

# Weekly Update

## 1. Putrajaya defends presence of firms aiding Israel as protest erupts outside KL expo

*The major international defense industry exhibition DSA Netsec opened in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian activists protested the involvement of US companies that, according to the statement, provide assistance to Israel in "carrying out the genocide and murder of Palestinians" – MBDA (BAE Systems), Aim Point, Colt, L3Harris, Leupold, Shield AI and Leonardo.*

**Source: Malaysia Now**

<https://www.malaysianow.com/news/2024/05/07/putrajaya-defends-presence-of-firms-aiding-israel-as-protest-erupts-outside-kl-expo>

## 2. READOUT: U.S. AMBASSADOR BLOME'S MEETING WITH OPPOSITION LEADER OMAR AYUB KHAN

*On May 6, US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome held an official meeting with representatives of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's opposition Justice Movement party. To understand why the United States would participate in shaking the official power of its "key Central Asian partner", it is enough to note Pakistan's active efforts to receive financial assistance from the Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia.*

**Source: U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Pakistan**

<https://pk.usembassy.gov/readout-u-s-ambassador-blomes-meeting-with-opposition-leader-omar-ayub-khan-may-6-2024/>

## 3. President Nechirvan Barzani: Kurdistan Region will always be a factor of peace and stability

*Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani met with Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. During the meeting Nechirvan Barzani said: "The Kurdistan Region has always been and will be a factor of peace and stability in the region, and should not be seen as a threat to any party."*

**Source: The Presidency of the Kurdistan Region: Iraq**

<https://presidency.gov.krd/en/president-nechirvan-barzani-kurdistan-region-will-continue-to-play-a-crucial-role-in-regional-stability/#:~:text=During%20the%20meeting%2C%20Rear%20Admiral,to%20any%20entity%20in%20the>

#### **4. Congressman Adam Smith: US needs reliable security partners in Central Asia**

*Uzbekistan may become the next target of ISIS's Afghan ally*

*Following the terrorist attack on the Crocus City Hall, there was a split among field commanders and political functionaries in the Afghan branch of ISIS (IS-Khorasan). It is known that recently the activity of ISIS supporters has increased inside Uzbekistan and in the areas adjacent to Afghanistan. Furthermore, Uzbekistan's security service has reportedly recently "significantly reduced its effectiveness and influence in the country." "The probability of a new ISIS terrorist attack in Uzbekistan is high and increasing," the sources emphasize.*

**Source: Voice of America**

<https://www.amerikaovozi.com/a/7595126.html>

#### **5. Hezbollah attacks Israel after deadly south Lebanon strike**

*The IDF strikes Hezbollah terrorist targets in southern Lebanon. Warplanes attacked military installations and terrorist infrastructure of the terrorist organization Hezbollah in the Mazarat Akmat area in southern Lebanon. Additionally, IDF forces opened fire to eliminate the threat in the Wadi Katiya area.*

**Source: The Hindu**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/hezbollah-attacks-israel-after-deadly-south-lebanon-strike/article68143616.ece>

#### **6. Iran smuggles \$1bn worth of fuel into Pakistan annually: report**

*Iran smuggles \$1 billion worth of fuel into Pakistan every year. According to observers, it could lead to tougher crackdown on the black market (or it could lead to the cancellation of a major transfer point for fuel tankers near Herat, Afghanistan).*

**Source: NIKKEI ASIA**

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Iran-smuggles-1bn-worth-of-fuel-into-Pakistan-annually-report>

#### **7. China's former ambassador to Iran takes on same role in Saudi Arabia**

*Former Chinese ambassador to Iran visits Saudi Arabia. Chang Hua, China's former ambassador to Tehran, whose mission had just ended, was appointed as his country's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. China was the main mediator in the restoration of relations between Tehran and Riyadh.*

**Source: South China Morning Post**

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3262237/chinas-former-ambassador-iran-takes-same-role-saudi-arabia>

### **8. Full List of Countries Who Voted to Give Palestine New UN Power**

*Following the vote for Palestine's permanent and full membership in the United Nations. 143 countries voted in favor of Palestine's permanent membership in the United Nations. Only 9 countries voted against, of which Argentina was the only country in the Latin American region. Among Latin American countries, Paraguay abstained and the rest voted in favor of Palestine's membership.*

*Source:* **NewsWeek**

<https://www.newsweek.com/full-list-countries-voted-give-palestine-un-power-1899399>

### **9. North Korea Leader Kim Jong Un Inspects Artillery Weapon System, Attends Test Firing, KCNA Says**

*On May 10, Secretary General of the WPK, Chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Committee, Honored Comrade Kim Jong-un, got acquainted with the technically updated 240 mm caliber Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and observed the test launch of the guided missile. Projectiles produced by various defense industry enterprises.*

*Source:* **Tasnim News Agency**

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2024/05/11/3083946/north-korea-leader-kim-jong-un-inspects-artillery-weapon-system-attends-test-firing-kcna-says>

### **10. One police officer killed, over 100 injured in clashes during protest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**

*The development comes after ongoing protests against high electricity bills and taxes in Mirpur, during which clashes broke out between police and AAC. Speaking about the incident, PM Haq said that a policeman was martyred due to the protests, however, the AJK police is showing patience during the siege and arson.*

*Source:* **The Telegraph India**

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/world/one-police-officer-killed-over-100-injured-in-clashes-during-protest-in-pakistan-occupied-kashmir/cid/2019300>