Femtosecond

IN THE NEWS

World News

The war between Russia and the Ukraine continues. On the evening of November 25-26, Russia launched an estimated 188 drones into the Ukraine [1]. Then, on the morning of December 13, Russian forces launched a major attack directed against the Ukrainian energy facilities [2]. This comes as reports indicate North Korean troops are involved in mass assaults against Ukrainian forces [3].

In Syria, rebel forces challenged the government. For instance, on November 30, the city of Aleppo fell to rebel forces [4]. Then the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), captured another city, Hama [5]. Meanwhile, there are indications that Turkey's President Erdogan was cheering on the rebels and may have supported the uprising [6]. Next, Syrian President Assad was toppled by the rebels [7]. One report indicates Turkish forces are inside Northern Syria [8].

Meanwhile, China continues its aggressive tactics. Case in point, Taiwan detected 47 planes and a dozen ships near the island nation [9]. China is not disclosing the reason for its current military actions [10].

1. Brennan, David, ABC News, *Russia sets new drone attack record in overnight Ukraine barrage*, November 26, 2024.
2. Malenko, Anastasiia, & Polityuk, Pavel, Reuters, *Russia launches major missile attack on Ukrainian power facilities, Kyiv says*, December 13, 2024.
3. Axe, David, Forbes, *North Korean Forces May Have Launched Mass Infan-*

Israel War

This news cycle began with Hezbollah firing approximately 250 rockets into Israel [1]. Meanwhile, a Shakey cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah was agreed to [2].

While the cease-fire looked good on the news, it showed signs of collapse. Case in point, there were violations of the agreement including Israeli airstrikes [3]. The violations continued to include drone and artillery attacks [4].

Syria fell to rebel forces [5]. Immediately, Israel started operations against Syria capturing some Syrian land [6]. Additionally, after the fall, the US stuck approximately 75 ISIS targets in Syria [7]. After Israeli forces destroyed the Syrian navy, approximately 480 targets were struck over a two-day period [8]. The collapse of Syria was a major blow to Hezbollah including cutting off many weapons supply routs [9].

1. Atkinson, Emily, BBC, *Hezbollah fires rocket barrages into Israel after deadly Beirut strikes*, November 24, 2024.
2. Gebeily, Maya, Reu-ters, Israel and Hezbollah trade accusations of ceasefire violations, November 28, 2024.
3. Brennan, David, ABC News, Israel-Gaza-Lebanon live updates: IDF confirms death of US-Israeli hostage, December 2, 2024.
4. Aljoud, Sally Abou, & Hatoum, Bassam, AP, *An Israeli strike kills a person in Lebanon, further shaking the tenuous ceasefire*, December 4, 2024.

Israel War

5. Karam, Zeina, & Sewell, Abby, AP, *The fall of Bashar Assad after 13 years of war in Syria brings to an end a decades-long dynasty*, December 8, 2024.

6. Ravid, Barak, Axios, *Israel captures Syrian territory after Assad regime collapse*, December 8, 2024.

7. Robertson, Noah, Defense News, *US strikes 75*

ISIS targets in Syria after Assad regime collapses, December 9, 2024.

8. Krever, Mick, CNN, *Israel strikes Syria 480 times and seizes territory as Netanyahu pledges to change face of the Middle East*, December 10, 2024.

9. Mroue, Bassem, & Chehayeb, Kareem, AP, *A diminished Hezbollah is made even weaker by the toppling of Assad in Syria*, December 14, 2024.

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.—Winston Churchill

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World News

try Assaults In Kursk, December 14, 2024.

4. The Times of Israel, *Syrian military says dozens of soldiers killed in major Islamist attack on Aleppo*, December 1, 2024.

5. Salem, Mostafa, & Kourdi, Eyad, CNN, *Syrian rebels capture second major city as army withdraws from Hama*, December 5, 2024.

6. Weinthal, Benjamin, Fox News, *Turkey's Erdogan encourages Islamist rebels to continue advances as Assad regime scrambles to survive*, December 6, 2024.

7. Al-Khalidi, Suleiman, & Azhari, Timour, Reuters, Syrian *rebels topple President Assad, prime minister calls for free elections*, December 8, 2024.

8. The Jerusalem Post/ Reuters, *Turkey-backed forces continue advance in*

northern Syria, defense ministry source says, December 12, 2024.

9. NPR/AP, *Taiwan's Defense Ministry says a large Chinese military force has been detected nearby*, December 10, 2024.

10. AP, *China's military is staying silent on its recent activity around Taiwan*, December 13, 2024.

Terrorism

In Afghanistan, a suicide bombing killed the Taliban refugee minister [1]. The attack was blames on the Islamic State [2].

In Haiti, a gang leader operating on the advice of a voodoo priest, massacred 184 people [3]. As a consequence, U.N. peacekeepers are coming to the realization their current approach in Haiti is not working [4].

The U.S. was reminded of the threat of targeted attacks. Case in point, the Chief Executive Officer for United Healthcare was assassinated in New York City [5].

1. Popalzai, Masoud, & Nicholls, Catherine, CNN, Suicide bombing in Kabul kills Taliban refugee minister, December 11, 2024.

2. Yawar, Mohammad Yunus, & Ali, Mushtaq, Reuters, *Afghan Taliban's refugees minister killed in Kabul blast, nephew says*, December 11, 2024.

3. CBS News, *184 killed in Haiti, U.N. says, as gang leader allegedly orders massacre of elderly on voodoo priest's advice*, December 9, 2024.

4. Osborn, Catherine, Foreign Policy, Haiti's Crisis Sparks a Rethink of U.N. Peacekeeping, December 13, 2024.

5. Sisak, Michael R., & Attanasio, Cedar, AP, *A timeline of the fatal shooting of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson and search for his killer*, December 9, 2024.

If you wish to be a success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing.
—Napoleon Bonaparte

Economy

The stock market indexes continued to rise. On November 26, the NASDAQ, S&P 500, and DJIA indexes closed at record highs [1]. Then on November 29, both the DJIA and the S&P 500 closed at record highs [2]. On December 2 and 3, the NASDAQ and S&P 500 both closed at record highs [3,4]. On December 4, the three indexes closed at record highs with the DJIA breaking through the 45,000 level [5]. Then, on December 6, the S&P 500 and NASDAQ closed at record highs [6].

The annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) came in at 2.7% [7]. Following the CPI report, the NASDAQ rose on December 11 to a new record high closing above 20,000 [8].

1. Harring, Alex, & Subin, Samantha, CNBC, *Stocks rise Tuesday, Dow and S&P 500 close at records: Live updates*, November 26, 2024.

2. Harring, Alex, CNBC, *Dow jumps nearly 200 points to record in short session, S&P 500 posts best month of 2024: Live updates*, November 29, 2024.

3. Fox, Matthew, Business Insider/Yahoo Finance, *Stock market today: Indexes trade mixed as traders take a breather after the best month of 2024*, December 2, 2024.

4. Friar, Karen, & Canal, Alexandra, Yahoo Finance, *Stock market today: S&P 500, Nasdaq eke out records after jobs data surprises, Fed officials signal more cuts*, December 3, 2024.

5. Conlon, Sean, et. al., CNBC, *Dow posts first close above 45,000; S&P 500 reaches new record as tech shares surge: Live updates*, December 4, 2024.

6. Conlon, Sean, et. al., CNBC, *S&P 500 rises to a record close Friday, posts third straight winning week: Live updates*, December 6, 2024.

7. Schafer, Josh, et. al., Yahoo Finance, *Stock market today: Dow, S&P 500, Nasdaq climb as CPI inflation meets the mark*, December 11, 2024.

8. Kim, Hakyung, CNBC, *Stock futures slip after Nasdaq notches record close above 20,000: Live updates*, December 12, 2024.

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.– Martin Luther King, Jr.