. With advanced stealth, sensor fusion, and precision strike capabilities, the J-35A will replace Pakistan's aging F-16s and Mirages, while strengthening deterrence against India's non-stealth fleet.

After a deadly four-day conflict with Pakistan, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh urged global scrutiny of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal through the IAEA. questioning its safety. The clash, triggered by Indian strikes on alleged terrorist sites, raised fears of escalation between the nuclear-armed nations. India denied targeting Pakistan's nuclear facilities during the standoff.

India has requested more S-400 systems from Russia. Three of five units from a 2018 deal have been delivered, with two pending. Despite U.S. pressure, India prioritizes the S-400's proven effectiveness to strengthen its air defense network

On May 6, 2025, India and Pakistan clashed over Kashmir, with Pakistan claiming to down multiple Indian jets, including Rafales. Rapid U.S. media reports raised suspicions of an attempt to damage Rafale's image and promote the F-35 for India's defense market.

India and Japan are deepening defense cooperation, aiming to reduce dependence on traditional arms suppliers. Japan has offered help in developing fighter jets and tanks for India. India is focusing on increasing its defense self-reliance, with Japan playing a key role in enhancing its deterrence capabilities.

US-based F-35B squadron deploys to Japan. The U.S. Marine Corps deployed Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211, an F-35B squadron based out of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, under the Marine Corps' Unit Deployment Program.

Japan Begins Production of Stealth Patrol Vessels to Enhance Surveillance of Its Territorial Waters. Japan has launched the construction of a new series of next-generation patrol vessels for the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF). The program calls for the commissioning of twelve versatile ships to enhance Japan's maritime surveillance capabilities while reducing crew requirements in response to growing recruitment challenges within the armed forces.

US Navy Showcases Long-Range Strike Capability with AIM-174B Missile in Japan to Counter Chinese Threat. the US Navy publicly displayed its AIM-174B long-range air-to-air missile for the first time during the annual Friendship Day held at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Iwakuni, a joint US-Japan military base. the AIM-174B is a very long-range air-to-air missile with a minimum confirmed range of 130 nautical miles (around 240 km).

HMAS Sydney deployed on Operation Argos tour. The ADF is supporting the enforcement of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions against North Korea through the deployment of HMAS Sydney under Operation Argos. Since 2018, the ADF has enforced UNSC sanctions against North Korea to deter and disrupt illegal maritime activity, including ship-to-ship transfers at sea.

North Korea upgrades naval office to strategic combat agency. North Korea has begun reorganizing its Naval Hydrographic Office into a combat-oriented strategic operations agency following orders from leader Kim Jong Un to strengthen naval power. The North Korean Naval Hydrographic Office collects, analyzes and documents maritime environmental information necessary for naval operations, functioning similarly to South Korea's Naval Information Unit.

S. Korea, NATO Hold Third Military Staff Talks. South Korea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held their third military staff talks in Seoul today to discuss ways to strengthen their defense cooperation. During the meeting, the two sides assessed the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and discussed ways to enhance their military exchange and cooperation.

South Korea is Building a Drone-Enabled Naval Fleet Led by a Giant Command Ship Inspired by HMS Dreadnought. the program aims to equip the Republic of Korea Navy with a vessel capable of coordinating precision strikes, supporting amphibious operations, securing maritime routes, and responding to natural disasters, relying on a fleet of aerial, surface, and underwater drones.

North Korean army holds special operations drills. North Korea's military held a combined tactical drill of special operations to enhance combat efficiency. The combined tactical drills of special operations and tank subunits' joint fire strike demonstration took place on Tuesday.

North Korea's ICBM arsenal may rise to 50 by 2035. North Korea is projected to have 50 ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, by 2035, an intelligence agency of the U.S. Defence Department said in a report.

North Korea Targets Ukraine with Cyberespionage Operations. Beginning in February, cybersecurity firm Proofpoint said it began seeing phishing campaigns targeting Ukrainian entities designed for credential harvesting as well as to infect endpoints with malware. Researchers attributed the attacks to the North Korean advanced persistent threat group tracked as TA406, aka Kimsuky.

Japan to Double Cybersecurity Talent Pool by 2030 with Strategic Reforms. The Japanese government has set an ambitious target to increase the number of cybersecurity experts to 50,000 by 2030. This initiative aims to address the pressing shortage of qualified personnel and enhance the nation's resilience against cyber threats.

North Korea building second fearsome warship capable of launching nukes. North Korea is constructing the second of its envisioned fleet of formidable naval guided-missile destroyers, despite the first flagship vessel seemingly being unable to move on its own.

Kim Jong-un tells North Korean army to prepare for war. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has said that the most “crucial task” for the country’s armed forces is to make “full preparations for war”. After he observed special forces exercises, the dictator said that his country had to be ready for “all levels of modern warfare”.

S. Korea, NATO to hold 3rd military staff talks in Seoul. South Korea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will hold their third military staff talks in Seoul on Monday to discuss ways to strengthen their defence cooperation. During the meeting, the two sides are expected to assess the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and discuss ways to enhance their military exchange and cooperation.

Japan government paper to express concern over China-Russia ties. The Defence Ministry plans to submit the 2025 defence white paper to a Cabinet meeting which expresses grave concern in its upcoming defence white paper over the deepening military cooperation between China and Russia, a draft showed Thursday. The draft says China's moves to strengthen its cooperation with Russia are a serious concern for Japan's security, describing Beijing's military moves as the biggest strategic challenge ever.

Senior Leaders from the Indo-Pacific Highlight Landpower During LANPAC 2025. Senior U.S. Army leaders, regional allies, and multinational partners came together during the 2025 Land Forces Pacific (LANPAC) Symposium and Exhibition to discuss how land forces are adapting their posture and presence in the Indo-Pacific to meet today’s security challenges.

Pacific land force leaders seek ‘positional advantage’ against China. Top generals in the Pacific are aiming to create “positional advantage” using a combination of land forces and maritime assets to counter Chinese military aggression in the region.

Gen. Brunson stresses strategic value of USFK presence in overcoming 'tyranny of distance'. United States Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson has underscored the strategic value of American troops in South Korea in

overcoming geographic constraints for security operations in the broader Indo-Pacific, a critical region home to an assertive China.

Korean, U.S. militaries stage joint airdrop supply drills. The Korean and U.S. militaries have jointly conducted a regular aerial logistics exercise as part of efforts to maintain combined operational readiness.

With the deployment of their anti-drone systems and anti-ship missiles, the U.S. Marines concluded the Balikatan exercise. The 40th edition of the Balikatan 2025 exercise featured a large-scale deployment throughout Philippine territory and its archipelagos, where 14,000 personnel from the Armed Forces of the U.S., the Philippines, and Australia operated in a coordinated and joint manner over the course of two weeks. Throughout the sessions, multiple units conducted various exercises based on the current regional context and its threats, such as the defense against a simulated amphibious invasion in the South China Sea.

Army sending Hawaii-based troops to Philippine defensive exercise this summer. The Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division will join Philippine army forces this summer for an exercise involving a massive movement of troops and equipment over 250 miles by air, sea and land, according to the division commander.

Vietnamese Navy's sailing vessel Le Quy Don visits Guangzhou. On Monday afternoon, sailing vessel 286-Le Quy Don assigned to the Vietnam People's Navy arrived at a military port in Guangzhou City, south China's Guangdong Province, for a five-day friendship visit. In that afternoon, the sailing vessel 286-Le Quy Don, decorated with the national flags of China and Vietnam and carrying 118 Vietnamese naval troops and academy cadets, docked at the port.

Ships from the Pacific Fleet of the Russian Navy recently arrived in Vietnam. As part of a signal of strategic rapprochement between Russia and Vietnam, ships from the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet recently arrived at the Vietnamese port of Da Nang. The visit coincides with the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of Victory and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Live-Fire Exercise Highlights Growing U.S.-Australia-Philippines Defense Cooperation. In a powerful display of deepening regional security cooperation, Australian, Philippine, and American troops conducted a high-intensity, live-fire coastal defense exercise on the island of Palawan this week, simulating the repulsion of a notional seaborne invasion during Exercise Balikatan 2025.

Japan-PH relations: Toward a ‘quasi-alliance’. Security cooperation with the Philippines has become even more important for Japan as it seeks to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific, and maintain peace and stability in East Asia. Japan has deepened its security cooperation with the Philippines by holding 2+2 foreign and defense ministerial meetings, signing the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), selling it an air surveillance radar system, and providing it patrol boats. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba’s visit to the Philippines in April 2025 further accelerated this trend.

Taiwan’s TSMC approves NT\$2.21 billion equipment sale to Singapore joint venture. TSMC’s Deputy Spokesperson Kao Meng-hua (高孟華) explained that VSMC, a Singapore-based joint venture between Taiwanese Vanguard International Semiconductor Corporation (VISC) and Dutch NXP Semiconductors NV, will receive the equipment as part of the chipmaker’s efforts to optimize assets, per CNA. The transaction is valued at approximately NT\$2.21 billion (US\$73 million).

ECONOMY

Palm oil export strategy shifts amid India-Pakistan conflict. Indonesia is adapting its palm oil export policies in light of geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan, aiming to stabilize trade flows.

Indonesia plans to cut fuel imports from Singapore. Indonesia intends to reduce fuel dependence on Singapore by enhancing domestic refining capacity and energy security.

Prabowo targets global supremacy for 10 commodities: Ministry. Indonesia aims for leadership in 10 strategic commodities to boost exports and global market presence under Prabowo’s economic vision.

Indonesia eyes energy self-sufficiency through sugar palm bioethanol. Government initiatives focus on bioethanol from sugar palm to reduce fossil fuel reliance and promote renewable energy.

Energy transition to anticipate global economic turmoil: Sri Mulyani. Finance Minister Sri Mulyani emphasized energy transition as key to mitigating global economic volatility at APEC discussions.

Indonesia introduces its carbon trading potential to Japan. At a bilateral meeting, Indonesia showcased its carbon market plans, seeking investment and collaboration with Japan on climate solutions.

RI affirms commitment to blue economy at APEC's Our Ocean Conference. Indonesia reiterated its dedication to sustainable marine development during APEC's conference, highlighting conservation efforts.

Indonesia to evaluate CEPA with Australia: Minister Hartarto. The government will assess the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Australia to maximize mutual trade benefits.

APEC forecasts 2.6% growth, seeks end to trade uncertainty. APEC projected moderate growth and urged resolution of global trade tensions amid persistent tariff and investment issues.

Govt abruptly pushes back trade data release. Indonesia postponed its regular trade data release without explanation, raising speculation over sensitive figures or policy shifts.

RI companies in no rush to invest in US amid Washington reshoring push. Indonesian firms remain hesitant about US investments despite American policies to attract manufacturing back home.

APEC warns of tariff impact on trade as China, US trade reps meet. APEC cautioned that tariffs could stifle trade recovery, coinciding with US-China bilateral talks during the forum.

Govt backs AI partnership to fight cancer nationwide. Indonesia supports leveraging AI technologies for nationwide cancer detection and treatment through public-private partnerships.

Indonesia nominates two experts for ITLOS, ILC. Indonesia proposed legal experts for international roles in the ITLOS and ILC to enhance its legal standing in global affairs.

Indonesia rich in natural cosmetics ingredients: BPOM. BPOM highlighted the country's potential in herbal-based cosmetics, promoting natural products for domestic and export markets.

Agrinas to manage nearly half a million hectares of food estate. State-owned Agrinas will develop 500,000 hectares for food production to support national food resilience goals.

Indonesia aims to boost coffee production. Government targets higher coffee yields by modernizing cultivation techniques and supporting smallholder farmers.

Indonesian farmers help drive down global rice prices: Minister. Indonesia's strong rice production has contributed to easing global rice prices amid food security challenges.

RI leading in rice production in Southeast Asia: Minister. Indonesia has emerged as the top rice producer in Southeast Asia, according to official figures from the Agriculture Ministry.

Indonesia-Argentina explore reciprocal agricultural exports. Both countries are discussing two-way trade in agricultural goods, with a focus on food security and market diversification.

Digital transformation to boost Indonesia's palm oil industry: Govt. Indonesia is promoting digital tools in the palm oil sector to enhance productivity, traceability, and environmental standards.

Finnish Trade Minister to Lead Business Delegation to Malaysia. Finland's Trade Minister is set to lead a business delegation to Malaysia to explore investment opportunities and strengthen bilateral economic ties. The visit aims to foster collaboration in technology and sustainable development sectors.

Price of Imported White Rice Reduced from Today. The Malaysian government has announced a reduction in the price of imported white rice, effective immediately. This measure is intended to alleviate the cost burden on consumers and ensure food affordability.

Brunei's Economic Diversification Attracts Growing Interest from Singapore Firms. Brunei's efforts to diversify its economy have garnered increasing interest from Singaporean companies. Investment opportunities are emerging in sectors such as renewable energy, technology, and tourism.

Agriculture Open Day Promotes Industry Growth Collaboration. An Agriculture Open Day event was held to encourage collaboration among stakeholders and promote growth in the agricultural sector. The initiative showcased innovations and opportunities within the industry.

Inside the India-Pakistan conflict and what it means for New Zealand's trade aspirations. The Front Page. Fighting between India and Pakistan may be on hold for now, but long-term concerns remain about stability in the region. The two countries reached a ceasefire deal after weeks of tensions, sparked by the killing of 27 people in the disputed territory of Kashmir.

The U.S. and China agreed to a 90-day tariff truce, cutting tariffs from 125% to 10%. leading banks to raise China's 2025 growth forecasts and improve stock outlooks. Growth predictions now range around 4%, and investors are optimistic, especially in consumer and tech sectors. However, experts warn this is a temporary pause, with China's economic challenges and U.S.-China tensions still unresolved.

UN forecasts global economic growth to drop to 2.4% in 2025. China's economy to 4.6% The global economy is under growing pressure, with growth expected to slow to 2.4 per cent in 2025, down from 2.9 per cent in 2024, according to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects report.

The U.S. and China have agreed to ease recent tariff hikes by each suspending 24% of their respective additional duties for 90 days while retaining a 10% base rate. They will also remove other newly imposed tariffs and non-tariff measures. To build a stable trade relationship, both countries will begin ongoing talks led by senior officials, alternating between locations.

Chinese companies operating in the U.S. cite geopolitical tensions, inflation, and economic instability worsened by trade restrictions as their main challenges. according to a new CGCC survey. The report also highlights growing investor caution due to stricter regulations and rising anti-China sentiment.

With US-China trade tensions easing through tariff cuts, investment banks have raised their growth forecasts. Goldman Sachs now expects China's GDP to grow 4.6% (up from 4%) and the US by 1% (up 0.5 points), with lower recession odds. The yuan is also expected to strengthen. UBS lifted China's growth outlook to 3.7–4% due to reduced export shocks and potential policy support.

President Trump reportedly blocked Apple from expanding manufacturing in India, citing economic instability and high tariffs under Modi's policies. He warned such investment could risk Apple's \$500 billion plan, potentially deterring future U.S. investments in India.

India's growth for 2025 is forecast at 6.3%, supported by strong consumption and spending. Global growth slows to 2.4%, with trade tensions and uncertainty hitting vulnerable countries hardest.

The UK and India have signed a major free trade agreement expected to boost trade by 39% and add £4.8 billion annually to the UK economy. The deal reduces tariffs on goods like whisky, cars, and textiles, and improves access for services and skilled workers. It strengthens UK-India ties and supports both countries' strategic and economic goals amid global trade shifts.

India's GDP is projected to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal and the country's economy is resilient enough to overcome the short-term impact of geopolitical issues, CII president.

India's airstrikes on Pakistan backfired, prompting strong retaliation and economic disruption. The crisis exposed the risks of aggressive policy for a growing economy. A U.S.-brokered ceasefire helped stabilize the situation, underscoring the need for restraint and evidence-based decisions.

India's retaliatory tariff proposal may cast shadow on trade pact talks with the US: GTRI. India is considering retaliatory tariffs on US goods in response to American steel and aluminum tariffs, potentially jeopardizing ongoing trade agreements.

Japan's finance minister wants to discuss forex with Bessent at G7. Japanese Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato said on Tuesday that he would seek to meet U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on the sidelines of the G7 meetings in Canada next week to discuss foreign exchange.

WTO head to meet Japan PM Ishiba, officials amid global trade woes. World Trade Organization Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala will meet Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and other ministers during her three-day trip to Japan, the government said, amid uncertainty over global trade and the economy by aggressive U.S. tariff policies.

South Korea, Malaysia set to hold ninth round of FTA negotiations in Kuala Lumpur. Korea and Malaysia were set to hold their ninth round of negotiations for a bilateral FTA, as the two sides seek to broaden their trade portfolio and enhance cooperation. The countries are seeking to make progress in eight separate areas, including market access for goods and services, as well as economic cooperation.

South Korea adds robotics on list of national strategic technologies. South Korea has newly designated robotics and defence technologies as part of its portfolio of

advanced technologies the country aims to strategically develop as new economic growth engines.

OECD cuts Korea's potential growth forecast to below 2%. In its revised outlook on Monday, the OECD forecast Korea's potential gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate at 1.98 percent for 2026, down from this year's 2.02 percent and breaking the two percent threshold.

Japan pushes China to allow more investment in foreign markets. The Japanese Finance Ministry is pressing the Chinese government to ease capital controls, in the hope that investors' appetite for Japanese securities will bring in capital from mainland China.

Japan, WTO Vow to Strengthen Multilateral Trade System. The Japanese government and the World Trade Organisation on Tuesday reaffirmed their determination to work closely together to strengthen the WTO-led free and open multilateral trade regime.

S. Korea, ASEAN set to hold inaugural joint think tank dialogue on economic, trade policies. The inaugural ASEAN-ROK Think-tank Dialogue on Economic and Trade Policy (AKTD) will be held on South Korea's southern Jeju Island, with the attendance of some 100 officials from major Korean and ASEAN think tanks, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Japan and Pakistan to enhance economic ties. Japan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Pakistan Akamatsu Shuichi on Wednesday said his government's commitment to working closely with Pakistani authorities to deepen friendly relations through better bilateral cooperation in various fields of economy. The statement came during a ceremony that marked the signing of the Grant Agreement, Exchange of Notes and Record of Discussion between the governments of Pakistan and Japan.

USTR Greer arrives in S. Korea to attend APEC trade ministers' meeting. US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer arrived in South Korea on Wednesday

to attend a trade ministers' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies and meet with Seoul's trade chief this week.

APEC warns of stalling trade due to tariffs as China, US officials meet. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping warned on Thursday that exports from a region that accounts for around half of world trade will slow sharply this year, and barely grow at all, in the wake of U.S. tariff announcements. APEC projected exports in the region would rise by only 0.4% this year, compared with 5.7% growth last year.

Japan's economy shrank annualised 0.7% in Jan-March. Japan's economy shrank an annualised 0.7% in the first quarter, data showed on Friday, underscoring a fragile recovery now under threat from U.S. President Donald Trump's trade policies.

India, Japan notify WTO of possible retaliation against US tariffs. India and Japan have recently notified the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of potential retaliatory measures in response to US tariffs on steel and aluminium.

Taiwan meets with US for tariff talks in South Korea. The main Taiwan and U.S. trade representatives met in South Korea for trade negotiations, yielding optimism that further talks would lead to reduced U.S. tariffs on Taiwan exports, according to the island's Vice-Premier Cheng Li-chiun.

APEC trade meeting hosted by South Korea adopts joint statement. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's trade gathering adopted a joint statement on Friday that cited "fundamental challenges" facing the global trading system, after a meeting in South Korea overshadowed by divisions on U.S. tariff.

US trade chief meets South Korea's shipbuilders for possible cooperation. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer met with South Korea's leading shipbuilders on Friday to discuss possible cooperation in the industry.

Russia, Vietnam agree to 'promptly' negotiate, sign nuclear power plants deal. Russia and Vietnam have agreed to "promptly" negotiate and sign agreements on

building nuclear power plants in the Southeast Asian nation, and elevate the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership to "a new level in terms of quality," local media reported on Monday.

The Philippines Launches Digital Nomad Visa Program for Remote Workers. This initiative aims to attract foreign remote workers to experience the country's beauty while boosting the local economy. The program will allow eligible foreign nationals to live and work remotely from the Philippines for up to one year, with the possibility of renewal for an additional year.

Vietnam, Thailand to deepen ties through regional connectivity and ASEAN cooperation. Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's official visit to Vietnam on May 15–16 marks her first to the country and indicates the growing strength of the Vietnam–Thailand Strategic Partnership. According to Thai Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nikordej Balankura, the symbolic and significant coincides with the resumption of the Joint Cabinet Meeting (JCM), a mechanism Thailand maintains exclusively with Vietnam.

Việt Nam looks for stronger cooperation with RoK in new era: official. The Vietnamese Government pledged to create an open and transparent investment environment, accelerate administrative reforms, promote smart governance, streamline the state apparatus, and reduce intermediaries to make it easier for foreign enterprises, including those from the Republic of Korea (RoK), to invest and do stable and long-term business in Việt Nam.

PH, South Korea sign deal to accelerate trade. The Philippines and South Korea signed a deal to accelerate trade, drive industrial transformation, and spearhead green energy collaboration. Signed on May 14 in Jeju Island by Philippine Trade Secretary Cristina Roque and South Korea's Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Cheong In-kyo, the memorandum of understanding outlines joint initiatives in key areas.

Bangladesh, Vietnam stress trade deal and economic partnership. Emphasising the need for boosting bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Vietnam, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Phan Thi Thang has called for the removal of tariff and

non-tariff barriers, signing of trade agreements and building stronger economic partnerships between the two countries.

Vietnam, Thailand aim for US\$25 billion trade by 2030 based on complementary strengths. Expressing satisfaction with growing economic, trade, and investment ties, he noted that the outlook for bilateral economic cooperation remains promising with untapped potential. Thailand is currently Vietnam's largest trading partner in ASEAN, with two-way trade hitting more than US\$20.2 billion in 2024, up 6.3% year-on-year. In the first four months of 2025 alone, bilateral trade soared by 11.2% to nearly US\$6.88 billion. Thailand ranks 9th among 150 countries and territories investing in Vietnam, with 767 projects and total registered capital exceeding US\$14.85 billion. These figures reflect not only dynamic cooperation but also strong trust and close ties between the two countries.

DIPLOMACY

China's Xi Jinping urges countries to 'stand united' in face of global trade war. The Chinese leader's call for unity was heard by representatives of more than 30 Latin American and Caribbean nations in Beijing.

China's Defense Minister Dong Jun visited France. holding talks with French Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu to strengthen military ties. This visit, the first by a Chinese defense minister to a major Western country in years. Both sides discussed regional security, with experts noting Europe's strategic shift towards greater autonomy, as evidenced by France and the UK's increasing military engagements with China.

China will propose new peacekeeping commitments and support reforms in the UN's peacekeeping efforts, according to Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun. In a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Dong reaffirmed China's strong support for UN peacekeeping operations, highlighting the country's role as a constructive force in these initiatives.

Trump urged Apple to halt iPhone production expansion in India and focus on U.S. manufacturing, citing high Indian tariffs and trade tensions. Despite this, Apple continues scaling up in India to diversify from China and support global demand.

President Trump's mediation offer on Kashmir. amid recent India-Pakistan clashes, sparked criticism in India, which opposes third-party involvement. Pakistan welcomed the move, while Delhi, focused on counterterrorism and sovereignty, remained firm on bilateral resolution. The situation highlights India's challenge of balancing domestic sensitivities with strategic U.S. ties.

Prabowo highlights Indonesia's commitment to upholding world order. President Prabowo emphasized multilateralism and global peace at the PUIC summit, reiterating support for international norms.

Prabowo highlights PUIC's relevance amid global challenges. Speaking at the 19th PUIC session, Prabowo called for greater unity among Muslim nations to face political and economic crises.

Prabowo reaffirms unwavering support for Palestine cause. The Indonesian President restated the country's firm backing for Palestine and rejected any relocation plans for Gaza's population.

Indonesia urges OIC to reject Gaza relocation proposals. Indonesia formally called on the OIC to oppose suggestions of relocating Gaza residents, aligning with broader Muslim world concerns.

OIC inter-parliamentary meet opens with discussion on Gaza. Gaza conflict and humanitarian response topped the agenda at the OIC parliamentary session hosted by Indonesia.

Indonesia ready to lead dialogue and cooperation at 19th PUIC. Indonesia positioned itself to spearhead interfaith and geopolitical discussions at the PUIC meeting in Jakarta.

Indonesia-Norway agree to support UN system reform. Indonesia and Norway jointly endorsed initiatives for enhancing efficiency and inclusivity in the United Nations system.

Indonesia introduces higher education cooperation with Mongolia. A new agreement aims to deepen university partnerships and academic exchange between Indonesia and Mongolia.

Indonesia-Saudi Arabia collaborate to advance higher education. Jakarta and Riyadh signed deals to enhance academic ties and mutual recognition of educational qualifications.

Indonesia recommends Apostille Convention membership to Malaysia. Indonesia encouraged Malaysia to join the Apostille Convention to streamline cross-border legal document authentication.

Indonesia-France prepare for President Macron's Jakarta visit. Bilateral talks are underway to facilitate French President Emmanuel Macron's upcoming official visit to Indonesia.

Indonesia-Australia destined to help each other: Prabowo. President Prabowo expressed optimism about future bilateral cooperation with Australia during talks with PM Albanese.

Albanese's visit reaffirms Indonesia-Australia ties: Prabowo. The Indonesian President welcomed Australia's commitment to strengthening relations across security, economy, and education.

Indonesia highlights interfaith dialogue with Vatican under Pope. Indonesia praised the Vatican's efforts on interfaith cooperation, reaffirming its commitment to religious tolerance.

Prabowo congratulates Pope Leo XIV, backs peace message. Indonesia's President extended greetings to the newly elected Pope and supported his call for global harmony and dialogue.

Indonesia-Argentina explore reciprocal agricultural exports. Both countries are discussing trade mechanisms to boost food security and reduce reliance on third-country intermediaries.

Indonesia-ASEAN synergy key to safer medical access: Minister. Indonesia emphasized ASEAN-Japan collaboration to improve regional medical supply chains and emergency healthcare response.

Indonesia affirms environmental commitment at PUIC session. Jakarta highlighted its green agenda and environmental diplomacy during the PUIC, calling for sustainable development focus.

Indonesia invests in early childhood development. The government has increased investment in pre-school education to ensure equitable development and future productivity.

Anwar says raised MH17 downing with Putin in Moscow. Malaysian PM Anwar disclosed that he raised the 2014 MH17 incident with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a bilateral visit.

Prabowo makes surprise visit to PM Albanese ahead of bilateral talks. Indonesian President Prabowo paid an unscheduled courtesy call to the Australian PM to set the tone for broader diplomatic discussions.

APEC tackles AI challenges, labor gaps in Jeju. Leaders at APEC addressed regulation of AI technologies and regional labor shortages as part of future-proofing Asia-Pacific economies.

APEC endorses WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement. Ministers backed a WTO initiative to improve investment climates in developing countries, supporting global economic cooperation.

Indonesia mulls using rice surplus for humanitarian missions. The government is considering deploying excess rice stocks for aid missions abroad as part of its humanitarian diplomacy.

Indonesia urges multilateralism, digital transformation at ADB meeting. Indonesia called for stronger multilateral ties and digital advancement during the Asian Development Bank's annual gathering.

Inter-nation peace culture prerequisite for development: DPR. Indonesia's parliament emphasized peace, intercultural respect, and diplomacy as vital pillars for national and global growth.

PM Anwar Slams Unilateralism, Urges Respect for Small Nations. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim criticized unilateral actions by major powers, labeling them as arrogant power plays. He emphasized the need for a rules-based international order that respects the sovereignty of smaller nations.

In Russia, PM Anwar Calls for Global 'Polylogue', Not Cultural Erasure, in Civilisational Dialogue. During his visit to Russia, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim advocated for a global 'polylogue' that fosters mutual respect among civilizations. He warned against cultural erasure and stressed the importance of inclusive dialogue.

PM Meets Russia's Grand Mufti to Strengthen Nations' Islamic Ties. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim met with Russia's Grand Mufti to discuss enhancing Islamic relations between Malaysia and Russia. The meeting focused on promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation.

Putin and Anwar Share Light Moment at the Kremlin. During a meeting at the Kremlin, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim shared a cordial interaction, reflecting the friendly diplomatic relations between Russia and Malaysia.

Malaysia Gets UN Award for Women's Participation in Peacekeeping Missions. Malaysia received a United Nations award recognizing its significant contributions to women's participation in peacekeeping missions. The accolade highlights Malaysia's commitment to gender equality in international peace efforts.

Malaysia Calls for Reforms of UN Peacekeeping Operations. Malaysia has advocated for comprehensive reforms in UN peacekeeping operations to enhance their effectiveness and responsiveness. The call emphasizes the need for improved strategies and resource allocation.

Russia Expects Further Development of Relations with ASEAN, Says Putin. President Vladimir Putin expressed optimism about deepening Russia's relations with ASEAN countries. He highlighted the potential for increased cooperation in various sectors, including trade and security.

Malaysia Strongly Condemns Escalation of Military Operations in Gaza, Says Wisma Putra. The Malaysian government has strongly condemned the intensification of military operations in Gaza. Wisma Putra called for immediate de-escalation and the protection of civilian lives.

PM Anwar Extends East Asia Summit Invitation to Putin. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim extended an invitation to President Vladimir Putin to attend the upcoming East Asia Summit. The invitation aims to foster dialogue and cooperation on regional issues.

Anwar Presents Malaysia's Perspective in Russia, Receives Honorary Doctorate. During his visit to Russia, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim presented Malaysia's viewpoints on global matters and was awarded an honorary doctorate. The recognition underscores the strengthening of bilateral ties.

Malaysia Committed to Protecting Bangladeshi Workers from Exploitation, Says Saifuddin. Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to safeguarding Bangladeshi workers from exploitation. Measures are being implemented to ensure their rights and welfare are protected.

Cybersecurity Awareness Partnership Renewed. A cybersecurity awareness partnership has been renewed to enhance digital security and public awareness. The collaboration focuses on combating cyber threats and promoting safe online practices.

Brunei Welcomes Indonesian President. Brunei extended a warm welcome to the President of Indonesia, highlighting the close diplomatic relations between the two nations. Discussions centered on strengthening bilateral cooperation.

His Majesty Highlights Brunei-Indonesia's Enduring Ties and Shared Aspirations. During a formal address, His Majesty emphasized the longstanding relationship and common goals shared between Brunei and Indonesia. The speech underscored mutual respect and collaboration.

His Majesty Receives in Audience Laos' Outgoing Ambassador. His Majesty held an audience with the outgoing Ambassador of Laos, expressing gratitude for the

ambassador's contributions to bilateral relations and wishing success in future endeavors.

His Majesty Sends Congratulatory Message to Prime Minister of Canada. His Majesty conveyed congratulations to the Prime Minister of Canada on recent achievements, reflecting the friendly ties and mutual respect between Brunei and Canada.

EU and Japan advance tech and digital cooperation. The European Union (EU) and Japan held their third Digital Partnership Council in Tokyo to strengthen technological cooperation. They agreed to expand collaboration in key areas, including artificial intelligence (AI), 5G/6G, semiconductors, high-performance computing, quantum technology, data governance, and cybersecurity.

Japan PM Ishiba Meets with Guinea-Bissau President. Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba met with Guinea-Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embalo on Monday, showing an eagerness to contribute to the stability of the increasingly turbulent West African region.

South Korea's Vice Foreign Minister is visiting Indonesia to discuss bilateral cooperation. First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun will travel to Indonesia this week for talks with his Indonesian counterpart on bilateral cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Kim will depart for Jakarta on Tuesday for the two-day trip, during which he plans to address key bilateral cooperation issues through high-level diplomacy, including talks with an Indonesian vice minister.

Uzbekistan and South Korea are discussing expanding digital development cooperation. A delegation from Uzbekistan's Ministry of Digital Technologies visited South Korea to explore opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation in digital development. The delegation also explored initiatives aimed at enhancing digital literacy and developing artificial intelligence competencies for 60 public servants in Uzbekistan.

Iran and Japan are committed to expanding relations and addressing global challenges. Iran and Japan have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral ties across various fields, including economic cooperation and regional discussions.

The remarks were made during a meeting between Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Japan's visiting Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroyuki Namazu in Tehran.

Japan to recognize Taiwan as place of origin in family registration system.

Starting May 26, individuals from Taiwan will be allowed to list "Taiwan," rather than "China," as their place of origin in Japan's family registration system. China, which regards Taiwan as an integral part of its territory, has protested the revision. By contrast, residents of Taiwanese descent in Japan and their support groups have welcomed the change.

China slams Japan's 'irresponsible' remarks over China-Russia WWII statement.

China slammed the "irresponsible" remarks made by Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi over a joint statement made by China and Russia on World War II, saying that the statement is the just call from Beijing and Moscow to uphold the truth of history and defend world peace.

Bangladesh, Japan to hold 6th FOC in Tokyo. Bangladesh and Japan will hold their sixth Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) in Tokyo on Thursday (15 May) to bolster bilateral relations and strategic partnership ahead of Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus's upcoming official visit to Japan.

Japan-Israel Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Gideon SA'AR, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, who is visiting Japan on the occasion of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

US State Department bans use of US passports for travel to North Korea for the 9th year.

The US State Department has extended its ban on the use of US passports to travel to North Korea for the ninth consecutive year, citing ongoing concerns over the safety of US nationals in the country.

Pakistan, Japan ink agreement for installation of smart water meters.

Pakistan and Japan have signed agreement for installation of smart water meters. The

government of Japan has approved an amount of JPY 510 million (US\$ 3.50 million) for the said grant through JICA under the Japanese Economic and Social Development Program.

Japan lodges protest against China for 'unilateral development' in East China Sea. Japan lodged a protest Wednesday against China for a "unilateral development" in the East China Sea. Tokyo confirmed that Beijing started to build a new structure "on the west side of the geographical equidistance line between Japan and China in the East China Sea."

EU and Japan Formalize Quantum Collaboration with Letter of Intent and Joint Research Initiative. The EU and Japan signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen cooperation in quantum science and technology, aligning with broader goals under the EU-Japan Digital Partnership. The agreement establishes joint funding mechanisms (Horizon Europe and Japan's SIP) and supports reciprocal participation in quantum research initiatives.

Oman, Japan sign deal to tackle environmental issues. Oman's Environment Authority and Japan's Ministry of the Environment have signed a bilateral agreement aimed at enhancing cooperation on environmental issues and advancing sustainable development.

China confirms Japanese citizen has been jailed for spying in Shanghai. China confirmed on Wednesday that it had imprisoned a Japanese national in Shanghai for spying. The Japanese man in his 50s had been sentenced to 12 years on espionage charges.

South Korean Vice FM to visit Indonesia this week to discuss bilateral cooperation. First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun will travel to Indonesia this week for talks with his Indonesian counterpart on bilateral cooperation.

Malaysia, Japan seal \$310M in green bio-economy. Malaysia and Japan have marked a new milestone in green bio-economy cooperation with the signing of three strategic agreements worth MYR 1.34 billion (\$310 million) at Expo 2025 Osaka.

South Korea, Japan to pilot immigration fast lanes in June. South Korea and Japan will launch a one-month pilot program in early June to introduce express immigration lanes for Korean and Japanese nationals at airports in both countries, aiming to improve visitor convenience.

Dhaka, Tokyo outline areas of cooperation ahead of CA's visit. Bangladesh and Japan yesterday outlined future areas of cooperation between the two countries, ahead of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' upcoming visit to Japan. Japan said it would strengthen its engagement with Bangladesh under the Bay of Bengal Initiative (Big-B).

Latvian trade mission bound for Japan next week. On May 19th, Latvia's largest and most significant ever trade mission to Japan will depart, led by President Edgars Rinkēvičs and Minister of Economy Viktors Valainis. They will be joined by a 90-person business delegation.

Japan-Chile Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Mr. IWAYA Takeru, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Alberto Leo VAN KLAVEREN STROK, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile, who was paying a visit to Japan.

Singapore-Malaysia Industry Showcase Celebrates 60 Years of Economic Partnership. Singapore and Malaysia are celebrating 60 years of diplomatic relations with a renewed push to deepen their economic cooperation. Business leaders, government officials, and industrial park developers gathered for a major showcase event supported by Maybank Singapore and organized by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), highlighting new growth opportunities and joint investment ventures across Malaysia.

Thai Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam will lift bilateral ties to new heights. The upcoming official visit to Vietnam by Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from May 15 to 16 will be the first by a Thai government leader in 11 years, since PM Prayut Chan-o-cha's visit in 2014, Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Pham Viet Hung said in a recent interview with the Vietnam News Agency's resident reporters in Bangkok.

Thai Prime Minister begins official visit to Việt Nam. Prime Minister of Thailand Paetongtarn Shinawatra arrived in Hà Nội on Thursday, beginning her two-day official visit to Việt Nam at the invitation of Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính.