

World News

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues to expand. Russia announced plans to conduct nuclear weapons drills in response to deepening Western involvement in the war [1]. This comes as Russia continued targeting the Ukrainian power grid [2]. Then, they launched new ground attacks in Northern Ukraine [3]. Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone struck an oil refinery located in Russia's Kaluga region [4]. Another report indicates approximately 12 missiles were fired at Russian targets in Belgorod, killing at least 15 people in an apartment building [5].

For years, there have been warnings that Iran was close to developing nuclear weapons [6]. Moreover, the United Nations nuclear watchdog warned Iran is not fully transparent [7]. Now, one Iranian lawmaker claims Iran already has nuclear weapons [8].

1. ABC News/AP, *Russia announces nuclear weapon drills after angry exchange with Western officials*, May 6, 2024.
2. Novikov, Illia, AP, *Russia hits Ukraine's power grid with a 'massive' attack on a day marking the WWII defeat of Nazism*, May 8, 2024.
3. Butenko, Victoria, et. al., CNN, *Russia mounts surprise assault on northern Ukraine in most serious cross-border offensive in two years*, May 10, 2024.
4. Meredith, Sam, CNBC, *Ukraine drone attack sparks fire at Russian oil refinery; two injured as houses burnt in Kharkiv*, May 10, 2024.

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Israel War

The fighting between Israel and Hezbollah continues [1]. The intensified fighting is costing Israel losses [2]. Hezbollah launched a rocket attack from Lebanon that ignited a number of fires in Northern Israel [3]. Moreover, Hezbollah is now using more advanced weapons, including drones capable of launching missiles [4].

Peace talks continue to stop the fighting but issues remain [5]. President Biden is withholding military aid to Israel in an attempt to force the Jewish state to agree to

the Hamas accepted cease-fire [6]. Another report indicates the US is negotiating with Iran to contain the conflict [7].

Meanwhile, the Houthis in Yemen continue to attack commercial ships. For instance, a Panamanian-flagged oil tanker was struck by anti ship missile fire [8]. The Houthis also claim to have shot down a US MQ-9 Reaper drone [9].

1. The Jerusalem Post, *IDF strikes Hezbollah targets in six locations in Lebanon*, May 7, 2024.

2. Fabian, Emanuel, Times of Israel, *IDF announces soldier killed in Hezbollah attack on army post in north*, May 9, 2024.
3. Ashkenazi, Eli, Jerusalem Post, *Fires rage in Northern Israel after Hezbollah barrage from Lebanon*, May 10, 2024.
4. PBS, *Hezbollah introduces new weapons, tactics against Israel as war in Gaza drags on*, May 17, 2024.

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Special points of interest:

- Three Stock Indexes Close at Record Highs
- DJIA Closed Above 40,000
- Year-to-year CPI 3.4% Rate

Israel War

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5. Politico/AP, *Hamas accepts cease-fire proposal for Gaza, but Israel's stance still uncertain*, May 6, 2024.
6. Miller, Zeke, & Madhani, Aamer, AP, *US paused bomb shipment to Israel to signal concerns over Rafah invasion, official says*, May 8, 2024.
7. Ravid, Barak, Axios, *Scoop: U.S., Iran held indirect talks this week on avoiding more attacks*, May 17, 2024.
8. Reuters, *Houthis hit Panamanian-flagged tanker with missile off Yemen, CENTCOM says*, May 18, 2024.
9. Gambrell, Jon, The Times of Israel, *Yemen's Houthis claim to shoot down US MQ-9 Reaper drone; ship targeted in Red Sea*, May 18, 2024.

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.—Plato

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5. Faulconbridge, Guy, Reuters, *Ukrainian missile kills 15 at apartment block, Russia says*, May 13, 2024.
6. Qiblawi, Tamara, CNN, *Iran is closer than ever to a nuclear weapon as Biden runs out of options*, June 12, 2022.
7. Gambrell, Jon, AP, *The head of UN's nuclear watchdog warns Iran is 'not entirely transparent' on its atomic program*, February 13, 2024.
8. American Military News, *Iran allegedly has nuclear bombs, Iranian lawmaker claims: Report*, May 13, 2024.

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Terrorism

The risk of terrorism in the USA is problematic.

Case in point, a woman in Baltimore, (belonging to the Atomwaffen Division, a Neo-Nazi group) was arrested for planning to blowup electric power stations [1].

Elsewhere, in Afghanistan terrorism continues. Case in point, six tourists were killed in an attack [2].

1. Wendling, Mike, BBC News, *US woman pleads guilty in neo-Nazi plot to attack power grid*, May 14, 2024.
2. VOA, *Taliban raise death toll to 6 in gun attack on Western tourists*, May 18, 2024.

*The victory march will
continue until the
Palestinian flag flies in
Jerusalem and in all of
Palestine.—Yasser Arafat*

Economy

The stock market indexes continue to shine. On May 14, the NASDAQ closed at a record high [1]. Then on May 15, all three indexes (DJIA, S&P 500, and NASDAQ) closed at record highs [2]. On May 16, the DJIA briefly broke through the 40,000 mark for the first time [3]. Finally, on May 17, the DJIA closed above 40,000 for a new record high [4].

Meanwhile, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase was 0.3% for April or 3.4% year-to-year [5].

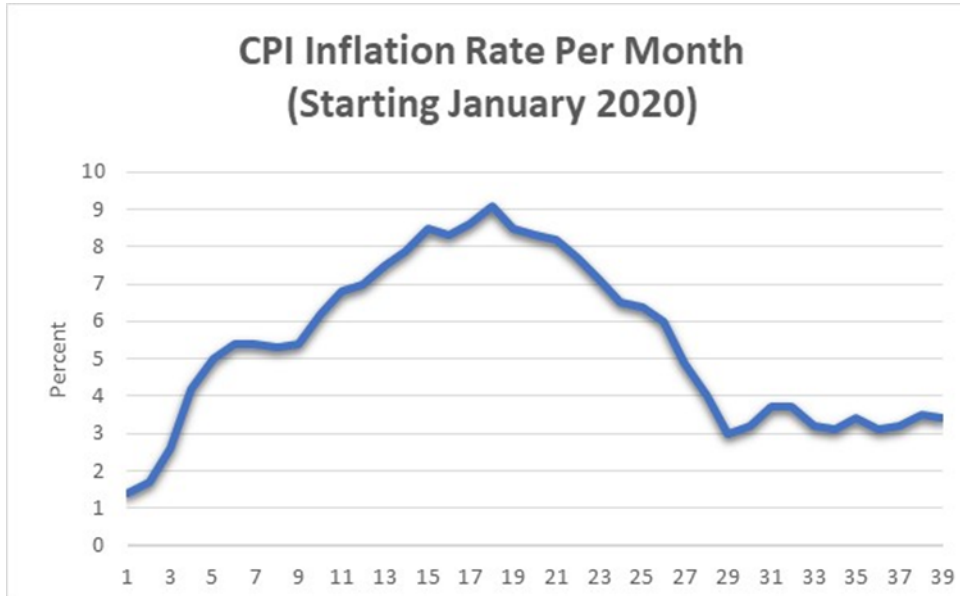
1. Wang, Isabel, MarketWatch, *Nasdaq posts*

7th record close of 2024 as stocks end higher ahead of April CPI report, May 14, 2024.

2. Chen, Vivien Lou, MarketWatch, *Dow Jones, S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite simultaneously close at record highs for first time in almost two months, May 15, 2024.*
3. Goodkind, Nicole, CNN, *Dow briefly tops 40,000 for first time but ends the day lower, May 16, 2024.*
4. Han, Lisa Kailai, & Harring, Alex, CNBC, *Dow closes at record high above 40,000 to cinch a five-week*

winning streak, May 17, 2024.

5. Hughes, Clyde, MSN/ UPI, *April CPI: Consumer prices rose 0.3%, slower than analysts expected, May 15, 2024.*



*Don't let schooling
interfere with your
education.—Mark Twain*
