

Global Watch Daily Briefing On January 14, 2026

By Kaswar Klasra

The geopolitical landscape is shifting under the weight of "deal-making" backed by force. In Washington, the Trump administration has stunned global markets with an immediate 25% tariff on any nation trading with Iran, a "secondary sanction" aimed squarely at Beijing and New Delhi.

While Indian officials downplay the impact due to limited exposure, the move coincides with the fallout of the U.S. incursion in Venezuela.

Though Nicolás Maduro is now in New York to face trial, Mexico has categorically rejected the "interventionist" move, highlighting a deepening hemispheric rift.

Meanwhile, in Seoul, prosecutors have made the unprecedented move of seeking the death penalty for former President Yoon Suk Yeol, signaling a brutal legal reckoning for his failed 2024 martial law bid.

These are Top ten news stories which are shaping the World Today:

1. Foreign Policy: The Venezuela Incursion Fallout

Summary: Tensions escalate as Mexico formally rejects the U.S. military incursion into Venezuela that led to the capture of Nicolás Maduro. While Mexico calls for non-intervention, Canada maintains a cautious silence, navigating a delicate diplomatic path ahead of critical trade reviews.

Link: [Mexico takes firm stance on U.S. incursion in Venezuela](#)

2. Diplomacy: Trump's "Gunboat Diplomacy" in Iran

Summary: President Trump has canceled all diplomatic meetings with Tehran, instead urging Iranian protesters to seize government institutions. This shift toward "gunboat diplomacy" has raised fears of a direct military intervention as the Iranian regime faces its gravest internal challenge in decades.

Link: [Gunboat diplomacy: U.S. shifts stance on Iran](#)

3. Trade: The 25% Iran Trade Penalty

Summary: The White House has announced an immediate 25% tariff on any country conducting business with Iran. This "secondary sanction" strategy aims to force global partners to choose between Iranian energy and access to the massive United States consumer market.

Link: [Trump says nations doing business with Iran face 25pc tariff](#)

4. Defense: U.S. Offensive Cyber Doctrine

Summary: In a landmark House hearing, experts and officials called for the full integration of offensive cyber operations into U.S. military doctrine. The push follows successful cyber-attacks that disabled infrastructure during the Caracas raid, signaling a new era of digital warfare.

Link: [Experts press for large-scale US offensive cyber operations](#)

5. Global Trade: U.S.-China Trade War Reignited

Summary: Analysts warn that the new Iran-related tariffs are a "shot across the bow" for Beijing, Iran's largest oil customer. The move threatens to undo recent progress in U.S.-China relations and could lead to retaliatory restrictions on rare earth minerals.

Link: [Trump's Iran tariff threat risks reigniting US-China trade war](#)

6. Politics: The Greenland Sovereignty Conflict

Summary: U.S. Senators have introduced a bipartisan bill to block any attempt by the administration to unilaterally seize Greenland. Meanwhile, Greenland's Prime Minister Nielsen reiterated today that the island "chooses Denmark" over joining the United States.

Link: [US senators introduce bill to stop Trump seizing Greenland](#)

7. Diplomacy: UN Warns of "Excessive Force" in Tehran

Summary: UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated he is "shocked" by reports of excessive force used against Iranian protesters. The UN is now facing pressure to mediate as the U.S. encourages the total overthrow of the clerical establishment.

Link: [UN chief 'shocked' by reports of excessive force in Iran](#)

8. Defense: The Russia-Ukraine Winter Crisis

Summary: On day 1,420 of the conflict, deadly Russian strikes have targeted energy grids, pushing Ukrainian civilians deeper into a winter humanitarian crisis. The UN reports that aid teams are struggling to adapt to the increasingly lethal environment.

Link: [Russia-Ukraine war: List of key events, day 1,420](#)

9. Politics: South Korea Seeks Death Penalty for Ex-President

Summary: South Korean prosecutors have officially requested the death penalty for former President Yoon Suk Yeol. The charges stem from his failed 2024 martial law declaration, which prosecutors argue was a direct threat to the nation's constitutional order.

Link: [South Korea prosecutors seek death penalty for ex-President Yoon](#)

10. Diplomacy: Pakistan-Saudi Mineral Pact

Summary: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have moved to strengthen bilateral ties in the mining and critical minerals sector. At the Future Minerals Forum in Riyadh, both nations agreed to explore joint investments to secure global supply chains for green energy.

Link: [Petroleum minister urges strong mineral sector ties with Saudi Arabia](#)

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