



Delhi Policy Group

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ABOUT US

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DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW

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Delhi Policy Group

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Contents

Bahrain.....	1
Egypt.....	2
Iraq.....	4
Iran.....	7
Israel.....	12
Jordan.....	16
Kuwait.....	17
Lebanon.....	19
Oman.....	20
Qatar.....	21
Saudi Arabia.....	22
Syria.....	25
Turkey.....	27
UAE.....	29
Yemen.....	31

Bahrain

[Ban on expats from certain jobs backed in Bahrain's parliament](#)

December 4, 2019, Zawya

Bahrain's parliament has voted in favour of banning expats from certain jobs. However, MPs stopped short of listing professions that should be reserved only for Bahrainis – saying that was for the government to decide.

[Pakistan PM to receive Bahrain's highest civilian award](#)

December 8, 2019, Pakistan Today

Prime Minister Imran Khan will receive Bahrain's highest civil award during an upcoming visit to the Gulf state, the Arab News reported on Thursday.

[Bahrain signs contracts with Chinese company for construction of mega housing project](#)

December 8, 2019, Xinhua Net

The Bahraini Ministry of Housing on Sunday signed contracts with the China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) to initiate construction work on the mega project for East Sitra City. The contracts were signed by Basim Bin Yacob Al Hamar, Bahraini minister of Housing, and Fang Yanshui, vice president of CMEC, in Manama.

Egypt

[Egypt Coordinates with Vatican to Counter Extremist Ideology](#)

December 8, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Saturday affirmed Egypt's appreciation for the role of the Vatican in promoting the values of tolerance, mercy and justice, as well as enhancing ties with Cairo. This came in a message handed over by Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, while wrapping up his visit to Vatican City.

[Turkey-GNA maritime deal rings alarms in Egypt](#)

December 8, 2019, The Arab Weekly

Speculation is rife over what Egypt and its allies will do to rein in Turkey's ambitions in the Eastern Mediterranean after Ankara signed a memorandum of understanding with the Libya's Government of National Accord on maritime boundary delimitation.

[Al-Sisi expresses Egypt's support for Iraq's security and stability](#)

December 5, 2019, MENAFN

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi expressed Egypt's full support for security and stability in Iraq, the Iraqi Presidency said on Wednesday.

[Egypt proposes 5-year ceasefire between Hamas and Israel - report](#)

December 4, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Senior officials from the al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing, and the Islamic Jihad, are taking part in Egypt's strategic talks, which included offers of a five-year ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, Palestinian newspaper Al-Quds reported on Wednesday.

[Egypt and Sudan in talks to defuse tensions over Ethiopian dam](#)

December 3, 2019, The Guardian

A new round of high-level talks has started in Cairo between three Nile basin countries aimed at resolving disputes over Ethiopia's controversial Grand Renaissance Dam, which is set to become Africa's biggest hydroelectric power plant.

[Egypt Says GNA, Turkey Agreement Deepens Libyan Crisis](#)

December 04, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Egypt slammed the maritime and security cooperation deal signed between Turkey and Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA), saying it will deepen the crisis and obstruct the political process in Libya.

[Egypt's non-oil private sector shrinks to slowest in over two years: PMI](#)

December 3, 2019, Reuters

Activity in Egypt's non-oil private sector contracted in November for the fourth consecutive month, falling to its lowest since September 2017, a survey showed on Tuesday.

[Egypt says Qatar supported Muslim Brotherhood](#)

December 3, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Egypt has cut ties with Qatar as a result of the Gulf state's "support to terror groups [Muslim Brotherhood]," Egyptian representative at the International Court of Justice said yesterday. "Qatar has been holding a hostile stance against Egypt by supporting terror operation in the Sinai Peninsula," Amgad Abdel Ghaffar pointed out, adding that Doha was "promoting the doctrine of Al-Qaeda and Daesh."

[Top Hamas delegation arrives in Cairo for talks](#)

December 3, 2019, Middle East Monitor

A senior Hamas delegation headed by Chief of the movement's Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh arrived in Cairo yesterday to meet Egyptian intelligence officials. In a statement, Hamas said that its delegation is to discuss the Palestinian elections, internal reconciliation, truce with the Israeli occupation and relations with Islamic Jihad.

Iraq

[Iraq: Prominent activist Fahem Al Tai gunned down in Karbala](#)

December 9, 2019, Gulf News

A prominent civil society activist was shot dead late Sunday in Iraq's shrine city of Karbala while returning home from anti-government protests, a neighbour said. Fahem Al Tai, 53, had been taking part in weeks of rallies denouncing Iraq's entrenched political elite as corrupt, inept and beholden to neighbouring Iran.

[12 protesters killed in Baghdad as cleric warns against 'foreign interference'](#)

December 7, 2019, CNN International

At least 12 demonstrators were killed and 22 others wounded on Friday when gunmen in several vehicles opened fire on a protest site in central Baghdad, medical sources and activists told CNN.

[Pro-Iran militia supporters converge on Baghdad protests](#)

December 5, 2019, The Guardian

More than a dozen people have been stabbed in a Baghdad square that has become the focal point for anti-government and anti-Iran protests after supporters of an Iranian-backed militia flooded the area.

[No Plans to Leave Iraq, US Defense Official Says](#)

December 5, 2019, US Department of Defence Website

The U.S. military presence in Iraq is predicated on permission to be there from the Iraqi government, and U.S. forces will remain so long as the Iraqi government agrees, the undersecretary of defense for policy said.

[Intelligence agencies have tracked Iranian short-range ballistic missiles into Iraq, US official says](#)

December 5, 2019, CNN International

US intelligence agencies and the Pentagon in recent weeks have tracked the movement of a number of Iranian short-range ballistic missiles into Iraq, a US official with direct knowledge of the situation said. While some of the missiles may be categorized as ballistic, the official emphasized that they are very short range, without offering more details.

[Iraq, Other Countries Support Extra OPEC Cuts](#)

December 3, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

Iraq and some other oil-exporting nations will support deeper production cuts from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies as the cartel attempts to shore up sagging oil prices.

[Chinese envoy urges int'l community to support inclusive political dialogue in Iraq](#)

December 4, 2019, Xinhua Net

A Chinese envoy on Tuesday called on the international community to support the inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process in Iraq.

[Iraq cannot tolerate 'band-aid' solutions, says UN special envoy](#)

December 3, 2019, The National

Iraq must urgently pick a new prime minister, announce concrete measures to build trust and end the deadly response of security forces to street protests, the UN special envoy said on Tuesday. Speaking by video link from Baghdad, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert told the UN Security Council that "band-aid" responses would not placate a population angered by corruption, partisan interests and Iranian interference.

[Protests and civil unrest show 'renewed sense of patriotism' in Iraq, UN envoy tells Security Council](#)

December 3, 2019, UN News

Briefing from Baghdad, Special Envoy Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert said that "out of love for their homeland", thousands of Iraqis have taken to the streets, asking for their country to reach its "full potential for the benefit of all Iraqis".

[Iraq: Protesters set fire to Iranian consulate again](#)

December 4, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Protesters in Iraq set fire to the Iranian consulate in the southern city of Najaf for the third time, local media reported Tuesday, reports Anadolu Agency. The consulate was previously torched on November 28 and December 1.

[Key deputy of Daesh leader arrested in Iraq](#)

December 4, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iraqi police arrested a key deputy of deceased Daesh leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on Tuesday in Kirkuk province, reports Anadolu Agency. Abu Khaldoun was the

terrorist group's military commander for Salah al-Din province, according to Iraq's Security Media Cell communications body.

[Iraqi parties and allies debate new PM as violence hits cities](#)

December 3, 2019, Gulf Today

Iraqi politicians and their regional allies gathered in Baghdad on Tuesday to discuss a way out of two months of protests that brought down the government, as violence hit shrine cities.

[Hezbollah helping Iran's Soleimani find new Iraqi PM - report](#)

December 5, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The Lebanese Hezbollah group has joined Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps commander Qassem Soleimani in negotiations to select Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's replacement, according to the London-based newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat.

[Death toll of Iraq protests rises to 460 people](#)

December 5, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iraq's Independent High Commission for Human Rights said the death toll of anti-establishment protests over the past two months has increased to 460 dead and more than 17,000 wounded.

Iran

[UN says it has evidence that Iran was 'shooting to kill' protesters](#)

December 7, 2019, CNN International

The United Nations said Friday that it has video evidence appearing to show Iranian security forces "shooting to kill" protesters during Iran's latest wave of demonstrations.

[Iran says new budget bucks US oil embargo, uses Russian loan](#)

December 9, 2019, Hindustan Times

Iran's president said on Sunday his country will depend less on oil revenue next year, in a new budget that is designed to resist crippling U.S. trade embargoes. Iran is in the grip of an economic crisis.

[Iran using protest chaos to stockpile ballistic missiles in Iraq](#)

December 5, 2019, Arab News

Iran is stockpiling short-range ballistic missiles in Iraq amid the chaos of vast anti-government protests there. The move is part of Tehran's strategy to spread its attack capabilities into different parts of the Middle East and threaten rivals such as Saudi Arabia and US forces based in the region.

[Defiant Iran declares it will not halt ballistic missile development in a letter to UN](#)

December 5, 2019, Times of Israel

Iran is not going to halt or curb activity on its ballistic missile program, the Islamic Republic said in a letter to the United Nations on Wednesday.

[U.S. says Iran may have killed more than 1,000 in recent protests](#)

December 5, 2019, Reuters

Iranian security forces may have killed more than 1,000 people since protests over gasoline price hikes began in mid-November, U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook said on Thursday, adding that many thousands were also wounded in the unrest.

[US considers sending thousands more troops to Middle East to deter Iran](#)

December 5, 2019, CNN International

The Pentagon is considering sending thousands more troops to the Middle East as part of an effort to beef up air defense capabilities in the face of Iranian moves

that include its recent transfer of short-range missiles into Iraq, CNN has learned from multiple defense officials.

[European powers blast Iran for working on nuclear-capable missiles](#)

December 5, 2019, Israel Hayom

European powers on Wednesday filed a grievance with the UN over what they said was a blatant Iranian violation of the 2015 nuclear deal. In a letter to UN Secretary General António Guterres, France, Germany and the United Kingdom said that "Iran's development of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles" goes against a UN Security Council resolution calling on Tehran not to undertake any activity related to such missiles.

[Iran, China reviewing 25-year strategic relations document](#)

December 3, 2019, Tehran Times

Mohammad Baqeri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, announced on Tuesday that Tehran and Beijing are reviewing an important document which will guarantee joint strategic cooperation for the next 25 years.

[China, Iran have reached a broad consensus on nuclear deal](#)

December 2, 2019, Tehran Times

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Monday that China and Iran have reached a broad consensus on the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. She also said, "United States withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the extreme pressure on Iran led to an increasing strain of the situation, which could cause the final breach of the contract."

[Iran threatens to 'reconsider' IAEA commitments](#)

December 2, 2019, Gulf News

Iran warned Sunday it may "seriously reconsider" its commitments to the UN atomic watchdog if European parties to a nuclear deal trigger a dispute mechanism that could lead to sanctions.

[Fresh intelligence points to Iranian threat against US forces and interests in Middle East](#)

December 4, 2019, CNN International

There is fresh intelligence of a potential Iranian threat against US forces and interests in the Middle East, according to several US defense and administration

officials. "There has been consistent intelligence in the last several weeks," one administration official told CNN.

[Iran Used Firearms in Deadly Crackdown on Protesters, Officials Admit](#)

December 3, 2019, The New York Times

Two weeks after protests gripped Iran — and quickly turned deadly — the government has acknowledged that security officers used firearms to quell the widespread demonstrations but it has denied unofficial accounts that hundreds were killed.

[Iran announces joint naval exercise with China, Russia](#)

December 4, 2019, Times of Israel

Iran will hold joint naval drills with China and Russia starting on December 27, the head of Iran's navy said on Tuesday. Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi made the comments on the exercise, called Marine Security Belt, during a meeting with a Chinese military official in Tehran, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported.

[Setting Iran deadlines 'might not be the best idea': new IAEA chief](#)

December 3, 2019, Reuters

Setting Iran deadlines to explain how uranium particles were found in an undeclared Tehran warehouse could be counter-productive, the new U.N. nuclear watchdog chief said on Tuesday, hoping fresh dialogue will resolve the months-long standoff.

[IAEA warns against intimidation after Iran incident](#)

December 3, 2019, France 24

The new head of the UN nuclear watchdog warned Tuesday against intimidating its inspectors after one of them had their accreditation revoked by Iran over an incident at a nuclear facility. "We don't want to make something out of proportion but this is a serious matter," Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said.

[Iran official opposes Japan's SDF deployment](#)

December 4, 2019, NHK Japan

A senior Iranian official has opposed Japan's plan to dispatch Self-Defense Forces to the Middle East to help ensure the safe navigation of commercial vessels. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi gave NHK an exclusive interview on

Tuesday during his visit to Japan as a special envoy for Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

[Iran's navy receives 3 indigenous ultralight planes: report](#)

December 3, 2019, Xinhua Net

The Iranian navy's aviation fleet was equipped with three domestically made ultralight planes on Tuesday, Tasnim news agency reported.

[Iran welcomes initiative to ease regional tensions: FM](#)

December 3, 2019, China.org.cn

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that Iran welcomes any initiative to help ease tensions in the Middle East region, official IRNA news agency reported. Zarif made the remarks during a meeting with his Omani counterpart Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah in Tehran. Iran is seeking dialogue with all regional states, he said.

[Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander blames riots on 'dirty goals of Great Satan and Zionists'](#)

December 3, 2019, Israel Hayom

The mass discontent in Iran over the past several weeks has been the work of Israel and the United States, a senior Revolutionary Guards said over the weekend, in what of the most pinpointed attacks on the Jewish state in recent days.

[IRGC commander warns Iran has missiles aimed at 21 US bases](#)

December 2, 2019, AMN Al-Masdar News

The top adviser to the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), General Allahnoor Noorollahi, warned on Monday that Iran has missiles aimed 21 U.S. bases in the Middle East.

[Rouhani: Iran still ready for talks if US lifts sanctions](#)

December 4, 2019, The Express Tribune

President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that Iran is still ready for nuclear talks on condition the United States first lifts "unlawful" sanctions.

[Pompeo Says Iran the Common Villain in Middle East Protests](#)

December 2, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday that Iran was the uniting factor behind protests around the Middle East, saying demonstrators in Iraq, Lebanon and Iran itself opposed the clerical regime.

Israel

[Trump: if Jared Kushner can't achieve peace in Middle East, 'it can't be done'](#)

December 8, 2019, The Guardian

If Jared Kushner cannot achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Donald Trump claimed on Saturday, "it can't be done".

[China-Israel Innovation Hub marks a milestone in scientific research](#)

December 6, 2019, Shine

A scientific innovation milestone was reached at the launch of the China-Israel Innovation Hub (Shanghai) yesterday in Putuo District. The opening of the innovation hub is a major step in Shanghai's implementation of a national strategy to promote Chinese and Israeli scientific and technological innovation.

[Israel's Defense Chief Warns Iran: Syria Will Become Your Vietnam](#)

December 8, 2019, Haaretz

Israel's defense minister warned Iran against its continued presence in Syria, saying Israel will "work tirelessly" to prevent the establishment of a stable Iranian military presence in the war-torn country.

[Third Israeli Election Expected in March 2020 if Knesset Dissolves](#)

December 8, 2019, Haaretz

Israel's next election is expected to take place in March 2020 if the country's parliament dissolves this week after both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his rival Benny Gantz failed to form a coalition.

[Israel Pushed Trump to Send 14,000 Troops to the Middle East, Report Claims](#)

December 6, 2019, Haaretz

Israel played a role in President Donald Trump's reported plans to send an additional 14,000 troops to the Middle East, The Wall Street Journal reported. Multiple reports citing unnamed officials say Trump is planning to deploy the troops to counter increased Iranian adventurism in the region. On the record, the Trump administration has denied the reports.

[147 nations call to halt 'aid' to Israeli settlements](#)

December 6, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Some 147 United Nations member states, including the European Union, have called to halt all aid to West Bank settlements, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pushing to annex the Jordan Valley.

[PM Netanyahu: Israel has 'full right' to annex strategic Jordan Valley](#)

December 5, 2019, Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel has the "full right" to annex the Jordan Valley if it chose to, even as the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court warned the country against taking the bold step. Netanyahu said his proposal to annex the strategic part of the occupied West Bank was discussed during a late-night meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

[UN officially asks Israel to leave Golan Heights](#)

December 5, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The UN General Assembly yesterday officially asked Israel to leave the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The request was made after the resolution was adopted as 91 UN member states voted in favour, nine rejected and 65 abstained.

[Pompeo Meets Netanyahu in Lisbon to Talk Iran](#)

December 4, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Lisbon on Wednesday, holding talks on collaborative efforts to counter Iranian aggression.

[Israel to UN: Jews forced out of Arab, Muslim lands should be seen as refugees](#)

December 3, 2019, Times of Israel

Israel wants the United Nations to recognize as refugees hundreds of thousands of Jews who fled Arab and Muslim countries in the last century, its UN envoy said Tuesday.

[Hong Kong tycoon: Israel must pick US over China in trade war, but be cautious](#)

December 3, 2019, Times of Israel

Hong Kong billionaire businessman Ronnie Chan, chairman of property developer Hang Lung Group Limited, said that the ongoing trade war between the

United States and China will be most detrimental for the smaller economies that will have to pick a side as the two titans battle it out.

[China supports Palestinian people in restoring legitimate national rights: envoy](#)

December 3, 2019, Xinhua Net

China's UN ambassador on Tuesday voiced support for the Palestinian people in efforts to restore their legitimate national rights. At a General Assembly debate on the question of Palestine, China's Permanent Representative to the UN Zhang Jun said, "China is a sincere and good friend, partner and brother of the Palestinian people. It firmly supports the just cause of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights."

[India prays for your long life': PM Modi pens moving letter to 26/11 survivor Moshe Holtzberg on his bar mitzvah](#)

December 2, 2019, DNA India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, as a sign of utmost respect, congratulated an Israeli child, Moshe Holtzberg, on the occasion of bar mitzvah, the Jewish coming-of-age ritual for boys. Holtzberg was a survivor of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks (also referred to as 26/11) when Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists carried out shooting and bombing assaults across the city for four days.

[New details on covert Israeli operation in Gaza revealed](#)

December 4, 2019, Al Jazeera

New details have emerged about a botched Israeli intelligence operation in the Gaza Strip in November 2018 that sparked deadly Israeli air strikes and Palestinian rocket fire.

[Israeli occupation of West Bank costs Palestinians billions: UN](#)

December 3, 2019, Al Jazeera

Israel's withholding of taxes and duties due to the occupied Palestinian territories is restricting the growth of the Palestinian economy and worsening an already dire socioeconomic crisis, United Nations sources have said.

[Israel planning new settlement in flashpoint city of Hebron](#)

December 2, 2019, Al Jazeera

Israel's defence minister has approved plans for the building of a new illegal settlement in the heart of the flashpoint city of Hebron, drawing sharp criticism from Palestinian officials.

[Israeli officials said to warn Jordan Valley annexation would imperil Amman ties](#)

December 3, 2019, Times of Israel

Israeli military officials are reportedly warning that Jordan may take drastic steps if Israel continues to push for annexation of the West Bank's Jordan Valley, including possibly freezing a quarter-century-old peace treaty between the nations.

[Bipartisan lawmakers introduce amendment affirming US commitment to military aid to Israel](#)

December 3, 2019, The Hill

A bipartisan group of lawmakers is working to counter calls for conditioning U.S. military aid to Israel by amending a resolution supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, set to go to a vote on the House floor this week after months of delay.

[Iran reeling from protests, Netanyahu says ahead of Pompeo meet in Portugal](#)

December 4, 2019, Times of Israel

Prime Minister Netanyahu urges more pressure on Tehran, admonishes Europeans for giving regime an out with INSTEX mechanism; Jordan Valley annexation and defense pact also on table in Lisbon.

[White House pushing for Israeli-Arab non-belligerence agreements](#)

December 4, 2019, Times of Israel

A senior White House official has reportedly urged several Arab states in the Middle East to sign non-belligerence agreements with Israel as a step toward normalizing relations with the Jewish state.

['Stumbling block for peace': UN General Assembly calls on Israel to withdraw from Syria's Golan Heights](#)

December 4, 2019, Russia Today

The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution demanding that Israel vacate the Golan Heights – Syrian territory it captured in 1967 and has occupied since – arguing its presence in the disputed region is an obstacle to peace.

Jordan

[Jordanian military training reflects rising tensions with Israel](#)

December 4, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Military training exercise conducted by the Jordanian Armed Forces on Monday, named "Swords of Karama," received wide attention from Israel. The training was held near the Western border region.

[Israel to start exporting gas to Jordan, Egypt within weeks](#)

December 4, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Israel will begin exporting natural gas to Jordan and Egypt early in the new year, Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz as saying on Monday.

[Jordan, Qatar sign deals to support Syrian refugees](#)

December 5, 2019, Xinhua Net

Jordan and Qatar on Wednesday signed three agreements to launch projects and initiatives to help Syrian refugees and host communities, the Jordan state-run Petra news agency reported.

Kuwait

[Kuwait, Saudi, UAE agree to additional cut in oil production](#)

December 8, 2019, Arab Times

Kuwait, along with its brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have succeeded in leading the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies (OPEC +) to agree to an additional reduction of oil production by 500,000 barrels during the meetings that took place last Friday in the Austrian capital (Vienna), reports Al-Anba daily.

[Kuwait oil minister: \\$60-\\$70 is appropriate oil price](#)

December 4, 2019, Reuters

An oil price of \$60-\$70 a barrel is an appropriate price for producers and consumers, Kuwait's oil minister Khaled al-Fadhel said on Wednesday in Vienna, according to state news agency KUNA.

[Kuwait: Gulf states to reconcile next week](#)

December 2, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Sabah revealed yesterday that on December 10 during the GCC Summit, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE will reconcile with Qatar, the Anadolu Agency reported.

[Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Are Best Performing Gulf Markets in November](#)

December 3, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

A report issued by the Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) has revealed that the Kuwaiti market overcame the wave of decline in the past three months, and there is optimism in Saudi Arabia among investors after announcing Aramco's IPO.

[Kuwait to host Gulf defense exhibition](#)

December 3, 2019, Xinhua Net

Kuwait will hold the 5th Gulf Defense and Aerospace Exhibition and Conference on Dec. 10, the organizing committee of the exhibition said on Tuesday.

[Prince William visits Kuwait and Oman](#)

December 3, 2019, Town and Country

This week, Prince William is taking a solo trip to two countries he's never officially visited before: Kuwait and Oman. He's following in the footsteps of other royals, including Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth.

[Kuwait to invest up to \\$1b in Saudi Aramco IPO](#)

December 3, 2019, Gulf News

Kuwait's government will invest as much as \$1 billion (Dh3.67 billion) in the initial public offering of Saudi Aramco as the kingdom asks regional allies to bolster the record share sale, according to people familiar with the matter.

Lebanon

[Lebanon's Hariri re-emerges as PM candidate as Khatib withdraws](#)

December 8, 2019, Al Jazeera

Lebanon's leading Sunni Muslim politician, Saad Hariri, has re-emerged as a candidate for prime minister as businessman Samir Khatib withdrew his candidacy to lead a government that must tackle an acute economic crisis.

[Lebanon to start government formation talks as protests persist](#)

December 5, 2019, Al Jazeera

Consultations to form a new government in Lebanon will formally begin on Monday, the presidency has announced, more than a month after a wave of protests led the prime minister, Saad Hariri, to resign.

[Lebanon Takes Emergency Measures to Ease Economic Crisis](#)

December 4, 2019, Bloomberg

Lebanon's central bank took emergency measures on Wednesday in an attempt to ease the worst financial crisis the country has faced in decades.

Oman

[Oman first among Gulf Countries in Cross-Border Trade Index](#)

December 6, 2019, Times of Oman

Oman has achieved the goals of the National Logistics Strategy (NLC) 2040 and is topping the region in the World Bank's Cross-Border Trade Index.

[Sultan of Oman, Britain's prince discuss bilateral relations](#)

December 5, 2019, Xinhua Net

Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman and visiting Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, on Wednesday discussed bilateral relations. The British prince is currently in Oman for a three-day visit.

[Oman Oil plans IPO in 2020: oil minister](#)

December 4, 2019, Arab News

State-owned Oman Oil Co. expects to list between 20 percent and 25 percent of its shares in an initial public offering (IPO) by the end of next year, Oman's Oil Minister Mohammed Al-Rumhi said on Wednesday.

[Oman says there is a 'real opportunity' to end the Yemen war](#)

December 4, 2019, Gulf News

Yemen's warring sides are willing to resolve the country's years-long conflict, a senior Omani official has said. "Regarding the situation in Yemen, all parties agree that it is time to resolve this conflict and end violence and destruction. There is a real opportunity to work on confidence-building measures through settling differences and thinking of the common interest," Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs Yousuf Bin Alawi said.

Qatar

[Turkish envoy underlines tremendous progress in bilateral ties with Qatar](#)

December 9, 2019, The Peninsula

The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the State of Qatar, H E Fikret Ozer, underlined that bilateral relations between Turkey and Qatar achieved tremendous progress in recent years in all areas of cooperation, on the basis of the strategic partnership.

[With eye on Iran, GCC summit could try to resolve dispute with Qatar](#)

December 8, 2019, Gulf News

Leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) gather Tuesday for their annual summit in Riyadh amid serious efforts to heal a prolonged rift between a Saudi-led bloc and Qatar to better tackle regional challenges including Iranian threats.

[Saudi king invites Qatar's emir to GCC summit in Riyadh](#)

December 4, 2019, Al Jazeera

Saudi King Salman has invited Qatar's emir to an annual meeting next week of the Gulf regional bloc in Riyadh, the Qatari foreign ministry said, amid a two-year-old diplomatic crisis in the region.

[US to restart talks with Taliban in Qatar](#)

December 5, 2019, AFP

The US negotiator on Afghanistan would shortly resume talks with the Taliban and seek efforts toward a ceasefire, officials said on Wednesday, three months after President Donald Trump abruptly halted diplomatic efforts that could end America's longest war.

[Qatar, Saudi edge towards diplomatic thaw despite hurdles](#)

December 4, 2019, France 24

The Saudi monarch's personal invitation to Qatar's emir to take part in a Gulf summit in Riyadh next week is the latest sign of a highly anticipated thaw in a damaging two-year row.

Saudi Arabia

[Florida naval station shooter called U.S. 'evil' for supporting Israel](#)

December 9, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

A military student from Saudi Arabia who killed three people during a shooting attack at a Navy flight school in Florida appeared to have posted a message slamming the United States for supporting Israel.

[Oil near 12-week high after Saudi Arabia surprises with output curbs](#)

December 9, 2019, Livemint

Oil traded near the highest level in almost 12 weeks after Saudi Arabia surprised the market Friday with a significant supply cut beyond what was agreed to with fellow OPEC+ members.

[Saudi Arabia ends gender segregation in restaurants](#)

December 9, 2019, BBC News

Saudi Arabia will no longer require restaurants to have separate entrances segregated by sex, the government says. Previously, it was mandatory to have one entrance for families and women, and another for men on their own.

[OPEC Agrees to Deeper Cuts Ahead of Aramco IPO](#)

December 5, 2019, Wall Street Journal

OPEC agreed Thursday to deepen curbs on crude output by about 40% next year, cartel officials said, as Saudi Arabia pushes for higher oil prices amid the initial public offering of its state-controlled oil company.

[Saudi Aramco raises \\$25.6bn in world's biggest share sale](#)

December 5, 2019, BBC News

State-owned oil giant Saudi Aramco has raised a record \$25.6bn (£19.4bn) in its initial public offering in Riyadh. The share sale was the biggest to date, surpassing that of China's Alibaba which raised \$25bn in 2014 in New York.

[Saudi Arabia to grant nationality to number of professionals](#)

December 5, 2019, Gulf News

Saudi King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz had issued a decree granting Saudi nationality to brilliant foreign professionals in a step aimed at attracting bright minds from around the world as the kingdom seeks to diversify its economy, Saudi news portal Sabq reported Thursday.

[GCC summit move to Saudi Arabia made official](#)

December 2, 2019, The New Arab

A regional body of Arab Gulf states will hold its annual meeting in Saudi Arabia next week and not in the UAE as previously planned. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said late Sunday it will meet in Riyadh on 10 December. It is the group's 40th summit.

[Saudi Arabia to urge Opec to make deeper cuts in oil production](#)

December 2, 2019, Reuters

OPEC and its allies plan to deepen oil cuts and have the deal in place so it runs at least until June 2020 as Saudi Arabia wants to deliver a positive surprise to the market before the listing of Saudi Aramco, two sources familiar with the talks said.

[OPEC nations grapple with oversupply of oil](#)

December 4, 2019, Money Control

The world may be heading for an even greater oversupply of oil, and that possibility - which could drive down fuel and energy prices, is hanging over members of the OPEC cartel as they head into negotiations on Thursday.

[Saudi Arabia's largest tech event Arabnet Riyadh starts next week](#)

December 5, 2019, Arab News

Arabnet Riyadh, the Kingdom's largest technology event, kicks off next week at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center. The event, from Dec. 10 to 11, will bring together more than 6,000 attendees, 150 investors, and 300 exhibiting startups.

[UN: Justice has not been ensured over Khashoggi's murder](#)

December 5, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The world has not done enough to ensure justice is done over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a United Nations (UN) investigator said on Tuesday.

[Saudi Aramco pursues war cover after attacks - sources](#)

December 4, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Aramco is looking to buy insurance against war and terror attacks after a damaging drone and missile attack on some of its oil facilities in September, two sources told Reuters. Aramco, the world's largest oil company, has been looking for cover from insurers including those based at Lloyd's of London and elsewhere in the London market, they added.

[High Saudi-Russian Coordination in Fighting Terrorism, Crime](#)

December 4, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Saudi Arabia's Attorney General Sheikh Saud al-Muajab and Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika underlined strong ties between the two countries' judicial authorities, stressing that coordination was ongoing in the fight against terrorism, corruption, and transnational organised crime.

Syria

[Several killed in airstrikes on Iranian-controlled weapons depots in Syria](#)

December 8, 2019, Times of Israel

Unidentified aircraft bombed three Iranian-controlled weapons depots on Saturday night, killing several members of Tehran-supported militias, Syrian media reported. Some news outlets in the country said that four fighters were killed in the strike, while others said five. The Syrian government did not immediately release an official tally.

[Russian, Syrian Regime Forces Step Up Attacks on Rebel Stronghold Idlib](#)

December 8, 2019, Voice of America

A recent military escalation by Russian and Syrian government forces in the rebel-held northwestern Syrian province of Idlib is likely to continue in the coming weeks, experts say.

[Airstrikes target Iranian weapons stores in eastern Syria – report](#)

December 4, 2019, Times of Israel

Unidentified aircraft bombed an Iranian-controlled weapons storehouse in eastern Syria on Wednesday night, causing a massive explosion, a Syrian opposition news site reported.

[US troop reduction in northeast Syria complete, Esper says](#)

December 5, 2019, Daily Sabah

The United States has completed its military pullback in northeastern Syria, settling into a more stable posture of about 600 troops in the rest of the country after repositioning and reducing forces, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said.

[UAE praises Syria's Assad for 'wise leadership', cementing ties](#)

December 3, 2019, Reuters

The United Arab Emirates' top diplomat in Syria has praised President Bashar al-Assad for his "wise leadership", in one of the strongest expressions of support yet from a country that once backed Damascus' enemies in the civil war.

[King Salman Invites UAE President to Attend GCC Summit](#)

December 3, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz invited on Tuesday President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al

Nahyan to attend the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council summit. The 40th GCC summit will be hosted by Riyadh next week.

[Russian Forces Deploy in Syria's Amuda to 'Protect' Kurds from Turkey](#)

December 4, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Russian forces deployed Tuesday in a two-story building in Amuda, in northeastern Syria, to "protect" Kurdish forces from the Turkish army by monitoring the deployment of Syrian regime forces along the border and the withdrawal of Syrian Democratic Forces 30 kilometers (19 miles) to the south.

Turkey

[Chinese companies interested in Turkish president's canal project](#)

December 2, 2019, Ahval

Chinese investors are interested in taking over a projected planned by Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) to build a shipping canal bypassing the Bosphorus waterway in Istanbul, journalist Deniz Zeyrek said on Monday in an article for Sözcü.

[Turkey's Turkcell signs deal with Chinese bank](#)

December 7, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Turkey's leading GSM operator, Turkcell, announced Friday it signed an agreement for an eight-year loan worth €500 (\$539) million with the China Development Bank. "Supported by growing demand from corporate and retail customers, the new loan will be used to finance the procurement of hardware and equipment from Chinese vendors," according to a statement released by the company.

[Turkey, Russia draw up new contract for S-400](#)

December 6, 2019, Daily Sabah

Russia and Turkey are preparing a contract for the delivery of a new batch of Russian S-400 missile systems, Interfax news agency cited a senior official at a Russian military cooperation agency as saying on Friday.

[Turkey urges Islamic cooperation to help needy Muslims](#)

December 8, 2019, Hurriyet Daily News

Turkey's president on Dec. 8 urged Muslim countries to work harder together to help millions of Muslims facing economic hardship. "21 percent of the population of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) [countries], which means 350 million brothers and sisters, are trying to hold onto life at the poverty level," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the OIC High-Level Public and Private Investment Conference in Istanbul, the Turkish metropolis.

[Israel expresses 'full support' for Greece in spat with Turkey](#)

December 4, 2019, Ekathimerini

Israel's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday said it fully supported Greece and its sovereign rights and expressed concern over Turkey's activities in the Eastern Mediterranean.

[Turkey's NATO membership 'unraveling' as leaders meet in London](#)

December 4, 2019, Arab News

NATO leaders meet on Wednesday in the UK for crunch talks amid concerns that Turkey's membership of the organization is "unraveling."

[Turkey backs down on threat to block Nato plans for Baltics and Poland](#)

December 4, 2019, The Telegraph

Turkey has backed down from a threat to block Nato defence plans for the Baltics but remains deeply at odds with the rest of the alliance over its attack on Kurdish forces in Syria and its purchase of a Russian missile system.

[Turkey-Greece Tensions Escalate Over Ankara's Mediterranean Ambitions](#)

December 4, 2019, Voice of America

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met Wednesday in an effort to defuse rising tensions over disputed territorial waters in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The meeting on the sideline of the London NATO summit comes amid Turkish-Greek tensions over territorial disputes about the Mediterranean.

[Turkey plans new hydrocarbon exploration in East Mediterranean](#)

December 12, 2019, Daily Sabah

Turkey is putting ahead plans for new oil and gas exploration and production research within its maritime jurisdiction in the Eastern Mediterranean, in line with the recently signed memorandum of understanding between Turkey and Libya's U.N.-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA), Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Dönmez said Wednesday.

[Turkey's borders are NATO's borders](#)

December 5, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Multiple threats Turkey faces from international terrorist groups should be considered threats against NATO as well, the country's communications director reiterated early Thursday following a NATO summit in London.

UAE

[UAE Cabinet launches national tolerance initiative](#)

December 8, 2019, Gulf News

To end the Year of Tolerance on a high-note, the Cabinet has launched a national tolerance initiative to cement the government's role as an incubator of tolerance.

[UAE on track to top global competitiveness ranking](#)

December 8, 2019, Gulf News

The UAE is fully geared to achieve number one ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking in the year 2021, Abdulla Nasser Lootah, Director General of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority (FCSA) said on Sunday.

[UAE delegation takes parts in COP25 in Madrid](#)

December 8, 2019, Gulf News

A UAE delegation is participating at the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the Spanish capital, Madrid.

[UAE Ambassador to India felicitated](#)

December 6, 2019, ANI

Indo-Middle East Cultural Forum on Wednesday felicitated the UAE Ambassador to India Dr. Ahmed Albanna for his exemplary services in taking India-UAE bilateral ties to new heights.

[UAE private sector growth falls to 10-year low in November: PMI](#)

December 5, 2019, Reuters

Growth in the United Arab Emirates' non-oil private sector slowed to a 10-year low in November and firms experienced the first monthly decline in new orders on record, a survey showed on Thursday.

[Dick Cheney to attend 12th Arab Strategy Forum in Dubai](#)

December 3, 2019, Gulf News

Former US Vice-President Dick Cheney and former Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Li Zhaoxing are set to lay out the future direction that US-China relations and competition will have on the global order at the 12th edition of the Arab Strategy Forum to be held in Dubai on December 9.

[UAE's top companies to invest in food, logistics in Punjab](#)

December 3, 2019, The Economic Times

Leading UAE-based industry groups are likely to firm up plans to invest in food and logistics sector in Punjab in coming weeks. As one of the partner countries for Progressive Punjab Investors Summit (PPIS) 2019, UAE is looking at increasing its stake in the state's development and growth by strengthening their existing strategic ties.

Yemen

[Saudi Arabia hints at possible acceptance of Houthi rule in Yemen](#)

December 7, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Saudi foreign minister, Adel Al-Jubeir, announced on Friday that all Yemenis including the Houthis, could have a role in the future of the country, news agencies reported. Speaking at the Mediterranean Dialogues conference on the future of the Mediterranean in Rome, Al-Jubeir affirmed that there could be a settlement in the country, which would precede a solution to the ongoing conflict.

[U.S. Releases First Photos of 'Sophisticated Iranian Weapons' Seized en Route to Yemen](#)

December 8, 2019, Haaretz

The U.S. State Department released Thursday photos of advanced missile parts believed to be linked to Iran from a boat stopped by the Navy in the Arabian Sea last month. At a press briefing, U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook said the parts seized on November 25 are likely further proof of Tehran's efforts to inflame conflict in the region.

[Sudan reduces military presence in Yemen by 10,000: report](#)

December 8, 2019, Al-Masdar News

The Sudanese Prime Minister Abdullah Hamdoug said that Sudan has approximately 5,000 soldiers in Yemen, noting that their number in the past was around 15,000. This statement came during a press conference upon his return from Washington on Sunday, the Sudanese News Agency reported.

[Yemen's Houthi rebels threaten to attack Israel](#)

December 8, 2019, Times of Israel

The Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have threatened to attack Israel, claiming they have prepared a list of targets that can be hit at any time. In an interview published Sunday, Houthi defense minister Major General Mohammed Al-Atefi claimed to the Al-Masira newspaper, which is aligned with the rebels, that Israel has been involved in the Yemen conflict since it began in 2015 and that "there's no doubt revenge is coming."

[US Navy seizes suspected Iranian missile parts set for Yemen](#)

December 5, 2019, Associated Press

A Navy warship has seized a "significant cache" of suspected Iranian guided missile parts headed to rebels in Yemen, U.S. officials said Wednesday, marking the first time that such sophisticated components have been taken en route to the war there.

[In shift, Brian Hook says Yemen's Houthis independent from Iran](#)

December 5, 2019, Al-Monitor

In a shift that analysts said reflects progress in Saudi talks with Yemen's Houthi rebels to end the Yemen war, State Department Iran envoy Brian Hook said today that Iran does not speak for the Houthis, whom he described as playing a more constructive role in issuing a cease-fire proposal.



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