

World News

Rwanda-backed M23 rebels entered eastern Congo's largest city Goma [1]. During January, an estimated 700 people were killed in the DR Congo fighting [2,3]. By February 6, the number of people killed increased to 3,000 [4]. Then around February 10, the Rwandan-backed M23 rebels attacked Congolese government forces in the South Kivu province [5]. Reports indicate the rebels were closing in on a second major city, Bukavu [6]. Then on February 14, reports indicated the rebels had entered the city [7].

Near the Suez, Canal, the US aircraft carrier, Harry S. Truman, was damaged in a collision with a commercial vessel [8]. The collision occurred just before midnight with a Panamanian-flagged bulk cargo ship (with a length of 620 feet and a width of 105 feet) [9].

In Somalia, US forces struck Islamic State operatives [10]. Meanwhile, the Islamic State struck military bases in Somalia's northeastern Puntland state [11].

In Asia, China is constructing the world's largest military building complex in the capital, Beijing [12]. In the South China Sea, Chinese forces were deployed to counter US military exercises in contested waters [13].

1. Reuters, *Rwanda-backed Congo rebels face pockets of resistance after entering Goma*, January 28, 2025.
2. Lukiv, Jaroslav, BBC, *At least 700 killed in DR Congo fighting since Sunday – UN*, January 31, 2025.
3. Kabumba, Justin, et. al., AP, *Congo says 773 dead in weeklong fighting as* (Continued on page 2)

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Israel War

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas continues to hold. For example, eight hostages were released [1]. This comes as President Trump continues to argue for taking control of the Palestinian enclave [2]. Then, on February 15, three hostages were released [3].

While the peace with Hamas appears to be holding, regional fighting remains. Case in point, Israeli jets struck a Hezbollah smuggling tunnel connecting Syria and Lebanon [4].

In a positive turn of events, President Trump pushed a plan for Gaza refugees [5]. In response, Jordan has agreed to take in sick Palestinian children [6].

1. Legge, James, et. al., CNN, *Eight hostages released from Gaza amid chaotic scenes as Palestinian prisoners set to be freed*, January 30, 2025.
2. Goldenberg, Tia, & Jahjough, Mohammad, AP, *Trump repeats pledge to take control of Gaza even as pressure mounts to renew cease-*

fire, February 9, 2025.

3. Khadder, Kareem, et. al., CNN, *Three Israeli hostages freed after dispute threatened Gaza ceasefire*, February 15, 2025.
4. The Times of Israel, *IAF jets strike Hezbollah smuggling tunnel under Lebanon-Syria border*, February 9, 2025.
5. CBS News, *Trump pushes Gaza plan in meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II*, February 11, 2025.

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Special points of interest:

- Consumer Price Index 3.0%
- Unemployment Rate 4.0%

Israel War

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6. Gangitano, Alex, The Hill, *Jordan pledges to take in sick Palestinian children as Trump backpedals on aid threat*, February 11, 2025.

We're in this transition period of figuring out how to deal with all the new technology that is out there, but television still proves to be the granddaddy of them all.—Jeff Zucker

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- military tries to repel Rwanda-backed rebels*, February 1, 2025.
4. Jaime, Caroline, et. al., CNN, *Nearly 3,000 people killed after rebels seize key city in DR Congo*, UN says, February 6, 2025.
5. Chibelushi, Wedaeli, BBC, *Rebels attack DR Congo army ending lull in fighting*, February 11, 2025.
6. Ross, Will, BBC, *DR Congo M23 rebels close in on second major city*, February 14, 2025.
7. Reuters, *Congo rebels say they have entered Bukavu after seizing airport*, February 14, 2025.
8. Bertrand, Natasha, & Lendon, Brad, CNN, *US Navy aircraft carrier collides with merchant ship near Suez Canal*, February 14, 2025.
9. Toropin, Konstantin, Military.com, *USS Truman's Nuclear Propulsion System Safe After Ship Collision Off Egypt Coast*, Navy Says, February 13, 2025.
10. Copp, Tara, et. al., AP, *US military conducts airstrikes against Islamic State operatives in Somalia*, February 1, 2025.
11. Reuters, *Islamic State attacks military bases in Somalia's Puntland*, February 11, 2025.
12. Jian, Yong, Asia Times, *China building world's biggest military base in prep for US war*, February 3, 2025.
13. Chan, Ryan, Newsweek, *China Deploys Military To Counter US in Contested Waters*, February 13, 2025.

World News

Terrorism

In Pakistan, 18 soldiers were killed by the Baloch Liberation Army separatist group [1]. In Southwest Pakistan, a roadside bomb explosion killed 11 coal miners [2].

The middle-east continues to be a hot bed for terrorism. For example, In Syria, a car bomb detonation resulted in the death of at least 19 people [3].

In Munich, Germany, a 24-year-old Afghan wounded at least 28 people when he deliberately drove his car into a crowd [4]. The prosecutors have indicated the terrorist attack was religious based [5]. Meanwhile, in Austria, one person was killed and four wounded during a knife attack by a 23-year-old Syrian asylum seeker [6].

1. Sattar, Abdul, AP, *18 Pakistani soldiers killed in fighting with separatist*

rebels in Balochistan, February 1, 2025.

2. Gul, Ayaz, VOA, *Roadside bomb kills 11 coal miners in southwest Pakistan*, February 14, 2025
3. Chehayeb, Kareem, & Albam, Omar, AP, *Another car bomb in a northern Syria city kills at least 19, mostly women*, February 2, 2025.
4. Angerer, Carlo, & Smith, Patrick, NBC News, *Car rams into Munich crowd, injuring at least 28, in suspected attack*, February 13, 2025.
5. Kirby, Paul, BBC, *Jihadist motivation in Munich attack, prosecutors say*, February 14, 2025.
6. El-Bawab, Nadine, & Jovanovic, Dada, ABC News, *14-year-old killed, 4*

injured in knife attack in Austria, February 15, 2025.

Transitions are a time for reflection, and a time for looking forward.—Roy Cooper

Economy

In an unusual twist, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) was given access to the Treasury's payment System [1,2]. Additionally, DOGE has recommended USAID and CFPB be terminated [3].

President Trump ordered the creation of a US sovereign wealth fund [4]. This comes as Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba pledged to invest \$1 Trillion into the US economy [5].

The unemployment rate for January was 4.0% [6]. Meanwhile, the Consumer Price Index measure of inflation increased in January to a 3.0% annual rate [7].

1. Wolf, Zachary B., CNN, *We do not know what exactly Elon Musk is doing to the federal government*, February 1, 2025.
2. Stratford, Michael, et. al., Politico, *Trump administration gives Musk allies access to Treasury payment system*, February 1, 2025.
3. Goodwin, Grace Eliza, Business Insider, *Elon Musk's DOGE has worked quickly to cut federal agencies. Here's a list of what's been targeted so far*, February 14, 2025.
4. Miller, Zeke, & Hadero, Haleluya, AP, *Trump orders creation of US sovereign wealth fund, says it could own part of TikTok*, February 3, 2025.
5. Pesek, William, Asia Times, *Japan goes for broke with \$1 trillion Trump bet*, February 13, 2025.
6. Wiseman, Paul, AP, *US employers added 143,000 jobs in solid but unspectacular January hiring, jobless rate fell to 4%*, February 7, 2025.
7. Smith, Colby, New York Times, *Inflation Rises Unexpectedly, Complicating Picture for the Fed*, February 12, 2025.

*Change will not come if
we wait for some other
person or some other time.*

*We are the ones we've
been waiting for. We are
the change that we seek.—*

Barack Obama
