



Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



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## Volume 2, Issue 14

### 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

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## Bahrain

### [Bahrain's 241 Coronavirus Cases Came From Iran](#)

April 02, 2020, Gulf News

Iran tops the list of the confirmed coronavirus cases registered in Bahrain as linked to travel abroad, the Health Ministry said Thursday.

### [Bahrain Sentences to Prison Suspects in Money Laundering Cases Related to Iran](#)

April 01, 2020, Asharq Al-Awsat

Bahrain sentenced to prison three suspects in the Future Bank case, and fined them more than 9 million dollars. The case came to light after the general prosecution revealed in February that some seven billion dollars have disappeared from Future Bank's records and were used to finance Iranian groups, in violation of sanctions imposed against the country.

## Egypt

### [Twitter Removes Thousands of Accounts Linked to Saudi Arabia, Egypt](#)

April 02, 2020, Al Jazeera

The social media giant Twitter said that it had taken down 2,541 accounts in the Egypt-based El Fagr network because it created "inauthentic accounts to amplify messaging critical of Iran, Qatar and Turkey".

### [Egypt Confirms 103 New Covid-19 Cases, 1,173 in Total](#)

April 06, 2020, Xinhua Net

The Egyptian Health Ministry confirmed on Sunday 103 new COVID-19 cases, raising the tally of novel coronavirus infections in the country to 1,173.

## Iraq

### [China Prepares To Close 'Oil Deal of A Lifetime' In Iraq](#)

April 04, 2020, Oilprice.com

An engineering contract worth US\$203.5 million in Iraq's supergiant oil field, Majnoon, was awarded to the little known 'China Petroleum Engineering & Construction Corp (CPECC)'. With the U.S.' focus increasingly on fire-fighting the coronavirus outbreak at home, Beijing has good reason to believe that it largely has a clear run in Iraq, provided it does not stick it too much in the U.S.' craw.

### [U.S.- led Coalition Forces Hand back Military Base West of Baghdad to Iraqi Forces](#)

April 04, 2020, Xinhua Net

The international coalition forces, tasked with fighting the Islamic State (IS) militant group, on Saturday handed over their position in al-Habbaniyah air base in the western province of Anbar to the Iraqi security forces.

### [US Fears Large-scale Attacks against American Troops in Iraq](#)

April 03, 2020, Financial Times

US officials are increasingly concerned that Iran and its proxies are planning larger-scale attacks against American forces in Iraq as militant groups backed by the Islamic republic have stepped up their assaults in recent weeks.

### [Soleimani's Successor Visits Iraq, Then Trump Tweets Warning to Iran](#)

April 02, 2020, Al-Monitor

President Donald Trump took to Twitter on Wednesday to warn Iran against further attacks on US forces in Iraq – the same day that Iraqi officials told the Associated Press that the new head of the Quds Force had recently visited Baghdad.

### [Iraq's Oil Income Falls by 40 Percent in March](#)

April 02, 2020, ET Energy World

Iraq's crude oil income fell by 40 percent last month, the government announced, as demand plummets amid the global coronavirus pandemic and a pricing war between Russia and Saudi Arabia.

## [Iraq Bans Reuters over Coronavirus Reports](#)

April 03, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Iraq has banned Reuters for three months after the UK-based news agency reported that the number of cases of coronavirus infections in the country is much higher than the government admits.

## Iran

### [Iranian Navy Building New Submarines and a 6,000-Ton Destroyer](#)

April 04, 2020, Forbes

The Iranian Navy's latest homegrown warship projects include "giant submarines" and a large destroyer, Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari, Head of the Iranian Defense Ministry's Marine Industries Organization, said in a recent interview with Iranian media.

### [Iran to Resume Low-risk Economic Activities amid Covid-19 Crisis](#)

April 05, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has said "low-risk" economic activities will resume from April 11 amid a global coronavirus pandemic in the worst-affected Middle Eastern country.

### [Iran Warns US after Patriot Missile Deployment to Iraq](#)

April 01, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran warned the United States it is leading the Middle East to disaster amid the coronavirus pandemic after reports that Patriot air defence missiles were deployed to Iraq.

### [Iran Denounces Trump's 'Sneak Attack' Accusation](#)

April 02, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran has no proxies but it has friends, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, a day after US President Donald Trump alleged Tehran or its "proxies" planned a sneak attack on US targets in Iraq.

### [President Rouhani Warns Iran's Coronavirus Battle May Last another Year as Death Toll Crosses 3,100](#)

April 02, 2020, The New Indian Express

Iran on Thursday reported 124 new deaths from the coronavirus, raising its total to 3,160, as President Rouhani warned that the country may still battle the pandemic for another year.



## Israel

### [PM Modi, Netanyahu Discuss Ways to Deal with Coronavirus Crisis](#)

April 03, 2020, Livemint

India and Israel on Friday agreed the Covid-19 pandemic was a major turning point in world history and offered the chance to forge a new vision of globalisation for the good of all.

### [China Delivers 10,000 Coronavirus Test Kits to Palestine](#)

March 31, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The Palestinian Authority (PA) Health Ministry has had 10,000 coronavirus test kits and ventilators delivered from China, according to Wafa news agency. The chief of the PA's General Intelligence Service Majed Faraj arranged for the shipment to arrive from China to contain the spread of the virus in their territory.

### [Virus Cases in Israel Rise to 8,430, Deaths at 49, But Experts Cautiously Upbeat](#)

April 05, 2020, Times of Israel

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Israel rose Sunday night to 8,430, up 412 from the morning's tally and 579 in 24 hours. A top medical expert said the rise in the number of cases in recent days was encouraging: new cases had been doubling every six days until recently, he said, and now was doubling only every 11 days.

### [Israel Arrests Palestinian Governor of Jerusalem](#)

April 06, 2020, Al Jazeera

Israel has arrested the Palestinian governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, over "illegal" activities and put him behind bars once again.

### [Israel's Health Minister Gets Coronavirus; Top Officials Isolate](#)

April 02, 2020, Al Jazeera

Coronavirus has forced more top Israeli officials into isolation after the country's health minister, who has had frequent contact with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, tested positive, the health ministry said on Thursday.

### [Israel Faces Challenges in Fighting Coronavirus in Ultra-Orthodox Communities](#)

April 01, 2020, NPR

Some devout Orthodox Jewish communities have been slow to follow lockdown orders in Israel, helping drive a surge in coronavirus cases that officials are

struggling to contain. Known in Israel as Haredim, ultra-Orthodox Jews make up about 12 percent of Israel's population – but they account for as much as 60 percent of Israel's COVID-19 cases in major hospitals, according to estimates.

## Jordan

[Israel, Jordan among Mideast Countries Deploying Drones in Coronavirus Response](#)

April 05, 2020, Times of Israel

Jordan on Sunday started to deploy drones to fight the coronavirus pandemic, joining a host of Middle East countries using the technology to enforce curfews, deliver public health announcements and even monitor people's temperatures.

## Kuwait

### [Kuwait Central Bank Announces Stimulus to Support Vital Sectors and SME's](#)

April 02, 2020, Gulf News

Kuwait's central bank announced a stimulus package to support vital sectors and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) amid the fallout from the coronavirus epidemic. The Central Bank of Kuwait has reduced liquidity and capital adequacy requirements for banks and cut risk weighting for SMEs.

### [Kuwait under Review for Economic Downgrade as Oil Prices Fall](#)

April 02, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Kuwait has been placed on review for a downgrade of their credit ratings by the agency Moody's Investors Service, severely lowering the country's likely ability to repay its debt.

## Lebanon

### [Senior Hezbollah Commander Killed in South Lebanon](#)

April 05, 2020, Times of Israel

A senior Hezbollah commander in southern Lebanon was killed overnight Saturday, an Iranian regime media outlet reported. Ali Mohammed Younes, of the southern Lebanese village of Jebchit, was pulled from his car, stabbed and shot on a road near Nabatieh.

## Oman

### [Coronavirus: Oman Reports 21 New Cases](#)

April 05, 2020, Gulf News

Oman's Ministry of Health on Sunday announced 21 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases in the Sultanate to 298, including 61 recoveries and two deaths.

## Qatar

### [Qatar Plans to Raise \\$5bn after Oil Rout - Sources](#)

April 02, 2020, Al Jazeera

Qatar is planning a bond sale to shore up its finances against coronavirus fallout and a sharp fall in energy prices.

### [Qatar Airways Cargo Adds 19 Weekly Flights to India to Take Goods Using Passenger Aircraft](#)

April 03, 2020, The New Indian Express

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, Qatar Airways started its operations between Doha and India from Wednesday to get goods such as pharmaceutical products using its passenger aircraft.

## Saudi Arabia

### [Trump Threatens 'very substantial' Tariffs on Imported Oil, If Saudi Arabia and Russia Can't Reach a Deal to Push Prices Back Up](#)

April 06, 2020, Insider

President Donald Trump told reporters that if Saudi Arabia and Russia, two of the world's largest oil producers, couldn't cut a deal to end their price war, he'd impose "very substantial" tariffs on their oil supplies.

### [Moscow and Riyadh Are 'very, very Close' to an Oil Deal, Says Russia's Sovereign Wealth Fund Chief](#)

April 06, 2020, CNBC News

Russia and Saudi Arabia are "very, very close" to a deal on oil production cuts, according to the chief executive of Russia's sovereign wealth fund RDIF.

### [Oil Prices Spike by a Record 25 percent as Trump Talks Up Huge Production Cuts And Saudi Arabia Calls For OPEC Meeting](#)

April 02, 2020, CNN International

Hopes are building for a truce in the brutal oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia, setting off a record spike in the oil market. President Donald Trump suggested massive production cuts could be on the way and Saudi Arabia called for an "urgent" meeting between OPEC, Russia and other unnamed nations to restore "balance" to the oil market.

### [Curfew Imposed in Saudi Arabia's Dammam, Taif and Qatif Governorates](#)

April 03, 2020, Arab News

A curfew in Saudi Arabia's Dammam, Taif and Qatif will start on Friday 3p.m. until further notice, state news agency SPA reported, citing Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior.



## Syria

[Covid-19 Crisis 'Unlike Any We Have Dealt With', as New Tragedy Looms For Syria](#)

April 02, 2020, UN News

The current situation is new and unlike any we have dealt with in Syria for the last nine years. All Syrians – and all those who provide (humanitarian) assistance – are at risk,” Najat Rochdi told the International Syria Support Group Humanitarian Task Force, headquartered in Geneva, which met via video-teleconference.

## Turkey

### [Turkey to Minimise Troop Movements in Syria to Lower Coronavirus Risks](#)

April 06, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkey has said it would minimise its troop movements in operation zones in neighbouring Syria as part of the measures to fight the coronavirus pandemic, as the Turkish death toll and infections continue to rise.

### [COVID-19 cases in Turkey rise to 27,069](#)

April 06, 2020, Xinhua Net

Turkey's total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 climbed to 27,069, with 3,135 new patients reported in the last 24 hours, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Sunday.

## UAE

### [Covid-19: UAE-India Air Links May Be Resumed, Says Minister](#)

April 02, 2020, Khaleej Times

India's Civil Aviation Ministry today offered cautious optimism that passenger air connections with the UAE may be resumed soon after India's three-week lockdown prompted by the global Covid-19 outbreak ends on April 14.

## Yemen

[Yemen: Oil Pipeline Attacked in Marib, Both Warring Parties Accuse Each Other](#)

April 05, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Warring factions in Yemen accused each other on Sunday of attacking an oil pipeline pumping station in the central province of Marib, where clashes have raged for weeks and displaced tens of thousands of civilians.



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