

Global Asia Daily Briefing

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On January 31, 2026, global diplomacy saw intensified strategic shifts. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer secured a reset with China as Beijing lifted restrictions on British lawmakers and agreed on a long-term comprehensive partnership, even as Washington warns London about closer Sino ties, underscoring diverging U.S.–UK-China policy vectors.

In Washington, President Trump escalated pressure on Cuba with a national-security executive order and targeted tariffs, prompting Havana's declaration of an "international emergency" and condemnation from Caracas' allies.

U.S.–China tensions persist amid economic competition and diplomatic pushback from Beijing, which urges restraint on broader U.S. pressure tactics.

Meanwhile, U.S.–Iran relations teeter between war threats and diplomacy: Tehran signals conditional willingness to talk even as U.S. naval deployments surge in the Gulf and regional partners call for dialogue.

Across fronts, global foreign policy in late January reflects a mix of strategic engagement, rising pressure tactics, and contested geopolitical alignments.

Here are top ten news articles defining the World Today:

1. Starmer Defies Trump on UK-China Diplomacy

Description: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer played down former U.S. President Donald Trump's warning against deepening trade and diplomatic ties with China, asserting that engagement with the world's second-largest economy is "not foolhardy." The discussions follow a high-profile British visit to Beijing where sanctions on MPs were eased and trade incentives secured.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2026/jan/30/donald-trump-keir-starmer-china-uk-us-trade-deals-tariffs-latest-news>

2. Global News Bulletin — Morning of January 31, 2026

Description: A roundup of key international developments impacting geopolitics and Europe, including diplomatic movements and breaking global events in world news on January 31.

Link: <https://www.euronews.com/video/2026/01/31/latest-news-bulletin-january-31st-2026-morning>

3. UAE hails India-EU FTA as boost to global trade cooperation

Description: The United Arab Emirates has welcomed the free trade agreement reached between India and the EU, des

Link: https://thefederal.com/category/news/todays-main-news-from-india-world-227657?utm_source=chatgpt.com

4. US Domestic Protest Movement Over ICE Actions Grows

Description: More than 300 demonstrations were planned across the U.S. demanding removal of federal immigration enforcement agents in response to fatal incidents and federal crackdowns, signaling broader domestic unrest that may impact U.S. foreign policy leverage abroad.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/31/anti-ice-protests-weekend>

5. China's Official PMI Falls Below Growth Threshold

Description: China's official manufacturing PMI fell to 49.3 in January, signaling contraction and weak domestic demand — a key economic barometer with implications for global trade and China's external economic influence.

Link: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-january-official-manufacturing-pmi-drops-493-2026-01-31/>

6. Iranian President Blames West for Domestic Unrest

Description: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian accused the U.S., Israel, and European governments of exploiting Iran's economic woes and inciting nationwide protests — a statement that underscores escalating tensions between Tehran and Western capitals.

Link: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-president-says-trump-netanyahu-europe-stirred-tensions-protests-2026-01-31/>

7. Russia Urges US-Iran Talks, Warns Against Force

Description: Russia called for diplomatic negotiations between Washington and Tehran to avoid destabilizing the Middle East, warning that continued threats of military action could have dangerous consequences.

Link: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/russia-urges-us-iran-talks-warns-against-use-force-2026-01-29/>

8. Taiwan's Indigenous Submarine Maritime Success

Description: Taiwan completed the first underwater sea trial of a domestically built submarine — a milestone for its defense capability and deterrence against Chinese military pressure in the Taiwan Strait.

Link: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/taiwan-completes-first-undersea-trial-domestically-made-submarine-2026-01-30/>

9. Xinhua World News Summary: Ukraine-Russia Ceasefire & Congo Mine Collapse

Description: Global Xinhua wire reports outline Ukraine's energy-related ceasefire with Russia and an ongoing humanitarian crisis after a mine collapse in Congo, reflecting persistent broad geopolitical instability and international response efforts.

Link summary (Xinhua): https://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2026-01/31/content_118309895.shtml

10. Xi, Algerian president exchange congratulations over successful launch of Algerian satellite

Description: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday exchanged congratulations with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune over the successful launch of an Algerian remote sensing satellite from Jiuquan in northwest China.

Link: <https://english.news.cn/20260131/36428dd8364742518b94c3bc916374e0/c.html>

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