

DARFUR MARKET
Sudan drone
attack kills
10: rescuers

AFP, Port Sudan

A drone attack on a busy market in Sudan's North Darfur state killed 10 people over the weekend, first responders said, without saying who was responsible.

The attack comes as fighting intensified elsewhere in the country, leading aid workers to be evacuated yesterday from Kadugli, a besieged, famine-hit city in the south.

Since April 2023, Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have been locked in a conflict, which has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced nearly 12 million and created the world's largest displacement crisis.

The North Darfur Emergency Rooms Council said a drone strike hit Al-Harra market in the RSF-controlled town of Malha on Saturday. The council did not identify who carried out the attack.

BAR ATTACK
Gunmen kill
9, hurt 10 in
South Africa

AFP, Bekkersdal

Nine people were killed when gunmen opened fire at a bar outside Johannesburg early yesterday, police said, in the second such shooting in South Africa this month.

Ten more were wounded in the early morning attack at the tavern in the impoverished Bekkersdal township in a gold mining area around 40 kilometres southwest of the city.

It follows a shooting at a tavern near Pretoria on December 6 when gunmen killed a dozen people, including a three-year-old child. Police initially said 10 people were killed when the Bekkersdal bar was attacked just before 1:00 am, but later revised the toll downwards.

Most of the attackers were armed with pistols and one had an AK-47 rifle, deputy provincial police commissioner Major General Fred Kekana told SABC television from the scene.

"They entered the tavern and randomly shot at the patrons, unprovoked," he said. Three people were killed inside the bar and others as they fled the scene, with the attackers continuing to shoot as they left, he said.



Protesters march through frigid conditions in a Minneapolis neighborhood, Minnesota, US on Saturday, where many Somali, Latino, and Hispanic immigrants live and work, during the "MN Love Our Immigrant Neighbors – ICE Out of MN!" rally calling for the removal of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement from Minnesota.

PHOTO: AFP

Thai border clashes
displace half a million
Says Cambodia ahead of talks to ease tensions

AFP, Phnom Penh

More than half a million people in Cambodia have been displaced by two weeks of deadly border clashes with neighbouring Thailand, Phnom Penh said yesterday, ahead of regional talks aimed at easing tensions.

The renewed fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours this month, including with tanks, drones and artillery, has killed at least 22 people in Thailand and 19 in Cambodia, officials said.

The conflict stems from a territorial dispute over the colonial-era demarcation of their 800-kilometre (500-mile) border and a smattering of ancient temple ruins situated on the frontier.

Cambodia and Thailand both said yesterday that a meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers hosted by Malaysia today is expected to de-escalate tensions, with Bangkok calling it "an important opportunity for both sides".

Thai foreign ministry spokeswoman Maratee Nalita Andamo reiterated earlier conditions for negotiations, including Bangkok's demand that Phnom Penh be first to announce a truce, and cooperate in demining efforts at the border.

Those conditions, Maratee told reporters, "will guide our interaction in the discussions tomorrow in Kuala Lumpur".

Cambodia's foreign ministry said the meeting aimed to restore "peace, stability and good neighbourly relations".

Phnom Penh would "reaffirm its firm position of resolving differences and disputes through all peaceful means, dialogue and diplomacy," it added.

Cambodia's interior ministry said more than 518,000 people were "suffering severe hardship due to forced displacement from their homes and schools" to escape Thai artillery and air strikes.



People look at a damaged bridge after Thailand carried out air strikes in an area between Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey and Siem Reap provinces on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Epstein files
full of famous
names, but
not Trump
Victims slam
partial release

AFP, Washington

Victims of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein on Saturday expressed anger after a long-awaited cache of records from cases against him were released with many pages blacked out and photos censored.

The trove of material released by the US Justice Department included photographs of former president Bill Clinton and other famous names in Epstein's social circle including Mick Jagger and Michael Jackson.

But blackouts of many of the documents -- combined with control over the release by officials in President Donald Trump's administration -- fueled allegations of a high-level cover-up.

Democrats on Saturday demanded answers after one image that included a photo of Trump was no longer visible in the Justice Department's online release.

"If they're taking this down, just imagine how much more they're trying to hide," said senior Democrat Chuck Schumer.

"This could be one of the biggest cover ups in American history."

UKRAINE PEACE PLAN
Kremlin denies
three-way talks
in preparation

AFP, Miami

The Kremlin yesterday denied that three-way talks between Ukraine, Russia and the United States were on the cards, as diplomats gathered in Miami for talks on ending the conflict.

A day earlier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had said that Washington had mooted the trilateral format, which would mark Moscow and Kyiv's first face-to-face negotiations in half a year, but expressed scepticism that they would lead to progress.

"At present, no one has seriously discussed this initiative, and to my knowledge, it is not in preparation," Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters, according to Russian news agencies.

After revealing the US three-way proposal, Zelensky added that European envoys could be present and said that it would be "logical to hold such a joint meeting".

But he then told journalists, "I am not sure that anything new could come of it," and urged the United States to step up pressure on Russia to end the war.

Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev arrived Saturday in Miami, where Ukrainian and European teams have also been gathering since Friday for the negotiations, mediated by US special envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

GRAFT CASE
Pak ex-PM Imran
calls for protest
after yet another
verdict

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has asked his supporters to prepare for nationwide protests and said he will challenge his conviction in the Islamabad High Court after he and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were sentenced to 17 years in prison in the Toshakhana-II corruption case on Saturday.

The PTI chief does not have access to his social media handles in jail. "I have sent a message to [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister] Sohail Afridi to prepare for the street movement. The entire nation will have to rise for its rights," he said as per the account of the conversation between the PTI leader and his lawyer posted on X.

He said his sentence in this case did not come as a surprise, but he had asked his legal team to move the high court against the decision. "Like the baseless decisions and sentences of the last three years, the Toshakhana-II decision is also nothing new to me. This decision was given in haste by the judge without any evidence and without fulfilling the legal requirements," he said, adding that his legal team was "not even heard".

The PTI chief said it was inevitable for the Insaf Lawyers Forum and the legal community to "come to the front foot" for the supremacy of law and the restoration of the Constitution. He said without justice, economic development was not possible.



The Sydney Opera House is illuminated with a candle projection in Sydney, Australia yesterday, as part of a national day of reflection honouring the victims of the Bondi Beach attack.

PHOTO: AFP

Office of the Jajira Pourashava
District: Shariatpur

Memo No. 46.12.8694.000.002.09.0000.25/246
Date: 21.12.2026

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2025-2026 (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Last selling date & time	Closing and opening date & time
1162989	LGRRRP/Jajira/2025-26/W-05	1. Upgrading of Road by RCC starting from Jajira Naria Main Sorok to Hospital Boundary wall under Jajira Paurashava, (ch 0+000 to +140), Ward No. 03. (Road Length=140m) Paurashava: Jajira, Dist: Shariatpur. 2. Upgrading of uni block Road at Moimul Islam Paka Sorok to VIP Mollah Paka Sorok (ch. 0+000 to 0 + 283) Ward No. 04.5 (Road Length 283m) Paurashava: Jajira, Dist: Shariatpur. 3. Upgrading of Road by RCC starting from Jajira Naria Main Sorok to Hanif Bapari house under Jajira Paurashava, (ch 0+000 to +330), Ward No. 01. (Road Length=330m) Paurashava: Jajira, Dist: Shariatpur. 4. Upgrading of Road by RCC starting from Jajira Kabiraj Kandi Jora Bridge to Bulet Hakider house under Jajira Paurashava, (ch 0+000 to +400), Ward No. 06. (Road Length=400m) Paurashava: Jajira, Dist: Shariatpur. 5. Upgrading of Road by RCC starting from Jajira Shariatpur Main Sorok to Khalek Bepari house under Jajira Paurashava, (ch 0+000 to +200), Ward No. 03. (Road Length=200m) Paurashava: Jajira, Dist: Shariatpur.	07-Jan-2026 16:00	08-Jan-2026 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal & no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal. Tender shall be valid for a period of 120 days after tender opening. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

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