

PROTEST VIOLENCE

Nepal's former interior minister questioned

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's former interior minister Ramesh Lekhak yesterday gave evidence before an inquiry investigating the deadly crackdown during the September uprising that toppled the government.

Seventy-seven people were killed during the September 8-9 youth-led uprising triggered by a brief government ban on social media, building on public frustration after years of economic stagnation and allegations of entrenched political corruption.

Lekhak, 62, a senior leader of the Nepali Congress party, resigned from the powerful post on September 8, after 20 people were killed in front of parliament in the capital Kathmandu.

The unrest spread nationwide the following day as parliament and offices were set ablaze, resulting in the government's collapse. Lekhak insisted he had not ordered a crackdown and claimed he told security forces to avoid any casualties.

"I never gave any directive to use force during the protest," he told reporters, after recording his statement to the commission. "There is no legal provision that allows the home minister to exercise such power."

Lekhak will continue to give evidence today, commission spokesperson Bigyan Raj Sharma told AFP.

Sharma said that a travel ban on Lekhak, as well as ex-prime minister KP Sharma Oli – who is yet to appear before the inquiry – remains in force. Oli has accused the commission of lacking a "constitutional basis".

GUNFIGHT

Three Turkish cops, six IS militants killed

REUTERS, Yalova

Three Turkish police officers and six Islamic State militants were killed in a gunfight in northwest Turkey yesterday, the interior minister said, a week after more than 100 suspected IS militants were detained for planning Christmas and New Year attacks.



Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said eight police and another security force member were wounded in a raid on a property in the town of Yalova, on the Sea of Marmara coast south of Istanbul. More than 100 addresses were raided nationwide early yesterday.

Turkey has stepped up operations against suspected IS militants this year, as the group returns to prominence globally.

The US carried out a strike against the militants in northwest Nigeria last week, while two gunmen who attacked a Hanukkah event at Sydney's Bondi Beach this month appeared to be inspired by IS, Australian police said.

On December 19, the US military launched large-scale strikes against dozens of IS targets in Syria in retaliation for an attack on American personnel.

Police raided the house in Yalova on the suspicion that militants were hiding there overnight.



Young displaced Palestinians leave a tent erected on waterlogged ground in the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip yesterday, as the region endures cold winter conditions.

PHOTO: AFP

Over 10,000 displaced in 3 days in Sudan
Says UN migration agency

AFP, Port Sudan

Violence in western and southern Sudan displaced more than 10,000 people within a three-day period this week, according to figures released by the United Nations' migration agency on Sunday.

Since April 2023, Sudan's regular army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have waged what the UN has called a "war of atrocities", killing tens of thousands of people and uprooting more than 11 million. Between December 25 and 26, attacks on the villages of Um Baru and Kerno displaced more than 7,000 people, according to the IOM.

After its takeover of the North Darfur capital of El-Fasher in October, RSF has pushed westward in recent days, through enclaves inhabited by the Zagawa group and controlled by a militia group.

China stages record drills around Taiwan

Aims to highlight Beijing's ability to cut off Taipei from West; Taiwan condemns 'military intimidation', mobilises troops

REUTERS, Taipei

China launched its most extensive war games around Taiwan yesterday to showcase Beijing's ability to cut off the island from outside support in a conflict, testing Taipei's resolve to defend itself and its arsenal of US-made weapons.

The Eastern Theatre Command said it had deployed troops, warships, fighter jets and artillery for its "Justice Mission 2025" exercises to encircle the democratically governed island, conduct live fire and simulated strikes on land and sea targets, and drills to blockade Taiwan's main ports.

The live-firing exercises will continue today across a record

seven zones designated by China's Maritime Safety Administration, making the drills the largest to date by total coverage and in areas closer to Taiwan than previous exercises. The military had initially said artillery firing would be confined to five zones.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said there was also an extra zone for a two-hour drill yesterday morning, which took place without a Chinese announcement in the eastern waters of the island.

The Transport Ministry said more than 100,000 passengers on scheduled international flights will be affected by today's drills, while around 80 domestic flights are set to be cancelled.

Taiwan rejects China's claimed sovereignty, maintaining that only its people can decide the island's future.

"Our armed forces operate on the principle of preparing for the worst and must take every possible scenario into account," Hsieh Jih-sheng, deputy chief of the general staff for intelligence at Taiwan's defence ministry, told reporters, when asked about today's drills.

"Conducting live-fire exercises around the Taiwan Strait ... would not only constitute military pressure on us, but could also pose more complex challenges and impacts for the international community and neighbouring countries," he added.



Helicopters on an amphibious assault ship take part in military drills in waters southeast of Taiwan, in this image from a video released by the Eastern Theatre Command of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MYANMAR POLLS

Pro-military USDP claims huge win in first phase

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's dominant pro-military party claimed an overwhelming victory in the first phase of the country's junta-run elections, a senior party official told AFP, after democracy watchdogs warned the poll would entrench military rule.

The armed forces snatched power in a 2021 coup, but on Sunday opened voting in a phased month-long poll they pledge will return power to the people.

"We won 82 lower house seats in townships which have finished counting, out of the total of 102," a senior official of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) told AFP.

The party won all eight townships in the capital Naypyidaw, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to officially disclose the results.

"My view on the election is clear: I don't trust it at all," Yangon resident Min Khant said yesterday.



Cambodia broke truce with 250 drone flights

Says Thailand army

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's army yesterday accused Cambodia of violating a newly signed ceasefire agreement, reached after weeks of deadly border clashes, by flying more than 250 drones over its territory.

Thailand and Cambodia agreed to the "immediate" ceasefire on Saturday, pledging to end renewed border clashes that killed dozens of people and displaced more than a million this month.

But the fresh allegation from Bangkok and its threat to reconsider releasing Cambodian soldiers held by Thailand left a sustained truce in doubt -- even as the two nations' foreign ministers wrapped up two days of talks hosted by China aimed at rebuilding trust and improving relations.

The Thai army said yesterday "more than 250 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were detected flying from the Cambodian side, intruding into Thailand's sovereign territory" on Sunday night, according to a statement. "Such actions constitute provocation and a violation of measures aimed at reducing tensions, which are inconsistent with the Joint Statement agreed" during a bilateral border committee meeting on Saturday, it added.



Bangladesh Power Development Board

Office of the Senior System Analyst
Dhaka Computer Center
Wapda Building (4th fl.), Motijheel, Dhaka
Phone No. 47113484

Ref No. 27.11.0000.716.77.25.354

Date: 29/12/2025

Invitation for e-Tenders

e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following work.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Name of works	Tender publication date	Tender closing date
1.	Tender ID: 1202956 Ref. No. 27.11.0000.716.77.25.353 Dt.: 29.12.2025	BPDB's website and email system hosting with necessary security features, auto data backup system and scanning incoming and outgoing mail with dedicated server for 2 (Two) years.	29.12.2025	14.01.2026 Time: 12:00

বিস্ময়/জন-৪৮১(২)/২৯/১২/১৫

Signed
Mriganka Mohan Paul
Senior System Analyst
Dhaka Computer Center
BPDB, Dhaka

Planning and Development Division Khulna University, Khulna

Tender No : KU/PD-189/2017-

Date : 28/12/2025

e-Tender Notice No. 11/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the Work	Online Tender Closing and Opening date
1203784	KU/PD-436/2025	Procurement of Ultra Sound Machine and Related Necessary Equipment for Medical Centre of Khulna University	Date : 11-01-2026 Time: 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and 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 upto banking hours on e-GP system. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Signed
28/12/2025
(Prof. Dr. Kazi Saiful Islam)
Director (In-charge)
Planning & Development Division

GD02796

Israeli presence in Somaliland will be a 'target': Houthis

AFP, Sanaa

The leader of Yemen's Houthi rebels warned that any Israeli presence in Somaliland would be considered a "military target", according to a statement published Sunday, in the latest condemnation of Israel's move to recognise the breakaway region.

"We consider any Israeli presence in Somaliland a military target for our armed forces, as it constitutes aggression against Somalia and Yemen, and a threat to the security of the region," said the group's chief Abdulmalik al-Houthi. Israel on Friday announced that it was officially recognising Somaliland, a first for the self-proclaimed republic that in 1991 declared it had unilaterally separated from Somalia.

The Houthi chief warned that the move carried grave consequences, saying recognition was "a hostile stance targeting Somalia and its African surroundings, as well as Yemen, the Red Sea, and the countries along both shores of the Red Sea".