

UKRAINE-RUSSIA TERRITORY ROW Trump-Zelensky talks yield no progress on peace

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia and Ukraine yesterday remained far apart on territorial issues that are blocking a peace deal, despite progress on security guarantees for Kyiv at talks between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump said after his talks with the Ukrainian president on Sunday afternoon that they were “getting a lot closer, maybe very close” to an agreement to end Russia’s war in Ukraine but that “thorny issues” were still there.

Zelensky said two main issues outlined in a 20-point peace proposal remained to be resolved – control of Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station, which is in Russian hands, and the fate of the Donbas area of eastern Ukraine.

Underlining how far apart Kyiv and Moscow are on territory, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Ukraine must withdraw its troops from the small part of Donbas that it still controls, and that Kyiv would lose more land if it did not agree to a deal.

“We are talking about the withdrawal of the regime’s armed forces from the Donbas,” Peskov said. He said a call was planned soon between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, but did not say when.

Shortly before Zelensky and his delegation arrived at Trump’s Florida residence on Sunday, Trump and Putin spoke in a call described as “productive” by the US president and “friendly” by Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov.



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

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.

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 polls 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.

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)
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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”.

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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

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Signed
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