



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

India's military has officially confirmed the loss its fighter jets during the May clashes with Pakistan, marking the first official acknowledgment of air losses in the ongoing conflict.

India's aggressive military posture after Operation Sindoor has resulted in severe economic and strategic costs, exposing military weaknesses and harming socio-economic priorities. Despite soaring defence spending, the Indian public bears the burden amid rising taxes, economic disruptions, and diverted resources from poverty alleviation.

Pakistan has launched a Maritime Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) to boost its blue economy and tackle climate risks in coastal areas. The chamber will promote sustainable practices, support green technologies, and unite maritime stakeholders to enhance economic resilience and regional trade connectivity.

Afghanistan will upgrade its diplomatic mission in Pakistan by appointing an ambassador, following Pakistan's decision to do the same in Kabul. The move aims to strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation in trade, security, counterterrorism, and the economy, signaling a positive shift in relations.

Following its recent conflict with India, Pakistan is considering acquiring China's HQ-19 missile defense system and 40 J-35A stealth fighters to bolster its air defense. The HQ-19, capable of intercepting ballistic and cruise missiles, aims to address vulnerabilities exposed by precise Indian airstrikes, which highlighted gaps in Pakistan's existing HQ-9 and HQ-16 defense coverage.

Pakistan sent delegations to major capitals to highlight its position after recent conflict with India, stressing restraint and urging peaceful resolution of Kashmir. They condemned India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and

accused India of aggression and supporting terrorism. Pakistan called on the international community to promote dialogue and regional stability.

The Asian Development Bank approved an \$800 million financial package to help Pakistan improve its economy through tax reforms and fiscal discipline. Pakistan's GDP growth is expected to be 2.5% in 2025 and rise to 3% in 2026.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador Jiang pledged to fast-track CPEC projects, including highway and railway upgrades, Gwadar Port's power connection, and cooperation in agriculture, education, and industry, ahead of the July 2025 joint meeting.

The IMF approved Pakistan's request to raise the defence budget and reduce income taxes for salaried individuals, increasing the tax-free income limit and lowering tax rates. Pakistan assured it will meet other IMF economic targets and reforms.

Chinese scholar Victor Gao warned India not to restrict Pakistan's water flow, saying China would respond firmly as an upstream ally. He emphasized respect for the Indus Waters Treaty and warned that violating it would breach international law. Gao reaffirmed China's strong support for Pakistan and hinted at possible retaliation using the Brahmaputra River if India disrupts water supplies.

China will begin delivering FC-31 stealth fighter jets to Pakistan within months, with PAF pilots already training in China. Equipped with long-range PL-17 missiles, the FC-31 marks a major post-conflict upgrade for Pakistan's air force, though exact deal terms and aircraft numbers remain undisclosed.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari urged India and Pakistan to cooperate on intelligence sharing between ISI and RAW to reduce terrorism and enhance regional stability significantly. He called for sustained dialogue, a joint platform for counterterrorism, and warned against escalatory moves like suspending the Indus

Waters Treaty, emphasizing the need for international engagement to maintain peace.

Transparency International Pakistan has released a comprehensive report, The Civil Society Governance Diagnostic Assessment for Pakistan, outlining 54 critical governance reform recommendations to bolster economic growth. The report focuses on fiscal governance, financial regulation, and rule of law, emphasizing their role in addressing Pakistan's economic challenges amid a 37-month, US\$7 billion IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

China reiterated its push for Asia-Pacific maritime security at the Shangri-La Dialogue, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and shared development.

China condemned U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's remarks, labeling them a threat and accusing him of promoting division and a Cold War mindset. Beijing warned the U.S. against escalating tensions in the Indo-Pacific, especially over Taiwan and the South China Sea.

China has introduced new rules to safeguard its military-industrial facilities from espionage and sabotage, designating key defence research and production sites as "protected areas." The regulation, effective from September 15, underscores Beijing's focus on securing its defence infrastructure amid rising geopolitical tensions.

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Australia and India push for stronger Indo-Pacific defence ties post-Operation Sindoor at the Shangri-La Dialogue. Both military leaders exchanged views on the evolving regional security architecture, with a strong focus on enhancing maritime cooperation.

China intensified military pressure on Taiwan in May with up to 70 ships and 75 aircraft conducting operations, seen as provocative by Taipei and the U.S. These moves coincided with President Lai's speech and aimed to assert control over key regional waters. Meanwhile, the U.S. revealed an expanding military training presence in Taiwan amid delays in arms deliveries.

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Russia has confirmed it will complete delivery of the remaining two S-400 air defense units to India by 2025–2026, with three already delivered under the \$5.43 billion deal. Moscow also signaled interest in expanding cooperation on air defense and anti-drone systems, citing strong performance of the S-400 and shared strategic interests with India.

China has publicly revealed key specifications of its DF-5 intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time, disclosing a range of 12,000 km, accuracy within 500 meters. Developed in the 1970s and operational since 1981, the DF-5 remains a central component of China's nuclear deterrence strategy.

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India's MRFA program aims to acquire 114 new fighter jets, with Lockheed Martin's F-21, a customized, cost-effective variant of the F-16. The F-21 strikes a balance between affordability, technology transfer, and operational suitability.

Japan rattled by 6.0-magnitude earthquake off Hiroo coast. A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Hiroo, located in Hokkaido's southeastern region, in the early hours of Monday, just a day after a similar tremor jolted the nearby city of Kushiro, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Japan and Philippines agree to strengthen defense cooperation. Defense Minister Gen Nakatani and Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro on Sunday agreed to further strengthen cooperation between Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and the Philippine military amid China's intensified military activities in the East and South China seas.

Japan, U.S. Agree to Deepen Cyber Cooperation. Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the cyber field.

U.S. President Trump promotes new F-47 sixth generation fighter jet to Japan. on May 27, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump held a phone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba during which he personally promoted the F-47, Boeing's newly announced sixth-generation fighter jet.

US, Australia and Japan commit to deepening strategic partnership. Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles, Japan's Minister of Defence Nakatani Gen, and US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth convened at the 15th Trilateral Defence Ministerial Meeting in Singapore.

Singapore, Japan defence ministers discuss strengthening cooperation. Japan's Minister of Defense Nakatani Gen called on his Singapore counterpart Chan Chun Sing on Saturday morning (May 31) at the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Australia, Japan mull intel-sharing pact with PH. To establish a common operating picture in the South China Sea and Indo-Pacific region, Australia and Japan are considering to develop a military intelligence-sharing agreement with the Philippines.

Flood of North Korean arms to Russia, say US, Japan and others. North Korea has supplied to Russia as many as nine million rounds of artillery and rocket launcher ammunition, as well as at least 100 ballistic missiles along with self-propelled artillery guns and long-range multiple rocket launchers, according to the Multilateral Sanctions Monitoring Team, a group comprising 11 UN members.

South Korea eyes expanded arms deals with Philippines. South Korea is looking to expand its defense footprint in the Philippines as part of its goal to be the fourth largest global arms exporter by 2027. Korean defense firms showcased their latest innovations on maritime security at the International Maritime Defense Exhibition (Madex) 2025 from May 28 to 31 in Busan, a large port city some 300 kilometers south of Seoul.

South Korea Unveils Its Own Naval Kamikaze Drone With Guided Missiles, Inspired by Ukraine. At MADEX 2025, Korean LIG Nex1 showcased a new generation of powerful sea drones, including a kamikaze drone with infrared-guided missiles and a 3D-printed body inspired by Ukraine's innovative naval warfare.

China's navy conducts combat patrols near disputed South China Sea shoal. China's navy has conducted "combat readiness patrols" near the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, while South Korean officials separately announced the discovery of more Chinese buoys in contested waters in the Yellow Sea.

Hegseth unveils project enabling Korea, other allies to repair P-8 maritime aircraft in Indo-Pacific. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday announced a set of defense cooperation projects, including one that will enable South Korea to repair P-8 maritime patrol aircraft in the Indo-Pacific rather than relying on a repair destination in the U.S. mainland.

EU approves fighter jet joint venture between Japan, U.K. and Italy. The European Commission said Monday that it has approved a plan for Japanese, British and Italian firms to create a joint venture to oversee the joint development of a next-generation fighter jet.

JMU unveils concept designs for Japan's DDGX future destroyers. Japan Marine United (JMU) showed for the first time conceptual designs for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's future destroyers – DDGX and DDX – during the DSEI Japan defense exhibition.

Philippines eyes expanded defense ties with Japan, Ukraine, Netherlands. The Philippines Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. held bilateral meetings with defense officials of the three nations on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

Japan to develop new cybersecurity strategy and measures. The Japanese government is preparing to develop a new cybersecurity strategy within the year, aiming to address growing digital threats targeting both public institutions and private enterprises.

North Korea appears to jam GPS signals near sea border ahead of ROK election. North Korea likely jammed signals near the inter-Korean maritime border last week, in a new wave of interference just ahead of the upcoming presidential vote that could endanger ships and aircrafts.

North Korea Revised its Space Law to Permit Military Use. North Korea revised its Space Development Law in 2022 to allow for use of space for national defense purposes. Specifically, it removed sentences that previously committed to only peaceful uses of space and opposed the militarization of space.

North Korea Says Military Ties With Russia to Ensure 'Peace'. North Korea on Monday defended its military cooperation with Russia, saying ties were aimed at “ensuring peace and stability” in Europe and Asia. The two countries have strengthened military cooperation in recent years, with Pyongyang supplying arms and troops to support Moscow's war against Ukraine.

Russia equips North Korea with advanced Pantsir-S1 air defense system. Russia has officially transferred at least one Pantsir-S1 air defense system to North Korea, according to UN sources.

South Korean military seeks US surveillance support after fatal navy aircraft crash. South Korea's military has entered discussions with the United States to receive surveillance assistance, following the grounding of around a dozen naval patrol aircraft after a deadly crash last week.

Golden Dome missile shield: Trump seeks Japanese cooperation, says report. U.S. President Donald Trump has spoken with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba about working together on his proposed Golden Dome missile defence system, according to a report by Nikkei. The two leaders held the discussion during a phone call earlier this month.

Japanese defence minister calls for enhancing multinational security cooperation at Asia Security Summit in Singapore. Defense Minister Gen Nakatani called for stronger relations with like-minded countries, including the United States, to increase deterrence against China in conjunction with the Asian Security Summit in Singapore.

Lee calls for 'watertight' military readiness in phone talks with JCS chairman. President Lee Jae-myung on Wednesday called for "watertight" military readiness in his first phone talks with South Korea's military chief, shortly after assuming his role as commander-in-chief.

Russia's security chief arrives in Pyongyang for meeting with Kim Jong-un: Report. Russia's Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu arrived in Pyongyang to hold a meeting with leader Kim Jong-un, a Russian news report said.

South Korea's KAI signs \$700 mln aircraft deal with Philippines. South Korean defence company Korea Aerospace Industries, opens new tab said it has signed a deal worth 975.3 billion won (\$712.83 million) with the Philippine defence ministry to supply 12 aircraft. KAI will export 12 of its FA-50 fighter jets by 2030.

Japan considers buying more F-35 stealth fighters from US over fears of future jet delays. According to information published by the International Press Agency Reuters, Japan is reportedly considering the acquisition of additional F-35 stealth

fighters from the United States due to growing concerns about the timeline of the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP).

Japan Exhibits Design for Kongō, Murasame Destroyer Replacements. Japan Marine United (JMU) has showcased the early-stage design of next-generation destroyers for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force at a convention in Chiba.

Japanese HVGP Ballistic Missile Revealed as Key to Long-Range Precision Strike at Fuji Firepower 2025. On June 8, 2025, the annual Fuji Comprehensive Firepower Exercise will serve as a significant display of Japan's emerging defense technologies. This year's edition will include the first public demonstration of the Hyper-Velocity Gliding Projectile (HVGP), a next-generation hypersonic missile system, as well as the debut of the new Type 24 armored vehicle.

Philippines signs deal to acquire 12 FA-50s from South Korea. The Philippines is acquiring 12 more FA-50 fighter jets from South Korea as part of a \$700-million deal reportedly signed on Tuesday. Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., who is in Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue, has yet to confirm the deal meant to boost the capabilities of the Philippine Air Force.

South Korea Concerned By China's New No-Sail Zones. The Lianyungang branch of China's Maritime Safety Administration announced no-sail zones in three designated areas of the West Sea, banning all ships from entering the port with navigational warnings due to "military training" purposes. With this established zone, South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has raised concerns over the possibility of Beijing's attempt to "militarize" the Yellow Sea, located between China and the Republic of Korea.

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Vietnam and Singapore boost defence cooperation. Vietnam's Defence Minister Phan Van Giang and Singapore's Minister for Defence and Coordinating Minister for Public Services, Chan Chun Sing agreed to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries, during their meeting in Singapore on May 31. Meeting each other on the sidelines of the 22nd Shangri-La Dialogue, Giang emphasised that the upgrade of Vietnam - Singapore relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in March 2025 marks a new chapter in bilateral ties. Defence and security cooperation will advance in a more substantial, effective, and vigorous manner, serving as one of the key pillars of bilateral relations.

Korea Aerospace Industries secures 1 trillion won contract to export FA-50 jets to Philippines. According to the defense industry, KAI signed a contract to supply 12 FA-50s to the Ministry of National Defense of the Philippines on the 2nd. The contract scale is \$700 million (approximately 1 trillion won).

Vietnam-Cambodia defence ties grow stronger with substantive results. General Vong Pisen, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, on June 3 hosted an official welcome ceremony for General Nguyen Tan Cuong, who is also a member of the Party Central Committee and the Standing Member of the Central Military Commission, along with a high-level Vietnamese military delegation visiting Cambodia from June 3 to 6.

During their talks following the ceremony, General Vong Pisen underscored that the official visit by General Nguyen Tan Cuong and the Vietnamese delegation serves as a vivid testament to the close friendship and defence cooperation between the two

countries' armed forces. He stressed that this relationship makes considerable contributions to reinforcing the traditional friendship between the two nations.

Lockheed Martin proposes collaboration to boost Philippine defense and talent.

Lockheed Martin has outlined robust industrial collaboration projects for the Philippines, aimed at strengthening its Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept while investing in Filipino talent, technical training, and local industry partnerships. As part of the F-16 Block 70 package, Lockheed Martin will support the country's Self-Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) by training Filipino technicians, enabling in-country maintenance, and building long-term pathways for aerospace careers through partnerships with universities and industry.

VN, US sign pact to bolster response to chemical, biological, nuclear threats.

Vietnam's National Action Center for Toxic Chemicals and Environmental Treatment (NACCET) and the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)'s On-Site Inspection and Building Capacity Directorate signed an administrative agreement in Hanoi on June 3 to bolster Vietnam's capacity to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

Japan diet OK'd defense pact with PH —envoy. Japan's Diet on Friday ratified a key defense pact allowing the deployment of Japanese forces for joint drills with Filipino troops in the Philippines, Manila's top envoy to Tokyo said. "We welcome today's approval of the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) between the Philippines and Japan by the House of Councillors, which completes the approval process in the Japanese Diet," Philippine Ambassador Mylene Garcia-Albano said in a statement sent to GMA News Online.

Semiconductor software firm Synopsys has halted sales and services in China

following new U.S. export restrictions effective May 29, 2025. The move comes after the U.S. revoked licences for certain tech exports, prompting Synopsys to block orders and pause forecasts while awaiting clarification.

The IMF places India's 2024 GDP at \$3.91 trillion. Japan's 2024 GDP is \$4.03 trillion. India is yet to overtake Japan to be the fourth-largest economy. The claim made is premature.

Trump's strategy of using export controls to pressure China into trade negotiations is unlikely to succeed, according to analysts. Despite new U.S. tech restrictions, Beijing firmly rejected accusations of non-compliance with the recent Geneva trade agreement, accusing Washington of escalating tensions unilaterally.

Japanese brokerage Nomura projects India's GDP growth to decelerate to 6.2% in FY26, down from 6.5% in FY25, indicating a mild economic slowdown. This forecast aligns with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) projection of 6.2% for FY26, citing increased trade tensions and global uncertainty as contributing factors.

Amid tariff war, China appears unfazed, but its economy could be vulnerable; high debt and high deficit loom large China's economy seems to have ostensibly shaken off the doomsday predictions stemming from the ongoing trade war with the United States

4 banks to get relief as Japan moves to partially lift sanctions on Syria. At least four banks will get relief from Tokyo as Japan on Friday decided to partially lift sanctions on Syria, NHK News reported. In the first stage of Japan lifting sanctions, at least four banks will be removed from the list of targets whose assets are frozen.

Iranian, Japanese private sector officials discuss boosting economic ties. Makhmoud Najafi-Arab, Head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) met with Maekawa Nobutaka, Executive Vice President of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), to explore avenues for strengthening trade and economic relations between Iran and Japan, with a focus on the private sector.

Cambodia-Japan Economic Co-Creation Package unveiled. Japan and Cambodia recently agreed to further work toward maintaining and strengthening an

international order based on the rule of law and a multilateral free trade system, and announced the ‘Cambodia-Japan Economic Co-Creation Package’, according to a joint statement issued by the two countries.

Japan, Bangladesh to sign Economic Partnership Agreement ‘this year’. Japan and Bangladesh have announced plans to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) within the next few months to deepen their economic and trade ties.

Japan to raise foreign direct investment target. Japan is set to raise its 2030 foreign direct investment target by 20% and push the figure as high as 150 trillion yen (\$1.05 trillion) by the middle of the decade.

Japan to promote domestic ownership of JGBs, draft of policy roadmap shows. Japan should promote the domestic ownership of government bonds to avoid further rises in long-term interest rates caused by supply-demand imbalances, according to a draft of the government’s policy roadmap.

Japan sets \$7.8bn seafood export target by 2030, adds oysters to priority list. The Japanese government has revised its national strategy for boosting exports of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products, setting a new seafood export target of JPY 1.1 trillion (\$7.8 billion) by 2030, up sharply from JPY 360.9bn in 2024.

Korean rice exports to Japan to hit 830 tons. South Korean rice exports to Japan are gaining momentum, with total shipments expected to hit 830 tons in 2025 as a supply shortage continues to drive up demand across Japan.

OECD revises down South Korea’s 2025 growth outlook to 1 pc. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has downgraded its forecast for South Korea's economic growth in 2025 by 0.5 percentage point from its previous estimate to 1 percent, citing mounting uncertainties at home and abroad.

UAE, Japan to complete negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement before end of 2025. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, affirmed that negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic

Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the UAE and Japan will be completed before the end of 2025.

China's top diplomat meets Japanese trade association president. China's top diplomat Wang Yi met with Yohei Kono, president of the Japanese Association for the Promotion of International Trade (JAPIT), on Wednesday in Beijing.

China's rare-earth export curbs halt output of Suzuki Swifts in Japan. Japan's Suzuki Motor has halted production of its compact Swift car in Japan due to a parts shortage caused by China's restrictions on rare-earth exports.

Japan to propose cooperation on rare earth elements in US tariff talks: Report. Japan plans to offer the US a cooperation package focused on rare earth elements and liquefied natural gas (LNG) during ongoing tariff talks, aiming to strengthen supply chains affected by rising tensions between Washington and Beijing.

Ukraine, Japan sign agreement to receive \$3B from frozen Russian assets. Ukraine and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed an agreement required to receive \$3 billion under the Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) loans initiative.

US wants \$7.7M in crypto laundered in North Korea IT worker plot. The US Department of Justice has moved to seize \$7.74 million in crypto allegedly earned by North Korean IT workers using fake identities and working at blockchain firms as remote contractors.

South Korea's economy shrinks 0.2 pc in Q1. The South Korean economy contracted 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, unchanged from an earlier estimate, central bank data showed Thursday, due mainly to a domestic political crisis and uncertainties stemming from U.S. President Donald Trump's administration's aggressive tariff scheme.

U.S. keeps S. Korea on its 'monitoring list' for FX policy. The United States has kept South Korea on its list of countries to monitor for their foreign exchange

policies, a Treasury Department report showed Thursday, as currency policy has been a topic in trade talks between Seoul and Washington.

Philippines eyes India, Thailand rice to cut Vietnam reliance. The Philippines, the world's top rice importer, plans to look beyond its dominant supplier, Vietnam, to ensure steady supplies and competitive prices at home. The agriculture department is in talks with private importers on purchases from producers such as India, Pakistan, Cambodia and Myanmar, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said on Friday (May 30). There may also be a "deal" with Indonesia and Thailand, he added.

Vietnam considers Japan trusted partner in new era: Deputy PM. Vietnam considers Japan a trusted partner in the new era of development, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Chi Dung told Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in their meeting in Tokyo on May 30. Deputy PM Dung, who is in Tokyo for the 30th Nikkei Forum "Future of Asia", expressed satisfaction with the robust and substantive development of the Vietnam - Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, built on strong political trust.

Vietnam, Japan see 'strong collaboration prospects in developing green, eco-friendly products'. Vietnam and Japan have vast potential for cooperation in the development of green and environmentally friendly products, said general secretary of the ASEAN-Japan Center (AJC) Kunihiro Hirabayashi. Hirabayashi made the remark at the Vietnam-Japan Economic Cooperation and Trade Conference, organized by the Trade Promotion Agency of Vietnam, the Vietnam Trade Office in Japan under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the ASEAN-Japan Center, in Tokyo last Friday. The event brought together policymakers and business leaders to discuss expanding economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Singapore businesses confident in dynamism of PH economy - PM Wong. Singapore businesses have expressed interest in investing more in the Philippines, Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said in a bilateral meeting with President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday. "On the business side,

I'm glad to see the links growing year by year. Singapore businesses are confident in the dynamism and potential of the Philippine economy, and we are now one of the largest foreign investors in the Philippines," Wong told Marcos at Malacañang Palace.

Indonesia, Singapore strengthen economic ties through strategic dialogue.

Coordinating Economy Minister Airlangga Hartarto met with Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong on the sidelines of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris on Wednesday. The two leaders discussed progress made through the Indonesia-Singapore Six Working Groups (6WG), following a senior official meeting held in Jakarta on May 23. Airlangga highlighted significant developments, particularly in the Batam-Bintan-Karimun (BBK) area, where digital and data center investments are on the rise.

Singapore to strengthen collaboration on sustainability with Philippine.

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced that Singapore will initiate cooperation in new areas, including sustainability and emerging technologies, with the Philippines during his working visit to the country. "First, we agreed on the importance of expanding our collaboration in renewable energy, both bilaterally and in the region," Wong said. The Prime Minister noted Singapore companies are interested in renewable energy projects in the Philippines, including solar and wind projects.

Vietnam, US sign additional agricultural trade deals worth over \$600 mln.

The agreements were inked during a Vietnam-Ohio business forum held on occasion of the working visit by a Ministry of Agriculture and Environment delegation led by Minister Do Duc Duy to Columbus, the capital and the largest city of Ohio.

The Philippines is open to new diplomatic arrangements with China

to ease tensions in the South China Sea. Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said that any deal must respect Philippine sovereignty and sovereign rights.

China took a low-key approach at the Shangri-La Dialogue,

skipping bilateral talks and sending military academics instead of its defence minister. The absence of

Defence Minister Dong Jun and a cancelled plenary session disappointed countries seeking engagement amid growing regional concerns over China's military rise.

President Trump and China's Xi Jinping may speak soon on trade, though no date is set. Talks follow a 90-day Geneva agreement. U.S. officials accuse China of slow progress, while daily negotiations continue.

The conclusion of CAFTA 3.0 negotiations highlights China and ASEAN's strong commitment to multilateralism and regional integration amid rising global protectionism. Experts view this upgraded trade pact as both economically and politically significant, positioning it as a strategic counterweight to unilateral trends and a model for the Global South's cooperation and digital growth.

Indian PM Modi was not invited to the upcoming G7 summit in Canada due to strained relations following Canada's accusations of Indian involvement in the 2023 killing of a Sikh separatist on Canadian soil. This marks India's first absence from the summit in six years and reflects growing diplomatic tensions between the two nations.

On June 4, 2025, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles in New Delhi to discuss strengthening defence cooperation, focusing on AI, anti-submarine and anti-drone warfare, cybersecurity, and maritime domain awareness.

China slams Macron for Taiwan remarks, opposes Nato role in Asia-Pacific
China's foreign ministry rejects comparisons between Taiwan and Ukraine and says Nato has no mandate to expand into the Asia-Pacific region

Indonesia is considering buying China's J-10 fighter jets due to their lower cost and advanced features while also reviewing a potential purchase of US-made F-15EX jets. Indonesia is evaluating system compatibility, support, and pricing for the J-10, especially after reports of its use in recent India-Pakistan conflicts.

Lao President, Japan PM pledge stronger links as two nations mark 70-year ties. Visiting President Thongloun Sisoulith and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba have agreed to deepen ties as Laos and Japan this year celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations and 60 years of Japanese volunteer missions to Laos.

Tibetan Leadership Address Tibetans in Japan Ahead of World Parliamentary Convention on Tibet. Sikyong Penpa Tsering, along with Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, Deputy Speaker Dolma Tsering Teykhang, and Parliamentarian Tenzin Phuntsok Doring, who currently in Japan to organise the World Parliamentary Convention on Tibet, addressed the Tibetan community in Tokyo on 1 June 2025.

Vietnam considers Japan trusted partner in new era: Deputy PM. Vietnam considers Japan a trusted partner in the new era of development, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Chi Dung told Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in their meeting in Tokyo.

Finland's President Stubb's visit to Japan strengthens bilateral ties between the two countries. President of the Republic of Finland Alexander Stubb, accompanied by his spouse Suzanne Innes-Stubb, will pay a visit to Japan on 8–12 June 2025. The aim of the visit is to strengthen bilateral relations between Finland and Japan, discuss current security policy issues and global challenges, and promote cooperation between Finnish and Japanese companies.

Kuwait, Japan upgrade bilateral relations to comprehensive partnership. The State of Kuwait and Japan agreed to upgrade their bilateral relations to a "comprehensive strategic partnership," which reflects the depth of the relationship and opens new horizons for cooperation.

The Sixth China-Japan Foreign Ministry Spokespersons' Consultation Held in Beijing. On May 30, 2025, Spokesperson and Director-General of the Department of Press, Communication and Public Diplomacy of the Foreign Ministry Mao Ning held the sixth China-Japan Foreign Ministry Spokespersons' Consultation with Foreign Press Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Kitamura Toshihiro in Beijing.

Pakistan seeks Buddhist tourism boost from Japan. Pakistan is actively promoting its rich Buddhist heritage to Japanese religious leaders, aiming to boost tourism and cultural ties. During a visit to Expo 2025 Osaka, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan met with the 79th Head Priest of Shogoin Monzeki, who also heads the Kyoto Buddhist Association.

Two Japanese nationals were killed in Dalian, China. Two Japanese nationals were killed in China's northeastern city of Dalian last month; it was revealed on Tuesday. According to the Japanese Consulate General in Shenyang, local authorities notified the mission on May 25 that a Chinese national has been taken into custody in connection with the killings.

Chinese Embassy in Japan slams so-called 'Tibetan govt-in-exile' hype over reincarnation. The so-called Tibetan government-in-exile is a thoroughly separatist political organization that violates China's Constitution and laws and is an illegal entity, , a spokesperson from the Chinese Embassy in Japan said in a statement. Recently, Japanese media interviewed members of the "Tibetan government-in-exile," who criticized China's policies in its Xizang Autonomous Region.

India and Japan to foster maritime ties with focus on shipbuilding. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal met with Japan's Vice Minister for International Affairs Terada Yoshimichi in Oslo, Norway, in a major move to strengthen maritime cooperation.

Guatemala president to be in Taiwan Wednesday before heading to Japan. Guatemala President Bernardo Arevalo will arrive in Taiwan on Wednesday on his first trip to the diplomatic ally since taking office in 2024 before traveling to Japan as part of an Asian tour.

Foreign Minister Iwaya confirms support to two-state solution to Palestinian Economy Minister. Japan's Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi met with Mohammed Al-Amour, Minister of National Economy of Palestine, on June 2. Minister Iwaya reaffirmed Japan's consistent support for a two-state solution and its commitment to assisting Palestine in its state-building efforts.

FNC, Japanese Parliament Discuss Bolstering Parliamentary Diplomacy. Dr. Marwan Obaid Al Muhairi, Member of the UAE Federal National Council (FNC), met with Ken Saito, Chief Secretary, Japan-UAE Parliamentary Friendship Association. During the meeting, both sides affirmed the depth of parliamentary cooperation between the UAE Federal National Council and the Japanese Parliament.

N. Korea sets three-point test for S. Korea's next government. Pyongyang is evaluating potential incoming governments using three key criteria: their hostility toward the North, their subservience to the United States, and their openness to peaceful coexistence.

World leaders congratulate Lee Jae-myung, stress importance of ties. The United States and Japan on Wednesday congratulated South Korea's President Lee Jae-myung and stressed the continuity of the trilateral partnership between South Korea, the US and Japan.

Japan PM vows to 'energise' S. Korea cooperation under new leader Lee. Japanese Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru said Wednesday he wanted to "energise" cooperation with South Korea, after new centre-left President Lee Jae-myung took power.

Japan plans to lure US researchers amid Trump crackdown. Japan will step up efforts to court researchers from the United States amid concerns about the U.S. government's shifting policies on academic work, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said.

Palestinian Minister urges Japan for state recognition. Palestinian Economy Minister Mohammed Al-Amour urged Japan to recognise Palestine as a state at a press conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

Japan-Norway Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Espen Barth EIDE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, who is visiting Japan.

South Korea's new president vows to restart talks with North Korea. South Korea's new president Lee Jae-myung has promised to recommence talks with North Korea with the aim of securing peace on the Korean Peninsula.

PM Modi congratulates Lee Jae-myung on being elected South Korean president. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated Lee Jae-myung on his election as president of South Korea.

PM Shehbaz felicitates South Korea's President-Elect Lee Jae-Myung. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended his congratulations to Lee Jae-Myung on securing victory in South Korea's presidential elections. Taking to social media platform X on Wednesday, the prime minister conveyed his best wishes for Lee's upcoming term in office.

President Zardari congratulates South Korea's new president, reaffirms commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. President Asif Ali Zardari has extended his warm congratulations to H.E. Mr. Lee Jae-myung on his election as President of the Republic of Korea.

Japan to name China as its biggest strategic challenge. The government, in its upcoming basic economic and fiscal policy guidelines, will position China as the biggest strategic challenge to efforts to strengthen the international order based on the rule of law, sources said Wednesday.

As Japan's birth rate falls to a record low, a 'critical' demographic crisis unfolds. Japan is facing a severe demographic crisis, marked by a historic low in its birth rate alongside a rapidly ageing population. In 2024, the number of babies born in the country fell to 686,061, marking the first time this figure has dropped below 700,000 since record-keeping began in 1899.

UAE President sends letter to Japan's PM delivered by UAE Special Envoy. President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has sent a written letter to Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, focusing on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

China-Japan Ties: Beijing urges Japan to match historical reflection with action. Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has vowed not to repeat the path of war, calling for reflection on history. Ishiba made the remarks on May 29 at the Future of Asia forum in Tokyo. Lin Jian, a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, says China attaches importance to the remarks.

North Korea's leader vows 'unconditional' support for Russia's war in Ukraine. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to "unconditionally" support Russia in all areas, including in its war in Ukraine, state media reported.

North Korea acknowledges South's presidential election for first time. North Korea acknowledged South Korea's 21st presidential election for the first time on Thursday, officially reporting the results through its state-run media.

North Korea slams Macron's 'shocking claptrap' about its ties with Russia. North Korean state media slammed French President Emmanuel Macron on June 5 over "imprudent" comments on Pyongyang's ties with Moscow, calling them "shocking claptrap".

Xi congratulates Lee Jae-myung on election as president of South Korea. Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday extended congratulations to Lee Jae-myung on his election as president of South Korea, stressing that China stands ready to work with South Korea in jointly promoting the continuous development of the China-South Korea strategic cooperative partnership.

UAE, Japan strengthen space industry cooperation. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and Muto Yoji, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, discussed ways to enhance cooperation and explore opportunities to further develop the space industry in both countries..

Nigerian FG engages Japan for ¥15bn loan. The Federal Government has intensified discussions with the Japan International Cooperation Agency to fast-track the implementation of a ¥15bn (about \$110m) emergency loan to improve food security across the country.

Japanese PM Ishiba seeks early summit with South Korea President Lee to boost bilateral ties. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba is seeking an early in-person summit meeting with South Korea's new President Lee Jae-myung, aiming to build a trusting relationship, potentially during an international conference to be held this month.

Philippines 'open' to deal with Beijing to ease South China Sea tension. - The Philippines is considering establishing new diplomatic arrangements with China to ease tensions in the disputed South China Sea, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim Visits Singapore to Reaffirm Strong Bilateral Ties. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, visited Singapore on 31 May 2025, reinforcing the deep and multifaceted partnership between the two close neighbors. His visit came amid growing cooperation and shared aspirations to strengthen bilateral ties in an increasingly complex regional environment.