

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 26 November

[**Bangladesh, Manufacturing, Safety**] [Arrests made after Bangladesh factory blaze](#) – Al Jazeera. (Reuters [also reported](#) that Bangladeshi authorities were investigating the fire as an arson, and that the government claimed “sabotage” in the fire and other fires and explosions at factories.)

[**Japan, Asia-Pacific, Internal Politics, Military Aid, Diplomacy**] [Japan Is Flexing Its Military Muscle to Counter a Rising China](#) – New York Times.

[**Iran, Sanctions, Turkey**] [Iran importing gold to evade economic sanctions, Turkish official says](#) – CNN.

[**Syria, Internet, Internal Conflict**] [Syria: Internet and mobile communication ‘cut off’](#) – BBC News. ([Detailed analysis](#) of the outage by Renesys Group.)

[**Afghanistan, Banking, Crime, Corruption**] [Report: Afghan Politics Hampers Kabul Bank Case](#) – Associated Press.

[**Argentina, ‘Dirty War’, Crime, Trials**] [Largest trial of ‘Dirty War’ crimes starts in Argentina](#) – BBC News.

[**Iran, Drones, Lulz**] [Iran’s Photoshop FAIL: ‘New drone’ actually Japanese university bird](#) – The Register.

[**Brazil, Environment**] [Brazil deforestation hits record low](#) – Associated Press.

[**Sudan, Arms Production**] [Sudanese military factory to be moved from capital](#) – Associated Press.

[**Syria, Internal Conflict, Agriculture**] [20 killed in Syrian bombing of factory](#) – Associated Press.

[**Palestinian Territories, United Nations**] [Palestinians turn to U.N. for state recognition, despite threats](#) – Reuters.

[**Syria, Cybersecurity, Anonymous**] [Anonymous Hackers Leak 1GB of Emails from Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) – Softpedia.

[Spain, Separatist Movements, Elections] [Catalan election weakens bid for independence from Spain](#) – Reuters.

[North Korea, Missile Tests] [North Korea said preparing missile launch](#) – United Press International.

[Palestinian Territories, Yasser Arafat, Investigations] [Yasser Arafat's body exhumed to be tested for evidence of murder](#) – Associated Press. (Foreign Policy's Turtle Bay blog also reported on the prospects for [Palestine joining the ICC](#) after the vote.)

[Morocco, Counterterrorism, Mali, al Qaeda] [Morocco 'dismantles Mali militant cell'](#) – Deutsche Welle.

[Syria, Iran, Energy Imports] [Syria leaves regional power grid and turns to Iran for electricity](#) – Energy Business Review.

[Israel, Government Figures, Internal Politics] [In shocker, Israel's Barak quits politics](#) – Associated Press.

[Egypt, Courts, Rule of Law] [Egyptian courts suspend work to protest Morsi move](#) – Associated Press.

[China, Philippines, Vietnam, Disputed Territories, Documents] [Philippines Joins Vietnam in Refusing to Stamp New Chinese Passport](#) – Voice of America. (The [U.S. said it will voice its concern](#) to China over the new passports, according to the Associated Press.)

[Venezuela, Internal Politics, Press] [Gov't raids opposition print plant in Venezuela](#) – Associated Press.

[Business, Syria, IT] [Hewlett-Packard denies direct sales to Syria after SEC inquiry](#) – Reuters.

[Sinaloa Cartel, U.S., Mexico, Borders] [Border Patrol: Woman tied to Mexico's Sinaloa cartel arrested on immigration charge in Calif.](#) – Associated Press.

[Uganda, Ireland, Fraud, International Development] [€4m of Irish Aid to Uganda diverted in 'sophisticated fraud'](#) – Irish Independent.

[Japan, China, South Korea, Trade Agreements] [South Korea, China, Japan to soon start talks for giant free trade pact](#) – Associated Press.

[U.K., Russia, Money Laundering, Crime] [Russian whistleblower dies in UK under strange circumstances](#) – Reuters.

[U.S., Iran, Sanctions, Aircraft] [Fort Worth mechanic tried to broker \\$136.5 million deal with Iran, prosecutors say](#) – Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel.

[U.S. Navy, Budgeting, Alternative Fuels] [Senate Votes to Save the Navy's 'Great Green Fleet'](#) – Wired.com, Danger Room blog.

[Japan, Internal Politics] [Ishin, Taiyo parties; merger may be risky bet / Policy difference papered over in hopes of wielding deciding vote as a 3rd major force in Diet](#) – Daily Yomiuri Online.