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

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

Owing to scheduling issues, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman has postponed his November 14 visit to India. Meanwhile, underscoring the deepening trade partnership with the UAE, India’s Ambassador in Abu Dhabi announced that “UAE’s sovereign wealth funds over the last five years have invested over USD 10 billion in India in sectors such as renewable energy, telecom, road infrastructure, affordable housing, and start-ups”.

India conveyed its “deepest condolences” over the “tragic loss of lives” in November 13 blast in Istanbul. Turkish authorities have accused the ’Kurdistan Workers Party’ (PKK) for the blast. In another development, India is making all possible efforts for the early release of eight former Indian Navy officers detained in Qatar. Doha, thus far, has failed to provide any information about the charges under which these officers have been detained.

President Biden addressed the 27th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the ’United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’ (UNFCCC) in Egypt. In his address, Biden asserted that “the US was delivering on its promise of global climate leadership” and “called upon major carbon-emitting nations to align with the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius”. Meanwhile, ahead of the G20 Summit scheduled on November 15-16 in Bali, Indonesia, International Monetary Fund (IMF) maintained its “gloomy” outlook for the global economy cutting its global growth forecast for 2023 to 2.7 percent from a previous 2.9 percent.

Highlighting Iran’s advances in missile technology, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force Commander announced that “Iran has developed a new hypersonic ballistic missile capable of penetrating sophisticated air-defence systems”. Even as the IRGC claimed that no technology would be found in the coming years to counter hypersonic missiles, reports mentioned, US and Israel jointly working to counter this threat. Amidst this, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a telephonic conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin called for increased political and economic consultations to further enhance the bilateral relations.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog has tasked the leader of the Likud Party ‘Benjamin Netanyahu’ with forming the country’s next government. Even as Netanyahu vowed to be an inclusive Prime Minister, the Biden administration expressed
concerns about the possible inclusion of two far-right leaders ‘Itamar Ben-Gvir’ and ‘Bezalel Smotrich’ in Netanyahu’s government. Among other regional developments, a report by US National Intelligence Council shed light on UAE’s efforts to influence American politics. Responding to this, UAE’s Ambassador in Washington stressed that “UAE’s influence in the US is a product of decades of close cooperation and effective diplomacy reflecting common interests and shared values of the two countries”.

Links to major developments in West Asia of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open-source media, can be found below.
Bahrain

**Bahrain’s International Air Show Returns as Israel Participates For 1st Time**

November 11, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

The sixth edition of the Bahrain International Air Show opened at Sakhir Air Base, under the patronage of Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, with the participation of 100 military and civil aircraft, and 86 companies and institutions working in the fields of aviation, defence systems, space, and logistics.
Egypt

President Sisi: Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean Most Affected by Climate Change
November 8, 2022, Middle East Monitor

"The past years have witnessed severe climatic events in the Middle East and the eastern Mediterranean, from forest fires to floods and torrential rains that have caused huge financial losses," Al-Sisi told the UN climate summit COP27 in Egypt's seaside city of Sharm El-Sheikh.

COP27: President Biden Says Leaders ‘Can No Longer Plead Ignorance’ Over Climate Crisis
November 11, 2022, The Guardian

Joe Biden has implored countries to do more to tackle the climate emergency, telling the Cop27 summit that world leaders “can no longer plead ignorance” and that time to confront the crisis is running out.

China Will Support Climate Damage Mechanism but Not With Cash
November 9, 2022, Reuters

China would be willing to support a mechanism for compensating poorer countries for losses and damage caused by climate change, its climate envoy Xie Zhenhua said at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, but China later said that would not involve contributing cash.

Egypt’s President Sisi and US President Joe Biden Discuss Strengthening Relations, Middle East Developments on Sidelines of COP27
November 11, 2022, Egypt Today

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi welcomed President Biden’s visit to Egypt and reaffirmed the long-standing strategic partnership between the two countries and its pivotal role in supporting security and stability in the Middle East.

Egypt, Russia Commence Second Phase of Nuclear Power Plant
November 7, 2022, AL-Monitor

Russia’s state-owned atomic energy company ‘ROSATOM’, which is implementing the Dabaa nuclear power plant project, Egypt’s first nuclear project, has received a construction permit to begin building the second unit of the power plant.
Iraq

US Citizen Murdered in Baghdad Attack
November 8, 2022, CNN

A US State Department spokesperson confirmed that US citizen Stephen Edward Troell died in Baghdad, noting they “are closely monitoring local authorities’ investigation into the cause of death.”

PM: Iraq Wants Stable Energy Prices
November 13, 2022, Middle East Monitor

"Iraq is keen for the stability of energy prices, does want prices to increase above $100 and neither, at the same time, for them to fall in a way that affects the level of supply and demand," Iraqi PM said.
Iran

IRGC Develops Hypersonic Ballistic Missile Beating Advanced Air Defence Systems

November 10, 2022, Tasnim News Agency (Iran)

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force has manufactured a new hypersonic ballistic missile that can penetrate sophisticated air defence systems, the force’s commander said.

IRGC Chief: Enemies Are Scared, Regularly Sending Messages to Iran

November 11, 2022, Press TV (Iran)

The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the enemy is “scared” and “on alert” as it is sending regular messages to Iran, pleading not to be targeted by a military response.

Iran slams Germany and France for ‘Supporting’ Anti-government Protests

November 13, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Iran condemned remarks by the leaders of Germany and France in support of the ongoing anti-government protests over the death of an Iranian woman in police custody.

Iran ‘Threat’ to U.S; Bavar-373 Missile System Can Now Engage F-35s | Report

November 12, 2022, Hindustan Times

Iran has unveiled an upgraded version of its Bavar-373 (Belief-373) surface-to-air missile (SAM) system. As per reports, the upgraded system has a range of more than 300 kilometres. An Iranian expert has also claimed that the missile system can engage stealth aircraft like the F-35 at long distances.

Politico-Economic Consultations Between Iran, Russia Key to Enhanced Ties, President Raisi Tells President Putin in Phone Call

November 12, 2022, Press TV (Iran)

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi tells his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that increased political and economic consultations between the two countries will play a leading role in the expansion of mutual relations.
Iran Pushes Back Against Protest Scrutiny at the UN
November 12, 2022, AL Jazeera

Iran has pushed back against efforts spearheaded by Western countries to scrutinise at the United Nations its handling of weeks of protests across the country.

With US Mid-term Elections Over, New Run at Iran Nuclear Deal is Possible
November 12, 2022, AL-Monitor

With the US midterm elections over, don’t be surprised if Washington and Tehran make a final run to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.
Israel

Israel, US Working Together to Counter the Threat of Hypersonic Missiles
November 10, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

Israel was concerned about hypersonic missiles in the region long before Iran announced that it had developed such weapons and had been working with the United States Missile Defense Agency to counter any such threats.

The US Delivers 3 F-35 Jets to Israel
November 10, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Israel has received three new F-35 fighter jets from the United States at a military air base in the Negev region. The new jets that arrived in Israel will join the 33 aircraft that have been delivered by the US Defence Contractor, Lockheed Martin.

UN Panel Asks International Court of Justice to Urgently Weigh in on Israeli ‘Annexation’
November 11, 2022, The Times of Israel

A United Nations committee approved a resolution to request the International Court of Justice “urgently” weigh in on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israeli “annexation.” The UN General Assembly Fourth Committee voted in favour of the measure by a margin of 98 in favour, 17 opposed and 52 abstentions.

US Will ‘Fight’ Any Israeli Annexation, Ambassador Says
November 10, 2022, Middle East Eye

US Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides warned that the White House would “fight any attempt” by Israel to annex parts of the occupied West Bank, highlighting a future area of potential friction between the US and a new Israeli government expected to be formed by Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right allies.

Benjamin Netanyahu Vows to be ‘PM of Everyone’
November 13, 2022, The Telegraph

Benjamin Netanyahu promised to be the “prime minister for everyone” after Israeli President Isaac Herzog officially invited the country’s longest-serving premier to form the new government.
US Concerned Over the Appointment of Israeli Ultranationalist as Public Security Minister

November 11, 2022, AL-Monitor

With Israeli President Isaac Herzog preparing to task Benjamin Netanyahu with the composition of the next government, the Biden administration is increasingly worried over ultranationalist Itamar Ben-Gvir, the ideological successor of Rabbi Meir Kahane, becoming a cabinet minister.

Shin Bet Admits Spying on Journalists Through Mobile Phones

November 12, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The Israeli General Security Service ‘Shin Bet’ admitted that it spied on journalists through a database collected from mobile phone companies. It also used this database in investigations into criminal incidents, not only in security investigations. This came in the Public Prosecution’s response to a petition submitted by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) to the High Court.
Jordan

**Jordan's King Abdullah Says Prospects of Political Solution 'Absent' in Palestine**

November 13, 2022, The National News

Jordan's King Abdullah pledged continued support for the Palestinian cause despite the lack of prospects for a political solution, as hardline Israeli politician Benjamin Netanyahu prepares to form a government in Israel.

**Israel, Jordan, UAE Sign New MOU on Deal to Swap Solar Energy for Desalinated Water**

November 8, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates signed a renewed memorandum of understanding regarding a UAE-brokered deal signed a year ago to have Jordan provide solar energy to Israel, and Israel channel desalinated water to the Hashemite Kingdom.
Kuwait

COP27: Kuwait Pledges Carbon Neutrality in Oil and Gas by 2050
November 9, 2022, Middle East Monitor
Kuwait has announced an official commitment to becoming carbon neutral in the oil and gas sector by 2050, Foreign Minister, Salem Al-Sabah said.
Lebanon

**Hezbollah Chief Sayyed Nasrallah: USA Responsible for Lebanon’s Curses - Israeli Aggression, Takfiri Scheme, Economic Siege, Political Chaos**

November 11, 2022, AL Manar TV (Hezbollah)

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah stressed that the United States of America is behind all the woes plaguing Lebanon, adding that the Resistance, in cooperation with the patriotic parties, has confronted the US curses.
Oman

**IMF Says Global Economic Outlook Getting ‘Gloomier’, Risks Abound**
November 14, 2022, Arab News

The global economic outlook is even gloomier than projected last month, the International Monetary Fund said, citing a steady worsening in purchasing manager surveys in recent months.

**Oman Posts $2.9bn Budget Surplus**
November 7, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Oman recorded a budget surplus of $2.92bn (OR1.12), the country’s Finance Ministry said.
Qatar

8 Indians Allegedly Spying for Israel Arrested in Qatar - Report
November 10, 2022, The Jerusalem Post
Eight former officers in the Indian Navy were arrested in Qatar on suspicion of spying for Israel, although Qatari officials have refused to state the charges against the suspects despite their being in custody for over 70 days.

8 ex-Navy Officers Detained in Qatar: Indian Embassy Making All Possible Efforts for Their Release, Says MEA
November 4, 2022, The Indian Express
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Indian embassy in Doha is making all possible efforts for the early release and repatriation of the eight former Navy officers from Qatar. Days after it emerged that eight officers have been detained there.

Israel Reaches Agreement with Qatar To Allow Direct Flights During World Cup
November 10, 2022, The Times of Israel
Israel has reached an agreement with FIFA and Qatar to allow direct charter flights from Ben Gurion Airport to Qatar for the World Cup, which begins on November 20.

FIFA World Cup in Qatar to Boost GCC Economy, Gains Seen for Dubai: S&P Global Report
November 8, 2022, Gulf News
The FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar is set to give a further boost to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies, which are already benefiting from high oil prices.
Saudi Arabia

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Defers India, Pakistan Visit
November 14, 2022, The Economic Times

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman had planned separate trips to India and Pakistan with the India leg on November 14 ahead of Bali and Seoul, followed by Pakistan on his way back home. But with the India visit being rescheduled due to scheduling issues, Salman has decided to postpone his visit to Islamabad as well.

China’s Xi Jinping Plans Visit to Saudi Arabia Amid Global Reshuffling
November 7, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Chinese leader Xi Jinping is planning to visit Saudi Arabia before the end of the year, according to people familiar with preparations for the trip, as Beijing and Riyadh seek to deepen ties and advance a vision of a multipolar world where the U.S. no longer dominates the global order.

Saudi Arabia Defends Oil Policy Amid Tensions With US
November 13, 2022, Arabian Business

Saudi Arabia defended its decision to lower oil production and said its relationship with the US was strong enough to survive the fallout.

Saudi Arabia Has ‘Green Vision’ at COP27, Critics Unmoved
November 13, 2022, Business Standard

Saudi Arabia, which has some of the world’s largest reserves of oil, is presenting itself as a leader in green energies and eco-friendly practices at the UN climate summit.

Algeria, China Sign 5-year Strategic Cooperation Pact
November 8, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Algeria said it has signed a second 5-year strategic cooperation pact with China. A Foreign Ministry statement said the plan aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation in different fields, including economy, industry, energy, space, and culture.
Algeria's Application to Join BRICS Shows the Group's Attractiveness

November 9, 2022, Global Times

Algeria has submitted an official application to join the emerging-market bloc of BRICS, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
Syria

Israeli Air Strikes in Syria Kill Two Soldiers, Wound Three

November 13, 2022, AL Jazeera

Israeli air strikes killed two Syrian soldiers and wounded three in the central province of Homs.
Türkiye

6 Dead, 81 Injured as Explosion Rocks Turkey’s Istanbul, Suspect Arrested

November 14, 2022, India Today

At least six people died, and 81 others were injured after an explosion rocked Turkey’s Istanbul on Sunday (November 13). The blast took place on a busy pedestrian street in central Istanbul’s Taksim area, leaving multiple people wounded. The Interior Minister of Turkey, Suleyman Soylu, said police have arrested a suspect.

India Condoles Loss of Lives in The Blast in Turkey’s Istanbul

November 13, 2022, Hindustan Times

India conveyed its “deepest condolences” to the government and people of Turkey over the “tragic loss of lives” in a blast in Istanbul.

Turkey’s Erdogan Arrives at G20 in Indonesia After Istanbul Blast

November 14, 2022, AL Arabiya

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan touched down in Bali, Indonesia on Monday (November 14) to attend the G20 summit, hours after his home city of Istanbul was rocked by an explosion that authorities blamed on Kurdish separatists.
UAE

**UAE Sovereign Wealth Fund Invested Over $10 billion in Last 5 Years in India: Ambassador of India to UAE**

November 11, 2022, The Economic Times

UAE believes in India’s growth story and its sovereign wealth funds have invested more than USD 10 billion in India, said Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to UAE.

**US Intelligence Document Describes UAE’s Efforts to Influence American Politics – Report**

November 12, 2022, The Guardian

A classified US intelligence report details efforts undertaken by the United Arab Emirates to influence American politics, offering a scrutinizing look at a close US ally.

**COP27: UAE-US led Initiative Doubles Investment to $8b in Climate Action**

November 11, 2022, Khaleej Times

At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, a joint initiative led by the UAE and the US announced doubling of investments by partners in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation to $8 billion.

**UAE, US Sign $100 Billion Strategic Agreement in Clean Energy Projects**

November 1, 2022, Khaleej Times

The United Arab Emirates and the United States have signed a partnership to spur $100 billion of investments in clean energy projects and add 100 gigawatts of clean energy globally by 2035.
Yemen

Houthi Missile Kills 6 in Yemen’s Lahj Province

November 13, 2022, Arab News

Four Yemeni troops and two civilians were killed on Friday (November 11) in a Houthi missile strike on a village in the Yemeni province of Lahj, as the militia increased attacks on government-controlled regions in the province and elsewhere.