

GLOBALNEXUSBRIEF



U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS

On February 18, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the restoration of diplomatic relations between their countries. The agreement followed a four-hour summit in Saudi Arabia, marking a significant shift in international relations. Both leaders expressed optimism about future collaborations, though specific details of the agreement were not disclosed.

AI ACTION SUMMIT IN PARIS

From February 10 to 11, 2025, Paris hosted the AI Action Summit, co-chaired by French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit gathered over 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries, including government leaders, industry experts, and members of civil society.

Global Sea Ice Reaches Record Low



In February 2025, scientists reported that global sea ice levels had plummeted to a record low. The Arctic and Antarctic regions experienced significant reductions, with sea ice extents falling 8% and 26% below average, respectively. An extreme heat anomaly at the start of the month saw temperatures in the North Pole soar over 20°C above average, accelerating ice melt.



Middle East

Iran-Israel Tensions Escalate After Airstrikes

A suspected Israeli airstrike targeted an Iranian military base in Syria, killing high-ranking Revolutionary Guard officers. Tehran vowed retaliation, leading to heightened fears of a broader regional conflict. The U.S. urged both sides to de-escalate, warning that further strikes could jeopardize ongoing diplomatic efforts to revive the nuclear deal.



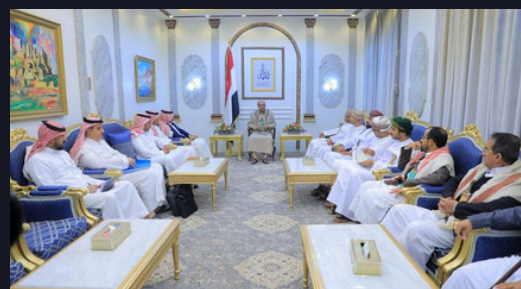
Saudi Arabia and UAE Invest Billions in AI and Tech

In a bid to diversify their economies beyond oil, Saudi Arabia and the UAE announced a joint \$50 billion investment in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and renewable energy technologies. The initiative, part of Saudi Vision 2030 and the UAE's digital strategy, aims to position the Gulf states as global tech hubs. The move was welcomed by international investors, though critics argue it may increase digital surveillance in the region.



February 18, 2025 – U.S. and Russia Restoring Relations in Saudi Arabia

In a historic summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to restore diplomatic relations between the two countries after years of tensions. The four-hour meeting focused on nuclear arms control, the ongoing Ukraine conflict, and the stability of energy markets. The deal includes reopening consulates and reinstating key diplomatic channels that had been frozen since 2022.



February 22, 2025 – Yemen Peace Talks Show Progress

UN-mediated negotiations between Yemen's warring factions led to a preliminary ceasefire agreement, raising hopes for an end to nearly a decade of conflict. The deal includes provisions for humanitarian aid distribution, prisoner exchanges, and the potential withdrawal of foreign troops. However, analysts warn that implementing the agreement remains a significant challenge given ongoing tensions between the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels.

Europe



FRANCE'S NATIONWIDE STRIKES CONTINUE

France saw its largest wave of labor strikes in years as workers protested pension reform policies introduced by President Macron. The strikes severely disrupted public transportation, healthcare services, and government institutions. Unions vowed to continue demonstrations until the government withdraws the reforms, sparking concerns over economic instability.

NATO - Eastern Europe



In response to ongoing tensions with Russia, NATO announced the deployment of additional troops to Poland and the Baltic states. The move is part of a broader strategy to deter Russian aggression following continued cyberattacks and military provocations. Moscow condemned the decision, warning of "serious consequences" if NATO continues its military buildup near its borders.

Germany - Federal Elections

Allocation of seats in the Bundestag – February 2025



Germany's federal election resulted in a significant shift in the political landscape, with the center-right CDU/CSU emerging as the largest party but facing a strong challenge from the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD). The election followed months of political instability after Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government collapsed in late 2024.

UK's Economy Shrinks Amid Brexit Fallout

The UK reported a 0.8% GDP contraction in the first quarter, with analysts attributing the decline to lingering Brexit-related trade disruptions and supply chain issues. The British government announced stimulus measures to support businesses, but critics argue that the country's economic outlook remains uncertain. The pound weakened against the dollar, adding to inflationary pressures.

Africa



SOUTH AFRICA FACES NATIONWIDE BLACKOUTS

South Africa's energy crisis worsened as rolling blackouts reached an all-time high, severely impacting daily life. The power cuts, caused by ongoing issues with Eskom, the state-run electricity provider, have prompted emergency measures, including increased investment in renewable energy and partnerships with private energy firms. Citizens have taken to the streets in protest, demanding urgent government action.

Rwanda -DRC Border Clashes



Tensions between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) intensified following a series of border clashes between Rwandan troops and Congolese forces. The DRC accused Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebel group, while Kigali claimed its forces were retaliating against cross-border shelling.

African Union Commission



Djibouti's Mahamoud Ali Youssouf was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). Youssouf, who previously served as Djibouti's foreign minister, campaigned on strengthening the continent's security mechanisms, addressing economic development, and expanding Africa's influence in global governance.

Nigeria Launches Major Anti-Terror Operation

The Nigerian military launched a large-scale offensive against Boko Haram and ISWAP militants in Borno State, killing dozens of fighters and reclaiming key territories. The operation, backed by intelligence from the U.S. and UK, aimed to dismantle terrorist strongholds and improve security in the northeastern region. Human rights organizations have raised concerns about civilian casualties, calling for transparency in military operations.



Asia

Taiwan Military Drills Amid China Tensions

Taiwan conducted large-scale military drills simulating an invasion scenario amid escalating tensions with China. The exercises, which included air defense maneuvers, naval operations, and cyber warfare simulations, were seen as a direct response to increased Chinese military activity near Taiwanese airspace. The U.S. reaffirmed its support for Taiwan, sending additional military advisors to assist in defense strategy planning. Meanwhile, China condemned the drills, calling them a "provocation" that could destabilize regional security.



China Escalates Trade War with the U.S.

The ongoing trade tensions between China and the United States took a new turn when Beijing announced retaliatory measures following Washington's decision to impose higher tariffs on key Chinese exports. China responded by tightening export controls on rare earth materials, which are critical for U.S. technology and defense industries, and increasing tariffs on American agricultural products. These actions have sparked concerns over disruptions in global supply chains, further fueling inflation fears.



February 10, 2025 – India Economic Growth

India's GDP grew by 7.1% in the last quarter, surpassing projections and reinforcing the country's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies. The surge was driven by strong consumer demand, an expansion in the technology sector, and record foreign direct investment. However, concerns remain about inflation, rising unemployment, and geopolitical tensions with neighboring Pakistan and China. The Indian government is set to introduce new economic reforms to sustain this momentum.



February 18, 2025 – North Korea Conducts Long- Range Missile Test

North Korea launched its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) to date, reaching a record altitude before falling into the Sea of Japan. The test triggered an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, with the U.S., Japan, and South Korea condemning the move as a violation of international agreements. Pyongyang defended the test as a deterrent against "U.S. aggression," raising fears of renewed hostilities in the region.



America

U.S. Immigration Protests Intensify

Mass protests erupted across the U.S. against President Donald Trump's latest immigration policies, which included stricter asylum regulations and expanded border enforcement. Demonstrators clashed with law enforcement in cities like Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago, calling the policies inhumane. The Biden-led Democratic opposition vowed legal action against the administration's executive orders.



Argentina Faces Economic Meltdown

Argentina's inflation rate surged past 100% as the country's economic crisis deepened. The government implemented emergency price controls and sought additional aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Thousands of citizens took to the streets, demanding economic reforms and wage increases. The crisis has sparked concerns of a potential default, similar to the country's financial collapse in 2001.



February 20, 2025 – Mexico - U.S. Border Security Agreement

The U.S. and Mexico reached a new agreement to enhance border security cooperation, focusing on combating drug cartels and human trafficking. The deal includes intelligence-sharing, increased military patrols, and investments in border infrastructure. Critics argue that the policy could lead to increased human rights violations against migrants.



February 28, 2025 – U.S.-Ukraine Relations

A highly anticipated meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy ended with sharp criticism from the U.S. administration, raising concerns about the future of U.S. support for Ukraine. During the meeting at the White House, President Trump questioned the effectiveness of U.S. military aid and suggested that European nations should take on more responsibility in assisting Ukraine.



Global Trade Tensions and Economic Shifts

February 2025 was marked by rising global economic tensions, driven by escalating U.S.-China trade disputes, protectionist policies in Europe, and energy market instability. These developments raised concerns about supply chain disruptions, inflation, and potential global recession risks.

The United States imposed higher tariffs on Chinese tech products, rare earth minerals, and semiconductor components, citing concerns over intellectual property theft and national security. In retaliation, China restricted exports of key rare earth elements, vital for high-tech industries, from smartphones to electric vehicles. The restrictions sent shockwaves through global markets, with tech firms scrambling to secure alternative supply chains. The semiconductor sector, already recovering from past shortages, now faces new disruptions, driving up costs and uncertainty.

Economic concerns, Germany's new government embraced protectionist policies, leading the EU to impose tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) and solar panels, citing unfair competition. Beijing swiftly condemned the move and hinted at retaliatory measures, deepening economic rifts between Europe and China.

Meanwhile, the European Central Bank (ECB) warned that rising protectionism could slow down the region's fragile post-pandemic recovery. With inflation concerns lingering, policymakers faced difficult choices between protecting domestic industries and maintaining stable economic growth.

The ongoing energy crisis remained a central issue, as the U.S. and Russia held talks in Riyadh to stabilize energy prices amid fluctuating oil and gas supplies. However, Europe continued shifting away from Russian energy, increasing its partnerships with Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) producers. This move underscored the region's growing energy independence but left questions about Moscow's long-term role in global energy markets. With OPEC considering production cuts, the potential for price volatility remains high, affecting both businesses and consumers worldwide.

Thank you for reading!

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