

Greenland could vote to join Russia

Says Medvedev

REUTERS

Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said Greenlanders could vote to join Russia if US President Donald Trump did not move quickly to secure the Arctic island, Interfax reported on Monday.

“Trump needs to hurry. According to unverified information, in a few days there could be a sudden referendum, at which the entire 55,000-strong Greenland could vote to join Russia,” Interfax reported, quoting Medvedev, a former Russian president. “And then that’s it. No new little stars on the (US) flag.”

Trump has revived his push for the United States to take control of Greenland. The Arctic island’s Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen told a press conference in Copenhagen yesterday that Greenland chooses Denmark over the US.

India accuses Pak of cross-border drone incursions

REUTERS, New Delhi

India’s army chief said yesterday that the head of Pakistan’s military operations had been told to control what he said were drone intrusions from Pakistan into India, months after the nuclear-armed rivals engaged in their worst fighting in decades.

An Indian military source said there were five drone intrusions on Sunday evening on the frontier in the Jammu region of Indian Kashmir.

In another incident on Friday, a drone from Pakistan was suspected to have dropped two pistols, ammunition magazines, 16 bullets and one grenade that were recovered following a search.

Indian army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said at least eight drones had been sighted since Saturday. “These drones, I believe, were defensive drones, which want to go up and see if any action was being taken,” Dwivedi told reporters.

DB raid spirals into internal investigations

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commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and chief of the DB, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star, saying the issue was under investigation.

In light of the development, DB chief Shafiqul Islam authorised an inquiry into Tareq Sekander, then assistant commissioner of the Tejgaon division DB, who oversaw the November 8 raid.

The probe was entrusted to his superior officer, Rakib Khan, then serving as acting deputy commissioner of the division.

Rakib submitted a probe report on December 4, but higher authorities later ordered a second inquiry for the sake of impartiality, which is currently underway.

This decision may be connected to an incident that occurred just before the report was filed, involving Rakib, Tareq and Didarul Islam, the informant behind the tip-off on the Wari counterfeit currency raid.

The incident occurred outside Hotel Givenci International in Farmgate.

CCTV footage collected by The Daily Star from the hotel shows that on December 2, around 4:00am, Tareq arrived outside the hotel and found Rakib there. Shortly after his arrival, the two officers engaged in a scuffle.

In a complaint to the Inspector General of Police, Tareq said Rakib assaulted him when he attempted to



Palestinians inspect a collapsed war-damaged building in Gaza City on a windy winter day. A rainstorm swept the Gaza Strip yesterday, flooding tents, collapsing homes of displaced families, and killing at least six people, local health officials said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

China rejects India’s claim over Shaksgam valley

Asserts the territory belongs to Beijing

JAMMU & KASHMIR REGION

DAWN ONLINE

Beijing has rejected New Delhi’s claim over the Shaksgam valley in Jammu and Kashmir and said that the territory “belongs to China”.

At a press conference on Monday, when asked by the Press Trust of India (PTI) for comment on the Indian criticism of China’s infrastructure development projects in the Shaksgam valley, China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said that it was “fully justified” for China to conduct infrastructure construction “on its own territory”.

“The territory you mentioned belongs to China,” she said. India’s foreign ministry spokesperson had on Friday said that it reserved the right to take necessary measures to safeguard its interests as the Shaksgam valley was “an Indian territory”.

“We have never recognised the so-called China-Pakistan boundary agreement that happened in 1963. We have consistently maintained that the agreement is illegal and invalid,” he said at a press conference in response to a question from India’s state-owned public television broadcaster Doordashan.

The Indian spokesperson added that New Delhi also does not “recognise the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor”.

“The entire union territories of Jammu and



Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral and inalienable part of India,” he maintained, adding, “This has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and the Chinese authorities several times”.

He added that India had “consistently protested with the Chinese side against attempts to alter the ground reality in Shaksgam Valley”.

Mao Ning, in response to the Indian foreign ministry spokesperson’s comments, said that China and Pakistan had in the 1960s signed a boundary agreement and delimited the boundary between the two countries, terming it “the right of China and Pakistan as sovereign countries”.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as an economic cooperation initiative, aims at promoting local socio-economic development and improving people’s livelihood,” she said.

“The China-Pakistan boundary agreement and CPEC do not affect China’s position on the Kashmir issue and the position remains unchanged.”

India and China have long clashed over border disputes, but had reached a milestone pact in 2024 on lowering military tensions on their Himalayan border, which escalated after a military clash in 2020 in which 20 soldiers from India and four from China were killed.

MYANMAR POLLS

Pro-military party claims majority of seats

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar’s dominant pro-military party yesterday claimed a majority of elected lower house seats in the country’s junta-run polls, which democracy watchdogs say will prolong the armed forces’ grip.

The junta is overseeing a staggered election it pledges will return power to the people after the third and final phase of voting on January 25.

With Suu Kyi detained and her party dissolved, democracy advocates say it has been rigged by a dissent purge and a ballot stacked with military allies.

A USDP official told AFP they “won 87 seats out of 100” in Sunday’s second phase of the vote.

Combined with overwhelming wins in the first phase, the official’s figures give the party 176 lower house seats so far -- just over half the 330 elected positions, even before the third phase has taken place.

Russia strikes Ukraine power plant in barrage

Four killed; ‘several hundred thousand’ households near Kyiv without power

AFP, Kharkiv

Russia battered Ukraine with more than two dozen missiles and hundreds of drones early yesterday, killing four people and pummeling another power plant, piling more pressure on Ukraine’s brittle energy system.

An AFP journalist in the eastern Kharkiv region, where four people were killed, saw firefighters battling a fire at a postal hub and rescue workers helping survivors by lamp light in freezing temperatures.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said “several hundred thousand” households near Kyiv were without power after the strikes, and again called on allies to bolster his country’s air defence systems.

“The world can respond to this Russian terror with new assistance packages for Ukraine,” President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media. “Russia must come to learn that cold will not help it win the war,” he added.

Authorities in Kyiv and the surrounding region rolled out emergency power cuts in the hours after the attack, saying freezing temperatures were complicating their work.



Pressure grows on Venezuela govt to free more prisoners

AFP, Caracas

Washington announced Monday Venezuelan opposition figure Maria Corina Machado will meet President Donald Trump this week as pressure grew on the interim leadership in Caracas to speed up the release of political prisoners.

Machado has been sidelined by Washington since US forces seized long-term authoritarian leader Nicolas Maduro on January 3 and the Trump administration announced it would be “running” Venezuela.

Disregarding Machado and her understudy Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, Trump has been working instead with acting president Delcy Rodriguez, left in power with other Maduro allies.

Trump has warned Rodriguez to toe Washington’s line or face the consequences -- particularly on granting access to the South American country’s vast oil reserves. A US official told AFP the Republican president will meet Machado at the White House tomorrow.

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100 children killed in Gaza since ceasefire

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442 fatalities.

“Additionally, seven children have died from exposure to cold since the beginning of this year,” Zaher Al Wahidi, Director of the Computer Department at the Ministry of Health, told AFP.

Elder stressed that the ongoing Israeli attacks came after more than two years of war which has “left life for Gaza’s children unimaginably hard”.

“They still live in fear. The psychological damage remains untreated, and it’s becoming deeper and harder to heal the longer this goes on,” he said.

In November, authorities in Gaza said more than 70,000 people had been killed there since the beginning of the war waged by Israel in response to Hamas’s

October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Nearly 80 percent of buildings in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged in the relentless air and ground offensive, according to UN data.

On January 1, Israel suspended 37 international aid agencies from accessing the Gaza Strip, despite what the UN said at the time was an “outrageous” move.