EUROPE

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnian presidency members criticize Dodik in dispute over international judges
The Bosniak and Croat members of the multiethnic presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina say they will not agree to a Serb demand to remove international judges from the country's Constitutional Court.
Read full article: RFE/RL (02/19)

Kosovo

Serbia, Kosovo ink 'milestone' railway, highway deal
Serbian and Kosovar officials have signed a deal to restore a railway link between Belgrade and Pristina and to connect the two capitals with a highway in a step toward normalizing bilateral relations.
Read full article: RFE/RL (02/14)

Ukraine

OSCE urges restraint in east Ukraine after deadly uptick in fighting
Two high-ranking officials from the ... OSCE expressed deep concern over the recent upsurge in fighting in eastern Ukraine that killed at least five combatants and wounded at least eight others near a front-line town from which the warring sides withdrew forces in November.
Read full article: RFE/RL (02/19)
CAUCASUS

Nagorno-Karabakh

Armenian, Azerbaijani leaders debate Nagorno-Karabakh, make little visible progress
Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian met for a public discussion on February 15 at the Munich Security Conference.
Read full article: RFE/RL (02/15)

AFRICA

Burundi

Burundi opposition party picks Agathon Rwasa to run for president
Rwasa will run in the upcoming polls against army General Evariste Ndayishimiye, an ally of Nkurunziza who was chosen last month by the ruling CNDD-FDD party to be its candidate.
Read full article: Al Jazeera (02/16)

Central African Republic

12 FPRC militia fighters killed in clashes with Central African and UN troops in Birao
In a February 18 statement, the U.N. peacekeeping mission MINUSCA said blue helmets and CAR armed forces (FACA) had repelled “heavily armed” FPRC fighters who were threatening a FACA base, the U.N. base, and a site for internally displaced people.
Read full article: The Defense Post (02/18)

Guinea-Bissau

Swearing-in of new President unlikely to bring stability, says UN representative
Rosine Sori-Coulibaly updated ambassadors on developments in the wake of the November 2019 presidential election and subsequent run-off, won by ex-army general Umaro Sissoco Embalô, a former Prime Minister and candidate for the Movement for Democratic Change (MADEM-G15).
Read full article: UN News (02/14)

Libya

Chad soldiers repel CCMSR rebel incursion from Libya, army says
The rebel group, the Military Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic (CCMSR), acknowledged the deadly fighting, saying its forces had conducted a “strategic pullback”.
Read full article: The Defense Post (02/19)
Government suspends Libya talks after Haftar attacks Tripoli port
Libya’s internationally recognized government on Tuesday suspended talks hosted by the United Nations to halt warfare over the capital after eastern forces shelled Tripoli’s port, killing three people and almost hitting a highly explosive gas tanker.
*Read full article: Reuters* (02/18)

Europe's new Libya mission draws criticism
European Union foreign ministers agreed Monday to launch a revamped mission to try to monitor and enforce an international weapons embargo on war-torn Libya ... But few observers believe the new mission will have much impact as EU naval assets will be deployed at least 100 kilometers away from the Libyan coast.
*Read full article: VOA News* (02/18)

Libya arms embargo is a joke, says UN envoy as ceasefire talks continue
The UN-backed arms embargo in Libya has become a joke and the country’s financial position is deteriorating rapidly, the UN deputy special envoy for Libya, Stephanie Williams, has said after foreign ministers met in Munich to try to enforce a ceasefire between the two warring sides.
*Read full article: The Guardian* (02/16)

Mali

Dozens killed in attacks in central Mali
At least 40 people, including nine soldiers, have been killed in a spate of attacks in central Mali, authorities said on Friday.
*Read full article: Al Jazeera* (02/15)

South Sudan

South Sudan’s former rebel leader Machar agrees to form unity government with President Kiir
South Sudan’s former rebel leader Riek Machar said he has agreed to form a unity government with President Salva Kiir following a meeting at state house on Thursday. “We had a meeting with the president on the outstanding issues. We have agreed to form the government on 22 Feb.”
*Read full article: Reuters* (02/20)

South Sudan president offers key compromise for peace
Kiir said the country would now be divided among the original 10 states, plus three "administrative areas" of Pibor, Ruweng and Abyei.
*Read full article: VOA News* (02/15)
South Sudan / Sudan (Abyei)

Sudan, South Sudan to deploy joint military observers in Abyei

In a report to the UN Security Council, the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) said it discussed with the two countries a plan to establish checkpoints to search for weapons and ammunition and control the reported movements of armed elements within the Abyei Area.

Read full article: Sudan Tribune (02/16)

Sudan (Darfur)

Hemetti calls for code of conduct to achieve Sudan's transition, complains of marginalization

Sudan’s leading member of the Transitional Sovereign Council Mohamed Hamdan Daglo "Hemetti" complained of his marginalization by Hamdok government and called for code of conduct to enhance confidence with the ruling coalition Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC).

Read full article: Sudan Tribune (02/15)

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

No casualties in rocket attack on US coalition base in Baghdad

Washington has blamed Iran-backed paramilitary groups for increasingly regular rocketing and shelling of bases hosting U.S. forces in Iraq and of the area around the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Read full article: VOA News (02/16)

Yemen

Recent uptick in fighting contradicts desire for peace

A recent escalation in fighting between warring parties in Yemen contradicts their stated desire to peacefully end nearly five years of conflict, UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths said ... both the Government and Ansar Allah forces have announced expansive military goals, accompanied by fierce rhetoric, he reported, with heavy fighting occurring in three governorates that mostly had been quiet in recent years.

Read full article: UN News (02/18)

Yemen's warring parties reach deal on large scale prisoner swap

The United Nations mission in Yemen announced that the warring sides in the agreed to "immediately begin exchanging lists for the upcoming release" of prisoners, calling it the "first official large-scale" exchange of its kind since the beginning of the long-running conflict in Yemen.

Read full article: VOA News (02/18)
CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan plunges into crisis after losing presidential candidate alleges 'coup'
Though (Ashraf) Ghani was finally declared the winner of the September 28 vote, main challenger Abdullah Abdullah, the country's chief executive officer, has rejected the result, declared himself the winner, and vowed to form his own government... Ghani’s vice president, the powerful former warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, called on his supporters on February 19 to take to the streets to celebrate what he described as a victory for Abdullah.
Read full article: RFE/RL (02/19)

Afghan president cautiously hopeful about US-Taliban deal
The agreement for a seven-day "reduction in violence" announced this week after long negotiations between Washington and the jihadists has raised hopes that a comprehensive peace deal could follow. But it is still not clear when the period will begin and Ghani said that the Taliban's sincerity in entering the agreement was unproven.
Read full article: VOA News (02/18)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

UN calls on Cameroon to investigate anglophone village massacre
Citing information from UN colleagues on the ground, the UN rights office said that two pregnant women and 15 children – nine of them under the age of five – were among those killed in Friday's attack, which opposition parties blamed on members of the armed forces.
Read full article: France24 (02/18)