



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



Volume I, Issue 1 | November 25, 2019



DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW

Volume 1, Issue 1

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW

DPG West Asia Review contains major developments in West Asia of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open source media. To subscribe please [click here](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at sanket@dpg.org.in.

© 2019 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

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

Contents

Bahrain.....	1
Egypt.....	3
Iraq.....	5
Iran.....	7
Israel.....	10
Jordan.....	13
Kuwait.....	14
Lebanon.....	15
Oman.....	16
Qatar.....	17
Saudi Arabia.....	18
Syria.....	20
Turkey.....	22
UAE.....	23
Yemen.....	25

Bahrain

[GCC will never advocate regime change in Iran: Bahrain](#)

November 23, 2019, Anadolu Agency

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries will never advocate a regime change in Iran, the Bahrain foreign minister said Saturday.

[34,000 Indians died in Gulf in five years](#)

November 22, 2019, Times of India

On an average 15 Indian immigrants die every day in six countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and UAE - according to the data of Ministry of External Affairs, 33,988 Indians have died in the Gulf since 2014.

[Pakistan PM Imran Khan to visit Bahrain next month](#)

November 21, 2019, Zawya

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to visit Bahrain next month as part of a three-nation tour. According to Pakistani news channel, Geo News, Mr Khan will arrive in Bahrain on December 16 on a two-day visit, after which he will travel to Switzerland to address a global conference on refugees.

[Bahrain's Gulf Air signs deal for closer ties with SpiceJet](#)

November 22, 2019, Hotelier Middle East

Bahrain's flag carrier Gulf Air and Indian low cost airline SpiceJet has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore greater cooperation between the two airlines

[Middle East entrepreneurs shift focus from Silicon Valley to China, says venture capitalist](#)

November 20, 2019, CNBC

Entrepreneurs in Middle East want to learn best practices from China and are moving away from things that were pioneered in the Silicon Valley, says Ben Harburg, managing partner of Beijing-based MSA Capital.

[China-Bahrain venture fund targets Middle East tech market](#)

November 20, 2019, Reuters

China's MSA Capital and Al Salam Bank-Bahrain SALAM.BH launched a \$50 million venture capital fund on Wednesday, using Bahrain as a hub to invest in sectors such as e-commerce and financial technology in the Middle East.

[Pak-Bahrain military exercise ends](#)

November 18, 2019, Dawn News

A bilateral exercise titled Shaheen Al Jazeera-2019 between Pakistan Navy's Special Service Group and Royal Bahrain Defence Force's Special Operation Force (SOF) concluded here on Sunday (Nov 17).

[Fourth Industrial Revolution Expo and Summit coming to Bahrain in 2020](#)

November 17, 2019, Zawya

Bahrain will be host for the first IR4.0 ME Expo and Summit in 2020. Coined by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the 4IR is an umbrella term used to cover multiple technologies that, taken together, will potentially revolutionise many aspects of our work, life and business.

Egypt

[Egypt signs \\$430-million natural gas deal at investment forum](#)

November 23, 2019, Gulf News

Egypt said on Saturday it had signed several multimillion-dollar energy investment accords including a \$430-million deal for Texas-based Noble Energy to pump natural gas through the East Mediterranean Gas Company's pipeline.

[Egypt hails appointment of Egyptian minister as head of UN office on drugs, crime](#)

November 22, 2019, China.org.cn

Egypt welcomed the appointment of Egyptian Social Solidarity Minister Ghada Waly as the new executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Egyptian foreign ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

[Egypt targets relatives of dissidents living abroad - Human Rights Watch](#)

November 20, 2019, TRT World

An international rights group says Egyptian authorities have arrested, raided houses and imposed travel bans against dozens of relatives of dissidents who live abroad, apparently in reprisal for their activism.

[UK support of Egypt's president could lead to bloodshed, whistleblower Mohamed Ali warns](#)

November 19, 2019, Sky News

The Egyptian whistleblower warns Boris Johnson that his support of the Egyptian leader could spark mass immigration to Europe.

[Egypt to build tunnel 'under Suez Canal'](#)

November 20, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi yesterday announced that his country was building a new tunnel under the country's Suez Canal.

[US may impose sanctions on Egypt over Russian fighter jet deal](#)

November 19, 2019, Al Jazeera America

Washington may impose sanctions on Egypt under a US law which targets purchases of military equipment from Russia.

[Blast in Northern Sinai kills 3 Egyptian troops](#)

November 17, 2019, Arab News

A roadside bomb killed at least three members of the security forces in northern Sinai province,

The explosion hit their armored vehicle Sunday in the town of Sheikh Zuweid. Four other security force members were wounded, including an officer.

[China, Egypt join hands to write new chapter of Suez Canal development](#)

November 18, 2019, Xinhua Net

As Egypt works steadily over the past few years to develop the Suez Canal Corridor to generate new revenues, China has become the largest investor in the development of Egypt's megaproject.

[US, UK, Germany express concern over human rights in Egypt](#)

November 17, 2019, Hartford Courant

Several Western countries say they're concerned about Egypt's widening crackdown on dissent. The U.S., U.K., Germany and other European countries called Wednesday for Cairo to probe accusations of torture and enforced disappearances. Those calls came during Egypt's periodic U.N. human rights review in Geneva.

Iraq

[Mike Pence on surprise visit to Iraq amid deadly protests](#)

November 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

United States Vice President Mike Pence has arrived in Iraq on an unannounced visit to US troops at the al-Asad airbase in Anbar province in the western part of the country rocked by weeks of anti-government protests.

[OPEC's share of Indian oil imports in Oct hits lowest since 2011](#)

November 18, 2019, Nasdaq.com

OPEC's share of India's oil imports fell to 73% in October, its lowest monthly share since at least 2011, tanker data from sources showed, as refiners shipped in fuel from the United States and other suppliers.

[Iraqi spy chief warns ISIS is rebuilding](#)

November 18, 2019, CNN International

Senior members of ISIS are plotting mass prison breaks and a resurgence of terror after taking refuge in Turkey, according to the head of Iraqi Military Intelligence.

[Missile attack hits area near Green Zone, Iraq](#)

November 17, 2019, Anadolu Agency

A missile attack hit an area near the Green Zone in the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Sunday, security sources said. The area close to the government and foreign mission buildings came under the attack of three missiles, according to the sources.

[Deadly Anti-Government Protests Continue in Iraq](#)

November 17, 2019, Voice of America

One Iraqi protester was killed and more than 30 others were wounded Sunday amid renewed clashes on a key bridge in Baghdad. The protesters now have control of three bridges crossing the Tigris River toward the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government.

[As Iraqi protesters call for general strike, oil disruptions loom](#)

November 17, 2019, Iraq Oil Report

Protesters are confronting an unbridgeable gap between their demands and the government's action. Their rising frustration poses increasing risks to the oil sector.

[The Iran Cables: Secret Documents Show How Tehran Wields Power in Iraq](#)

November 17, 2019, The New York Times

Hundreds of leaked intelligence reports shed light on a shadow war for regional influence – and the battles within the Islamic Republic's own spy divisions.

[British government and army accused of covering up war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan](#)

November 17, 2019, The Guardian

The UK government and the British army have been accused of covering up the killing of children in Afghanistan and Iraq. Leaked documents allegedly contain evidence implicating troops in killing children and the torture of civilians.

[ICC could investigate UK war crimes cover-up in Iraq](#)

November 18, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Leaked documents accuse the British government and the army of covering up the killing of children and the torture of civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to a Panorama/Sunday Times investigation.

Iran

[France attacks US 'disengagement', failure to 'respond to provocations' in Middle East](#)

November 23, 2019, RFI

French Defence Minister Florence Parly took aim Saturday at "gradual US disengagement" in the Middle East and said its failure to respond to provocations blamed on Iran set off a dangerous chain of events.

[US general warns Iran likely still plotting major Mideast attack](#)

November 24, 2019, Times of Israel

Iran is unlikely to have been undeterred by increased US troop deployment in the Middle East and remains on track to carry out a large-scale attack in the region, the head of the US military's Central Command said in an interview published Saturday.

[UN nuclear watchdog urges Iran to fully cooperate](#)

November 22, 2019, China.org.cn

The acting chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Thursday that Iran should cooperate fully with the agency. "The agency has detected natural uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at a location in Iran not declared to the Agency," said acting Director General Cornel Feruta in his statement to the Agency's Board of Governors.

[Iran protests: Rouhani claims victory against 'enemy' after crackdown](#)

November 20, 2019, BBC News

Iran's president has claimed victory against an "enemy" plot, following a deadly crackdown by security forces on protests over petrol price rises. Subversive elements backed by the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia were behind the unrest, Hassan Rouhani alleged.

[Iran likely to buy Russian and Chinese arms](#)

November 19, 2019, Al-Monitor

Iran is likely to seek out Russia and China to purchase advanced weapons systems such as tanks and fighter jets when a United Nations arms embargo against the country expires next year, a senior defense intelligence official said today, amid rising tensions in the Middle East.

[UN urges Iran restraint amid reports of high protester death toll](#)

November 19, 2019, The Guardian

The United Nations has urged Iran to end its shutdown of the internet and ensure its security services show restraint after the "clearly very serious" extent of casualties in protests that have swept the country in response to steep petrol price rises.

[Pentagon Report Says Iran's Missile Arsenal Unequaled In Middle East](#)

November 19, 2019, Radio Free Europe

Iran's arsenal of missiles is unmatched in the Middle East, even bigger than Israel's, a U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency report said.

[US ends sanction waivers for Iran's Fordow nuclear plant](#)

November 18, 2019, France 24

The United States announced Monday it would halt sanctions waivers for Iran's Fordow plant, likely ending a key component of a landmark nuclear deal after Tehran said it had resumed enrichment activities.

[Iran Blocks Nearly All Internet Access](#)

November 17, 2019, The New York Times

Iran imposed an almost complete nationwide internet blackout on Sunday one of its most draconian attempts to cut off Iranians from each other and the rest of the world as widespread anti-government unrest roiled the streets of Tehran and other cities for a third day.

[India being bullied by US to not buy oil from Iran: Iranian minister](#)

November 17, 2019, India Today

Iran Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has stated that India is being bullied by the United States. He was saying this in the context of India's decision to stop buying oil from Iran since May this year after US imposed sanctions on Iran.

[Iran's top leader warns 'thugs' as protests reach 100 cities](#)

November 17, 2019, Politico

Iran's supreme leader on Sunday cautiously backed the government's decision to raise gasoline prices by 50% after days of widespread protests, calling those who

attacked public property during demonstrations “thugs” and signaling that a potential crackdown loomed.

[Khamenei: Iran not calling for elimination of Jews, just Israel](#)

November 17, 2019, Israel Hayom

Iran is not calling for the elimination of the Jewish people, but believes people of all religions should decide Israel's future, Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Friday. Since its Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran has refused to recognize Israel and has backed terrorist Palestinian groups.

[Iran uses terrorist groups to target Israel: Mike Pompeo](#)

November 17, 2019, The New Indian Express

The US Secretary of State called for sustained pressure on Iran until it negotiates a comprehensive agreement that includes halting its support to terror groups like PIJ.

[White House condemns Iran for ‘lethal force’ against protesters](#)

November 18, 2019, Times of Israel

The White House on Sunday condemned protest-hit Iran for using “lethal force” against demonstrators during unrest that left two dead — a civilian and a policeman — and saw authorities arrest dozens and restrict internet access.

[Iran to Inaugurate ‘Laser Air Defense System’](#)

November 17, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Iranian Deputy Defense Minister Brigadier General Qassem Taqizadeh said that Iran is working on a project to increase the range and the precision of its cruise missiles. Taqizadeh noted that efforts are underway to manufacture ground-to-ground ballistic missiles with pinpoint accuracy, adding that Iran is now among the world's "top five powers in the missile industry."

Israel

[Israeli PM Netanyahu indicted on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust](#)

November 21, 2019, CNBC

Israel's Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced Thursday that he was indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

[Chinese delegation in Israel talk policy, US-China rift](#)

November 17, 2019, Israel Hayom

The delegation of five Chinese officials representing the Communist Party of China were in the country for the Sino-Israel Global Network and Academic Leadership's (SIGNAL) Annual Policy Conference and high-level policy talks.

[Israeli Firm Vying With Chinese for Highly Sensitive Plant Hit by Cyberattack](#)

November 19, 2019, Haaretz

An Israeli infrastructure company bidding against a Chinese firm to build a desalinization plant was the target of a recent cyberattack, though it is not yet clear what information the attackers sought and how well they succeeded.

[India joins 164 countries to vote in favour of Palestinians' right to self-determination](#)

November 21, 2019, India Today

While India and other 165 nations voted in favour of the resolution titled "The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" at the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, the United States, Israel, Nauru, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands voted against it.

[With Israel's next government unclear, Netanyahu vows to annex Jordan Valley after US policy change](#)

November 20, 2019, Fox News

One day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the U.S. government will ease its stance on Israeli settlements, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to immediately pass a decision to annex the Jordan Valley, which makes up about a quarter of the West Bank, if a unity government is formed.

[Israel attacks Syria military targets after rocket launches](#)

November 20, 2019, Al Jazeera

Israel attacked Iranian and Syrian military targets in Syria on Wednesday in what it said was retaliation for rockets fired towards Israel the day before, military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Avichay Adraee said.

[4 rockets fired at Israel from Syria, shot down by Iron Dome, IDF says](#)

November 19, 2019, Times of Israel

Four rockets were fired at Israel from Syria in the predawn hours of Tuesday morning, the Israel Defense Forces said. All four were shot down by Iron Dome interceptors.

[Pompeo announces reversal of longstanding US policy on Israeli settlements](#)

November 18, 2019, CNN International

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday announced a major reversal of the US' longstanding policy on Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, rejecting a 1978 State Department legal opinion that deemed the settlements "inconsistent with international law."

[Faroe Islands will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital](#)

November 18, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The Faroe Islands will recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Faroese Foreign Minister Jenis av Rana told the Danish-language newspaper Politiken on Thursday that he plans to open a diplomatic office in Jerusalem after the funds are allocated.

[Israel and Hamas against PIJ](#)

November 17, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The recent clash in the Gaza Strip was not like earlier ones there because it was only between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and Hamas was not really involved. This could be a model for the future in which Israel might strike the PIJ while Hamas again stays out of the fight.

[Israel Investigates Possible Intelligence Failure in Airstrike That Killed Palestinian Family Members](#)

November 17, 2019, Wall Street Journal

Israel said it is investigating whether an intelligence failure was behind an airstrike last week that killed eight civilians during an operation targeting militants in the

Gaza Strip, an incident that has inflamed tensions with the Palestinians and drawn international condemnation.

[Trump said 'frustrated' with Netanyahu as deadlock delays peace plan](#)

November 17, 2019, Times of Israel

Senior Israeli officials believe US President Donald Trump is "very disappointed" with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and frustrated that the ongoing political stalemate has significantly delayed the unveiling of Washington's long-awaited Middle East peace plan, according to a report Sunday.

[India considering buying 'armed version' of Israeli drone](#)

November 17, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

India is reportedly considering purchasing 10 Israeli-made drones with missile-launching capabilities, according to a report in the Indian press.

[World's first 'artificial meniscus' implant performed in Israel](#)

November 17, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Israel was the first country in the world to perform a new "artificial meniscus" transplant, which was developed in Israel by Active Implants LLC. The transplant could easily replace previous treatments for people with damaged or torn menisci, such as pain management and physical therapy.

Jordan

[Jordan stresses nothing can change illegitimacy of Israeli settlements](#)

November 19, 2019, Xinhua Net

Jordan on Monday said Israeli settlements in Palestine are illegal and represent a breach of international law and legitimacy resolutions.

[Jordan to launch 2nd package to stimulate economy](#)

November 18, 2019, Xinhua Net

Jordan will launch on Monday the second package plan to stimulate the economy, state-run Petra news agency reported Sunday. The new package will include incentives in several vital sectors to complete the first package to boost economy and investment, alongside a set of managerial and financial reforms.

Kuwait

[Kuwait offers to host Yemen peace talks](#)

November 23, 2019, Gulf News

Kuwait has said it is ready to host Yemen's opposing factions for UN-sponsored talks aimed at reaching a lasting solution to the country's years-long devastating conflict.

[Delegation from China's Xinjiang showcases anti-terrorism work in Kuwait](#)

November 21, 2019, Xinhua Net

A delegation from China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region concluded its two-day visit to Kuwait on Wednesday, where it introduced Xinjiang's achievements in delivering social stability, promoting religious harmony and anti-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts.

[Kuwait emir appoints foreign minister as new PM](#)

November 19, 2019, Gulf News

Kuwait's ruler named Shaikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah as prime minister on Tuesday, elevating him from his role as foreign minister, after a row between ruling family members and parliament in the Gulf state led the last government to resign.

[Kuwait Cabinet Quit Over Corruption Suspicions, Minister Says](#)

November 17, 2019, Bloomberg

Kuwait's government resigned last week to dodge questions over hundreds of millions of dollars missing from a military aid fund, the country's defense minister said, sparking a rare high-profile row over suspected corruption.

[Kuwait Emir assigns Al Mubarak to form new government, he declares inability to accept the task](#)

November 18, 2019, Gulf News

An Emiri order on Monday was issued to assign Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak as the new Kuwaiti Prime Minister and to form a new government.

Lebanon

[Lebanon's protesters shut parliament by blocking lawmakers](#)

November 19, 2019, CNN International

Lebanon's parliament has been postponed after demonstrators blocked roads and prevented politicians from arriving for a first session since protests erupted across the country last month.

[Lebanon's mass anti-corruption protests enter second month, with demonstrators and government in stalemate](#)

November 17, 2019, Newsweek

Mass demonstrations in Lebanon against rampant corruption and economic problems entered their second month this weekend, as protesters and the government appear at a "stalemate." "Never before, since the creation of the Lebanese state in 1943, has the country witnessed such protests that cut across sectarian divisions.

[Hariri and Aoun trade blame as PM candidate's withdrawal plunges Lebanon further into crisis](#)

November 17, 2019, Arab News

Lebanon's outgoing prime minister blasted the party of the country's president on Sunday after the withdrawal of a top candidate to replace him plunged the country into further turmoil.

[Lebanon resembles a sinking ship, parliament speaker says](#)

November 18, 2019, Reuters

Lebanon is like a sinking ship that will go under unless action is taken, Nabih Berri, the speaker of parliament was quoted as saying on Monday, referring to the country's deep economic and political crisis.

[Hezbollah: US Won't Manage to Impose its Own Agenda on Lebanon](#)

November 17, 2019, Al Manar TV

Member of Hezbollah Central Council, Sheikh Nabil Qawouk said Sunday that both the US and Saudi have been seeking sedition in Lebanon by sowing discord and driving people in Lebanon to clash with each other. "Before these interventions, the scene in Lebanon has been more complicated," Sheikh Qawouk said in a memorial ceremony in the southern town of Sawwaneh.

Oman

[China, Oman head for stronger BRI cooperation](#)

November 17, 2019, CGTN

China and Oman have agreed to strengthen their strategic partnership and jointly build the Belt and Road following China's top political adviser Wang Yang's visit to the Gulf country from November 13 to 16.

[Oman marks 49th Glorious National Day](#)

November 17, 2019, Times of Oman

The Sultanate will mark today (on Monday), November 18th, the 49th Glorious National Day, with glory, solid will, great resolution, ambition and gratefulness coupled with love, loyalty and gratitude to the builder of the modern Renaissance of Oman; His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Qatar

[Roar of the Sea: India-Qatar bilateral maritime exercise](#)

November 19, 2019, Dainik Jagran

Roar of the Sea is the first bilateral naval exercise between India and Gulf country Qatar.

[Vodafone Qatar goes live with nation's first 5G roaming service](#)

November 18, 2019, MENAFN

Continuing to pioneer in 5G deployment and commercial availability, Vodafone Qatar is now leading the way as the first telecommunications operator in the country to launch 5G roaming services - starting with the United Kingdom.

[Saudi-Qatar Crisis Nearing End, Suggests a Hopeful U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff](#)

November 17, 2019, Haaretz

U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff David Goldfein said on Saturday he was hopeful a bitter dispute between Gulf Arab states could soon end and urged them to unify military capabilities as tensions with Iran simmer.

Saudi Arabia

[Russia blasts U.S. sending troops to Saudi Arabia](#)

November 19, 2019, Newsweek

Russia has condemned the United States' plan to send troops to Saudi Arabia, a decision likely to be seen as a provocation by rival Iran.

[Saudi Arabian oil firm Aramco hires 25 banks to work on flotation](#)

November 21, 2019, The Guardian

Saudi Aramco has hired a near-record 25 banks to work on its upcoming listing on a single stock market. Companies normally hire between one and three banks for a market debut. But the listing of the world's most profitable company has attracted an army of international banks eager to work on one of the biggest IPOs in history.

[China, Saudi Arabia launch joint naval exercise](#)

November 20, 2019, Reuters

China and Saudi Arabia have begun a three-week joint naval exercise, Chinese state media said on Tuesday evening. The joint exercise at a Saudi Arabian naval base comes as tensions in the Gulf have risen over recent attacks on oil tankers and a major assault on Saudi energy facilities.

[Aramco declares \\$1.71 trillion valuation in IPO](#)

November 18, 2019, Asia Times

Saudi Arabia on Sunday put a value of up to US\$1.71 trillion on energy giant Aramco in what could be the world's biggest IPO, but missed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's initial target of \$2 trillion.

[Saudi Aramco IPO price range set at SAR30-32 per share](#)

November 18, 2019, Constructionweek Online

The world's largest oil producer Saudi Aramco has announced the price range for its upcoming initial public offering (IPO), which has been set at SAR30 to SAR32.

[2 Saudi soldiers killed near Yemen border](#)

November 18, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Two Saudi soldiers were killed near the Kingdom's border with the war-weary Yemen, local media reported on Sunday, Anadolu reports. Saudi Arabia's official news agency SPA said Faris Said al-Gamidi and Bedr Isa es-Silmi were killed when they were on duty at the southern border of Yemen.

Syria

[Showdown looms over Syria chemical weapons probe](#)

November 25, 2019, France 24

Russia and the West are braced for a fresh showdown at the world's chemical weapons watchdog this week over a new team that will name culprits for attacks in Syria for the first time.

[Chinese envoy calls for political solution to Syria issue](#)

November 23, 2019, Xinhua Net

A Chinese envoy on Friday called for adherence to a political solution to the Syria crisis. "Political solution is the only way out for the Syria issue. This is a consensus of the international community," stressed Wu Haitao, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

[Turkey says 200 Syrian refugees returned home](#)

November 21, 2019, Al Jazeera

Turkey's defence ministry announced about 200 Syrian refugees have returned home following Ankara's offensive against Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria.

[Over 29,000 children killed in Syria since 2011](#)

November 21, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Over 29,000 children have been killed since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, according to a report by the UK-based Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR).

[Syria downs Israeli missiles over Damascus: state media](#)

November 20, 2019, Gulf News

Syrian anti-aircraft defences on Wednesday brought down missiles fired from "Israeli warplanes" over the capital Damascus, state media said.

[New Pentagon report says Turkey's Syria incursion is helping ISIS mount a comeback](#)

November 19, 2019, CNN International

Turkey's decision to launch a military operation targeting America's Kurdish partners in northern Syria and the Trump administration's subsequent retreat has allowed ISIS to rebuild itself and boosted its ability to launch attacks abroad, the Pentagon's Inspector General said in a new report.

[Airstrikes kill 9 in rebel-held northwest Syria](#)

November 18, 2019, Egypt Independent

Airstrikes on rebel-held areas in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib killed at least nine people on Sunday, an opposition war monitor and a paramedic group said.

[Russian troops take command of U.S. airbase in northern Syria](#)

November 17, 2019, CBS News

Russian troops have taken command of a U.S. airbase in northern Syria — and without firing a shot. Russian state media showed commandos staging what looked like a military invasion.

[Syria incursion delivers limited boost to Turkey's Erdogan](#)

November 18, 2019, Financial Times

Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan enjoyed strong domestic backing for last month's contentious military incursion into Syria but already that patriotic bounce has begun to fade.

[Assad Warns Washington of 'Iraq-style Scenario'](#)

November 17, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Head of the Syrian regime Bashar al-Assad has warned Washington of repeating the 'Iraq-style scenario' through a 'military resistance' against the US army in the northeast of Syria. Assad told Russian channel Rossiya-24 and Sputnik in an interview Thursday that, "there is no occupying force that can exist in a certain place without having agents on the ground."

[Turkish-Backed Syrian Fighters Seek Control of Major Highway in NE Syria](#)

November 17, 2019, Voice of America

Fighting reportedly intensified between Turkish-backed Syrian fighters and U.S.-backed Kurdish forces Sunday over a major highway and a strategic town in northeastern Syria.

Turkey

[Turkey and Pakistan Conduct Joint Military Exercises off Greece's Castellorizo](#)

November 23, 2019, Greek Reporter

Turkey and Pakistan have been conducting joint military exercises in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in the last few days, off the small Greek archipelago of Castellorizo.

[Turkey hosts international conference on Kashmir](#)

November 21, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Kashmir is not an internal matter of India, speakers gathered at an international conference in the Turkish capital agreed on Wednesday.

[Turkey to look elsewhere if F-35 dispute continues](#)

November 19, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Turkish President Erdogan says he told Trump Turkey would seek other options if disagreement prevailed on F-35 fighter jets

[Turkish top diplomat: Cyprus is Turkey's national cause](#)

November 18, 2019, Anadolu Agency

We will not have negotiations on the Cyprus issue "just for the sake of it," the Turkish foreign minister said on Monday. "On Cyprus, which is a national cause to us, we will not have negotiations just for the sake of it," Mevlut Cavusoglu told the members of Turkish parliament's planning and budget committee.

[Turkey will launch another Syria operation if area not cleared of Kurdish YPG](#)

November 18, 2019, Reuters

Turkey's foreign minister said Ankara would launch a new military operation in northeast Syria if the area was not cleared of what he called terrorists, state-owned Anadolu agency reported on Monday.

[Turkey's Russian-made S-400s on combat duty 'by spring', Moscow confirms](#)

November 17, 2019, Russia Today

Despite many attempts by the US to derail Turkey's plan to acquire the S-400 air defense missile systems, the state-of-the-art weapons will be fully active next year.

UAE

[US defense officials quash rumors of potential F-35 sales to the UAE](#)

November 22, 2019, CNBC

United Arab Emirates – Pentagon and State Department officials threw cold water on any notions of U.S. ally the United Arab Emirates (UAE) potentially getting the Lockheed Martin F-35 this week at the Dubai Air Show, as America's flagship fifth-generation fighter jet made its first appearance at the Middle Eastern expo.

[UAE mourns death of President's brother](#)

November 18, 2019, Middle East Online

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, mourned Monday the death of his brother Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the representative of the UAE President.

[The UAE, a major US weapons buyer, is building its own defense capabilities](#)

November 17, 2019, CNBC

One of the top foreign buyers of American-made weapons – the UAE – is investing in a massive effort to build out its own military capabilities.

[Indian Govt announces visa-on-arrival facility for UAE nationals](#)

November 17, 2019, India Today

The Indian government's move is aimed at enhancing "people-to-people" contacts and trade relations with UAE, said officials from the government.

[UAE, Bangladesh explore ways to benefit both countries](#)

November 18, 2019, Khaleej Times

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, met Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, on the sidelines of the 16th Dubai Airshow, where they discussed ways to bolster friendship and cooperation, to benefit both countries.

[Dubai Air Show opens with paltry sales – only two jets sold amid tough market conditions](#)

November 17, 2019, CNBC

The Middle East's flagship aerospace expo, famous for record-smashing deals, opened with an underwhelming first day Sunday — a possible indicator of the growing challenges facing the global aviation industry.

Yemen

[Yemen's Houthis release seized S. Korean, Saudi vessels: S. Korea Foreign Ministry](#)

November 20, 2019, The Hindu

Three vessels and 16 people, including two South Korean nationals, who had been seized by Yemen's Houthi movement have been released on November 19, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on November 20.

[Yemeni government returns to Aden](#)

November 18, 2019, Gulf News

Yemeni Prime Minister Maeen Abdul Malik and several government ministers on Monday returned to Aden, months after they had left due to instability in the southern city, the temporary seat of the government.

[Yemen's Houthi rebels hijack towboat with apparent Saudi link](#)

November 18, 2019, The Guardian

Yemen's Houthi rebels have hijacked a boat towing a South Korean drilling rig, a Riyadh-led coalition has said, with a global shipping tracker calling it a Saudi-flagged vessel.

[Yemen government delays return; officials blame separatists](#)

November 18, 2019, Al Jazeera

Yemen's internationally recognised government was forced to delay its return to the port city of Aden, officials said on Sunday, blaming southern separatists for stalling on the key point of a power-sharing deal signed early this month to end their infighting.

[Riyadh Agreement divides Yemenis in Sanaa](#)

November 17, 2019, Al-Monitor

When Yemen's internationally recognized government and the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) signed a power-sharing deal — which is known as the Riyadh Agreement — on Nov. 5 to end a power struggle in the south, residents of Sanaa expressed frustration at the agreement.



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org