



The latest news from the World of Security

INSIDE

EU and Arab States in Agreement

Sergei Lavrov and the OSCE Meeting

Escalating Tensions in the Middle East

Geopolitical Maneuvers in Asia

COP28 in Dubai

Assassination Attempt on Ukraine's Military Intelligence Chief

Sahel's Recent News

AI's Influence on Wages and Guidelines on AI Cyber Security

Israel-Hamas War



Group picture during the 8th regional forum of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in Barcelona, Spain on November 27, 2023. Photo: Adria Puig/Anadolu via Getty Images

EU and Arab States in Agreement on Two-State Solution After Israel-Gaza War

By Sarah Cernikova

On Monday, October 27th, representatives from more than 40 European, Middle Eastern, and North African countries gathered in Barcelona for a meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the situation after the recent Israel-Gaza conflict. Notably absent was Israel, one of the founding members of the UfM. This was due to Israel's accusations that Spain and Belgium were supporting terrorism after the two countries criticized Israel's bombing of Gaza. As a result, tensions were high, and Israel chose not to participate in the meeting.

After the meeting, Josep Borrell emphasized that the European Union and Arab countries had agreed on solutions for the post-war situation. Both sides agreed on a two-state solution, where there would be a state for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Palestinian Authority alongside Israel. Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi supported Borrell's statement and added that the Palestinian people have the right to choose their rulers.



Sergei Lavrov *Photographer: Yuri Kochetkov/AFP/Getty Images*

Sergei Lavrov to Join the Security Conference in North Macedonia

By Sarah Cernikova

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has announced his intention to participate in a meeting of foreign ministers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to be held in Skopje, North Macedonia, on Thursday, November 30th. This will be the first time an official Russian representative has visited a NATO allied country since the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Lavrov was invited by North Macedonia last week, and it seems that he has received requests for bilateral meetings during the Conference from other OSCE participants. Lavrov has confirmed that he will meet with anyone who expresses an interest in meeting with him.

However, three Baltic countries - Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Ukraine - have decided to boycott the Conference due to Lavrov's attendance. They released a statement on Tuesday, November 28th, saying that their presence alongside Lavrov would legitimize Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Global Unrest: Escalating Tensions in the Middle East and Cybersecurity Threats to US Hospitals

By Ondrej Pragr

The Middle East faces heightened instability as the conflict in Gaza sends shockwaves into Iraq. Recent protests and unrest in Iraq are fueled by the escalating Gaza war, adding complexity to an already precarious region. The interconnectedness of conflicts becomes evident as events in one area reverberate across borders, emphasizing the urgent need for diplomatic efforts to address underlying issues and promote regional stability. International actors must navigate this intricate web of tensions to prevent further destabilisation and work towards sustainable solutions that address the root causes of conflict. The actor that has long significantly impacted the region is the United States. It has been active in Iraq for a long time and is expected to play a role in calming the situation.

Critical infrastructure vulnerabilities come to the forefront as a cyber-attack targets hospitals in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. The attack, impacting multiple healthcare facilities, underscores the growing threat of cyber warfare on essential services. Authorities are actively investigating the source and motive behind the attack, emphasizing the imperative for enhanced cybersecurity measures to safeguard vital systems. The incident highlights the broader challenges posed by cyber threats to critical infrastructure and the need for proactive strategies to ensure the resilience of healthcare services in the face of evolving cyber risks. As societies become increasingly dependent on digital infrastructure, a collaborative and preemptive approach is crucial to defend against cyber threats to public health and safety.

Geopolitical Maneuvers in Asia: Regional Summits and Joint Patrols Amid Rising Tensions

By Ondrej Pragr

Asia witnesses diplomatic maneuvers as leaders from China, Japan, and South Korea engage in a summit meeting in Busan. Against a backdrop of regional complexities, the leaders aim to address shared challenges and foster cooperation. The summit reflects the delicate balance of relations in Asia, where historical tensions and geopolitical dynamics shape the pursuit of common goals. As the nations navigate their interactions, the outcomes of the summit will have broader implications for regional stability and cooperation. The deliberations hold the potential to shape the future trajectory of diplomatic engagements, influencing the geopolitical landscape in Asia.



📷 South Korea's foreign minister, Park Jin, centre, with the Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, right, and the Japanese foreign minister, Yoko Kamikawa, left, prior to their trilateral meeting in Busan, South Korea. Photograph: Ahn Young-joon/AP

Amid escalating tensions in the South China Sea, Australia and the Philippines embarked on joint patrols. The strategic move signals a response to heightened regional challenges and underscores the importance of collaboration in maritime security. Joint patrols serve as a diplomatic tool, allowing nations to assert their interests while managing potential conflicts. As geopolitical tensions continue to influence the South China Sea dynamics, collaborative efforts become essential to promote stability and safeguard the interests of nations in the region. The joint patrols mark a significant development in the evolving geopolitical landscape, reflecting the imperative for proactive measures to address regional challenges.

Assassination Attempt on Ukraine's Intelligence Chief?

By Karolina Baldrianova

On Tuesday, November 28th, Ukrainian local media informed that the wife of Ukraine's military intelligence chief, Kyrlo Budanov, was hospitalized due to heavy metal poisoning. Budanov, who has run the Ukrainian Main Directorate of Intelligence (GUR) since 2020, is a prominent figure in the ongoing conflict. GUR is responsible for gathering information and carrying out special operations. Budanov has played a vital role in planning and executing primary military operations against Russian forces since the beginning of the invasion. Military intelligence spokesperson Andrii Yusov previously stated that Russia had made more than ten assassination attempts on Budanov.

Apart from Budanov's wife, Marianna, Ukrainian media reported that several staff members of GUR were poisoned as well and that the poison had likely been administered in their food. The substances used are not common in everyday life or military affairs, indicating a purposeful attempt to poison a specific person. Some speculate that this might be another case of Thallium assassination, a method often used by Russia.

So far, no official reports have classified this as a deliberate attack. Nevertheless, due to the ongoing conflict, there is a firm belief in Russian interference.



Photo illustrating the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015 during COP21 summit in Paris. Source: Triple Pundit

COP28 in Dubai: Fossil Fuels Negotiations?

By Karolina Baldrianova

This Thursday, November 30th, the 28th global summit on climate change, COP28, is set to begin. The Conference of Parties (COP), an annual gathering established under the United Nations, brings together influential representatives from countries worldwide to cooperate in tackling climate change. Hosted in Dubai by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), COP28 anticipates the participation of delegates from 200 nations. Expected to last until December 12th, the summit is set to bring about crucial measures to combat climate change.

A recent report by BBC suggests that based on leaked documents, the host country sought to exploit COP28 for its economic benefits. Allegedly, the UAE scheduled private meetings with at least 27 countries to negotiate convenient fossil fuel deals for its companies. The countries involved include major players like China, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Subjects of negotiations differed; for example, with China, the UAE stated they are willing to jointly evaluate international LNG opportunities in Mozambique, Australia, and Canada. The UAE's representatives did not refute the allegations, saying private meetings are inherently private.

The United Nations views such attempts as a severe violation of the summit president's mandated impartiality. Moreover, utilizing a summit dedicated to combatting climate change to facilitate new fossil deals is highly immoral.

Migration Challenges in Sahel

By Petra Nemcova

Insecurity, poverty, and misgovernance have led to a surge in migration from the Sahel region to other parts of Africa and Europe. 2023 has been the deadliest year on the Central Mediterranean migration route since 2017, with 2480 deaths. Many migrants are from Africa, with an increasing number since 2021 from Sahelian countries like Mali and Burkina Faso. Europe has been concerned about the increase in migration and has entered controversial bilateral deals with countries in and neighbouring Sahel, including Libya and Tunisia.



Photo: K.M. Westermann/Getty Images

Since 2015, the European Union (EU) and some member states have funded interventions to strengthen Sahelian states' capacity to regulate and control migration. However, research shows that these interventions have mostly negative results, including increased insecurity, disrupted livelihoods, complex migration routes, and eroded social contracts. The challenge now is to develop a strategy that aligns with foreign and security policy objectives, focusing on addressing the underlying challenges that cause people to migrate rather than repeating past mistakes.

Conference in Libya

The Libyan Ministry of the Interior has approved security measures for a conference for Sahel countries in Tripoli, involving labour ministers from the region. The conference occurred on November 28th. The event, the first of its kind in Libya, will include Italy and other countries from the European Union. Generally speaking, this reality marks a significant shift in Libya's approach to integrating migrants into the economy.

AI's Influence on Wages

By Petra Nemcova

The European Central Bank's research indicates that the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) is creating jobs, particularly for young and highly skilled people. However, at the same time, new job opportunities thanks to AI might indicate potential wage reductions. A study, published in 16 European countries, found that the employment share of sectors exposed to AI increased, with low and medium-skill jobs remaining unaffected. Although this statement is positive, the wages for these jobs might in fact face decreases.

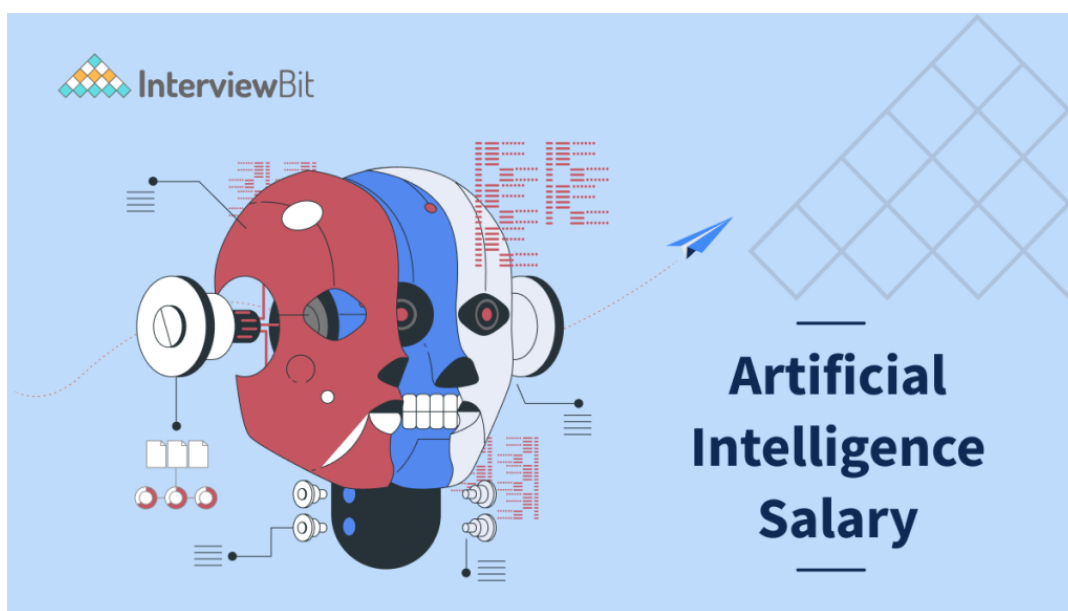


Photo credit: InterviewBit

Guidelines on AI Cyber Security

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) poses a significant threat, requiring safeguards to be built into systems from the start. The technology is too powerful and moving too fast, making it impossible to live in a world in which consumers patch vulnerabilities. Agencies from 18 countries, including the US, have endorsed new British-developed guidelines on AI cyber security, focusing on secure design, development, deployment, and maintenance.

Israel-Hamas War



The Red Cross facilitated the release of Israeli captives held by Hamas [Hamas Military Wing/Handout via Reuters]

Hostage Release and Extended Truce with International Support

By Sarah Cernikova

Last week, the first ceasefire since Hamas attacked Israel at the beginning of October was announced. The Qatari government mediated the deal with assistance from the US and Egypt. The four-day ceasefire aimed to release hostages from Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

However, just hours before the truce was set to expire, on Monday, 27th November, both sides agreed upon lists of hostages and prisoners to be released, and upon a two-day extension of the truce was agreed. However, on Wednesday morning, 29th November, new information appeared about an additional two-day truce. According to Egypt's Al-Araby Al-Jadeed newspaper, a preliminary understanding has been reached, and the ceasefire conditions should remain the same. Israel's condition for extending the truce is the release of ten hostages from Gaza for each day of the truce. It has not yet been confirmed if it will be prolonged or not.

The United States supports the truce between Israel and Hamas and declares that it will use this opportunity to provide more humanitarian aid and assistance to Gaza. The first flight carrying food, medical supplies, and winter gear departed from the US on Tuesday, 28th November. The US hopes this aid will encourage both sides to prolong the ceasefire.