

Global & Regional

[Three little known causes of billionaire Richard Branson](#)

Yahoo 7 Finance (24/05)

Branson is a long-time believer that the war on drugs approach should be rejected and instead decriminalisation of drug possession and use should be introduced in its place.

[How cracking down on America's painkiller capital led to a heroin crisis](#)

The Guardian (25/05)

When the addicts Florida facilitated could not get prescription opioids any more, they turned to heroin.

[How Uber is changing drug dealing](#)

Motherboard (26/05)

Drug dealers will use whatever vehicle they can to get their drugs from point A to point B, so Uber or Lyft would surely be a part of that

[Graphic: Why the UK's Sweeping "Psychoactive Substances" Ban Is Wrongheaded](#)

The Influence 27/05

The UK has enacted Sweeping legislation to ban so-called "legal highs" like Spice or "Black Mamba."

Australia

[The Rich Go To Rehab, The Poor Go To Jail](#)

Huffington Post (24/05)

What we face is delayed treatment for those in need, unless you can afford to go to private care. A strategy to get addicts into treatment will save money, reduce crime and build a healthier community.

[Green's lament "extraordinary" waste on drug sniffer dogs](#)

The Guardian (25/05)

Figures provided to the NSW government reveal that an average of over \$9 million has been spend on sniffer dogs per year, with \$66 spent since 2010.

[Mexico Cartels Threaten Australia National Security: Report](#)

Insight Crime (25/05)

Mexico's cartels are making inroads into Australia as Latin American drug trafficking organizations continue to look for lucrative markets far from home, a new report says.

['Undetectable' drugs sweeping Gold Coast and Australia](#)

Gold Cost Bulletin 28/05

Emergency doctor David Caldicott has completed extensive research on the deadly substances and said the outbreak was happening largely beyond the reach of authorities, calling it "the country's biggest uncontrolled experiment".

[Australian-Thai police taskforce to tackle 'insatiable' drug appetite](#)

ABC News (30/05)

Australian Federal Police and its Thai counterparts have formed a new joint taskforce to tackle what the AFP Commissioner calls Australia's "insatiable appetite" for narcotics.

Cambodia

[Rehab Not Safe from Gangs, Drugs](#)

Khmer Times (26/05)

Drug users recently detained at Orkas Knhom described the government's mandatory drug rehab center as a lawless place where drugs are traded and gangs are allowed to extort money from other detainees with impunity.

[Dire warning on meth trade](#)

Phnom Penh Post (27/05)

The trade in methamphetamine in the Greater Mekong Region including Cambodia is growing at an exponential rate and capacity to combat the problem is a "big challenge", according to the UN's top drug official in Southeast Asia.

China

[New dissociative drug packaged as 'milk tea' sees rise in popularity](#)

Munchies (25/05)

According to reports Guiyang's public security office, "milk tea drugs" are a new kind of dissociative anaesthetic. Similar to ketamine, that has seen a rise in popularity, particularly in Yangjiang City, Guangdong.

India

[India takes part in joint Mekong drug suppression meeting](#)

The Nation (23/05)

India has joined the discussion on the Mekong memorandum of understanding for the first time, amidst an increase in the inter-regional flow of precursor chemicals in Thailand.

[Punjab's Drug Crisis: Afghan Heroin Smuggled Via Pakistan – Analysis](#)

Eurasia Review (28/05)

The international community has fought two simultaneous wars in Afghanistan since 2001- one against the insurgent groups, and second against the rapid growth of opium cultivation. In spite of spending more than 8 billion USD and losing thousands of lives to bring down the increasing opium cultivation and production, the production has increased 35 times since US invasion in 2001.

[Kejriwal's drug-menace barb drives wedge in Goa government](#)

One India (29/05)

Less than a week after Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal's indictment of the Congress and the BJP rule for their inability to rein in drug use in Goa, Art and Culture Minister Dayanand Mandrekar has virtually confirmed the extent of the narco menace, claiming there is very little the incumbent government could do about it.

Indonesia

[Govt to submit appeal for Indonesian on death row in Malaysia](#)

Jakarta Post (30/05)

The Foreign Ministry will submit an appeal to the Penang High Court in Malaysia regarding Indonesian migrant worker Rita Krisdianti, who was sentenced to the death penalty on Monday for her alleged involvement in drug smuggling.

Malaysia

[United to fight drug menace](#)

The Star (25/05)

The establishment of the Malaysian Substance Abuse Council (Masac) to provide free community service for prevention of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation is a step in the right direction.

[South African to hang for drug trafficking](#)

New Straits Times (27/05)

Benjamin William Hawkes, 46, was sentenced to hang for trafficking 1,593.3 grammes of methamphetamine following his arrest three years ago.

[Consider less severe punishment](#)

News Straits Times (30/05)

From waging a fierce war on drugs year after year without satisfactory results, the government should consider removing criminal penalties for drug possession for personal use, and channel its resources into drug treatment and reduction of the harmful effects of drug abuse.

New Zealand

[Students in Wellington just want to be able to legally test their drugs](#)

Vice 24/05

The Wellington arm of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) wants the New Zealand Government to allow drug testing at festivals. VICE went along to their speaker night at the university to find out the details.

Pakistan

[Provisions for drug rehabilitation](#)

The Express Tribune (25/05)

It is clear that drug use has to be addressed with critical attention being directed towards the mental health and well-being of citizens. This is clearly not the case in Pakistan as a recent report has revealed that there are 6.7 million drug users in the country, and at the same time, there are very few rehabilitation centres.

Philippines

[Probe sought over Pasay concert deaths](#)

Sun Star 23/05

A PARTY-LIST lawmaker called Monday for a congressional inquiry into the deaths of five people at a Pasay City rave concert last weekend.

[Suspected drug dealers forced to do walk of shame](#)

Metro (24/05)

11 people suspected of drug dealing were paraded through the streets of Tanuan, a town on the island of Luzon. The parade was organised by the town mayor, Antonio Halili.

[Duterte says yes to medical marijuana](#)

Nature World News (24/05)

The policy statement came as a surprise to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), who is adamant in their lobby against legalising the drug, having opposed a bill that was filed in 2014.

[Duterte death squad fears rise as Philippine police kill eight](#)

Free Malaysia Today (27/05)

Philippine police shot dead eight drug suspects this week, authorities said Friday, following repeated calls by president-elect Rodrigo Duterte for security forces to kill criminals. Gunmen on motorcycles also murdered three petty criminals in Duterte's hometown of Davao, police said, deepening fears of mass extra-judicial killings once the controversial politician begins his six-year term on June 30.

[Philippine police kill three more drug suspects](#)

Channel News Asia (29/05)

A spate of recent criminal killings by police has spiked fears of a extra-judicial crackdown in the country after incoming leader Duterte vowed to stamp out crime by all means necessary.

Taiwan

[Taiwanese Risk Death Penalty in Indonesia amid War on Drugs](#)

The News Lens (25/05)

Three Taiwanese traffickers charged with drug trafficking may face the death penalty, after they were arrested with 60 kilograms of methamphetamine in Indonesia.

Thailand

[Moscow pledges to help Thailand fight drugs](#)

Bangkok Post (24/05)

In Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha's visit to Russia last week, Russia vowed greater cooperation and technical assistance on fighting drug trafficking. Despite vastly differing drug problems, with trafficking more seriously affecting the Mekong region, Russia could still be of potential help, and may be partly responsible: the presence of Russian criminal in Thailand should not be ignored.

[Drug Robin Hood: Thai Man Gives Narcotics to the Poor](#)

Sputnik News (26/05)

A Thai man's apparent desire to help the poor led him to crash the methamphetamine prices in the region.

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