

'We want change, not destruction'

Iranian protesters reject US, Israeli interference

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As he wished the world happy new year, former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo extended particularly a warm message to Iranian protesters who had taken to the streets over spiralling living costs and state repression.

"Happy New Year to every Iranian in the streets. Also to every Mossad agent walking beside them," he wrote on X.

The message baffled and alarmed many, and helped feed speculation pushed by the Islamic Republic, the US and Israel itself that the protesters were being led by, or had at least been infiltrated by, Israeli operatives.



Observers use mobile phones to document, as one blows a whistle to alert people to the presence of Border Patrol commander Greg Bovino's convoy at a gas station, days after an ICE agent fatally shot Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis, in Columbia Heights, Minnesota, US, on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli army kills 6 in Gaza despite truce

US expected to unveil post-war leadership, say sources

AGENCIES

The Israeli military said yesterday it had killed six Palestinians in an updated toll from an exchange of fire in Gaza the day before, accusing them of violating the ceasefire in the territory.

The military said in a statement late on Tuesday that it had "killed two of six militants it had identified adjacent to its troops in western Rafah and that tanks had fired on them". It said they were killed in an ensuing exchange of fire, including aerial strikes, while troops continued to search for the rest, reports AFP.

Under a truce that entered into force in October following two years of war between Israel and Hamas, Israeli forces in Gaza withdrew to positions behind a demarcation known as the "yellow line".

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump was expected later yesterday to push ahead with his phased plan for Gaza's future by announcing the administration that will run the war-ravaged Palestinian territory, four Palestinian sources said.

Israel and Hamas in October signed off on Trump's 20-point plan which says that a technocratic Palestinian body overseen by an international "Board of Peace" is meant to govern Gaza for a transitional period. It is not to include Hamas representation.

The 14-member Palestinian body will be headed by Ali Shaath, a former deputy minister in the Palestinian Authority who had been in charge of developing industrial zones, the Palestinian sources said.

Sara, a 39-year-old from Tehran who was among those demonstrating, said she was confused by what Pompeo was implying.

"I don't know what Mike Pompeo really meant by that tweet saying Mossad agents were among the protesters," she told Middle East Eye. "Personally, I am suspicious that some parts of the protests were deliberately pushed toward violence."

"When you see the videos of places being set on fire, you feel this cannot be the work of ordinary people. It looks like they just want destruction," said Sara.

"We want regime change, but we do not want our country to be destroyed. And given Israel's record, it would not be surprising if they tried to exploit this situation."

She was also not thrilled by the prospect of an Israeli intervention.

US control of Greenland 'vital' for air defense

Says Trump; Danish FM braces for Vance talks

AFP, Copenhagen

US President Donald Trump yesterday insisted the US needs to take control of Greenland, with Nato's support, just hours before crunch talks about the Arctic island with top Danish, Greenlandic and US officials.

Just hours before the meeting with US Vice President JD Vance was due to start, Trump said that US control of Greenland -- an autonomous territory belonging to Nato ally Denmark -- was "vital" for his planned Golden Dome air and missile defense system.

"Nato becomes far more formidable and effective with Greenland in the hands of the UNITED STATES. Anything less than that is unacceptable," he wrote on social media.

He said Nato "should be leading the way" in building the multi-layer missile defense system. "IF WE DON'T, RUSSIA OR CHINA WILL, AND THAT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!" Trump wrote.

Just prior, Danish Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen had sought to ease US concerns about security in Greenland, telling AFP Denmark was boosting its military presence there and was in talks with allies on "an increased Nato presence in the Arctic."

Trump has repeatedly threatened to take over the vast, strategic and sparsely populated Arctic island, and he has sounded emboldened since ordering a deadly January 3 attack in Venezuela that removed its president.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and his Greenlandic counterpart were to hold talks later yesterday in Washington with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD Vance.

Lokke said he was hoping to "clear up certain misunderstandings." But it remains to be seen if the Trump administration also sees a misunderstanding and if it wants to climb down.

Trump, when asked Tuesday about Greenland's leader saying that the island prefers to remain part of Denmark, said: "Well that's their problem."

"Don't know anything about him, but that's going to be a big problem for him," Trump said.

Trump said on Friday that he wanted Greenland "whether they like it or not" and "if we don't do it the easy way, we're going to do it the hard way."

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has warned that an attack on a Nato ally would end the alliance.



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বিদ্যুৎ বন্ধের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি এর জিএমডি, সিরাজগঞ্জ দপ্তরের আওতাধীন শাহজাদপুর গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্র আগামী ১৬ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ, রোজ শুক্রবার, সকাল ৮:০০ টা হতে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত সম্পূর্ণ সাট ডাউন থাকবে। এ সময়ে সিরাজগঞ্জ জেলার সিরাজগঞ্জ পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতি-১ এর আওতাভুক্ত এলাকা (শাহজাদপুর উপজেলার সম্পূর্ণ এলাকা), সিরাজগঞ্জ পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতি-২ এর আওতাভুক্ত এলাকা (বেলকুচি ও চৌহালী উপজেলার আংশিক এলাকা), পাবনা জেলার পাবনা পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতি-২ এর আওতাভুক্ত এলাকা (বেড়া ও সাখিয়া উপজেলার আংশিক এলাকা) ও নেসকো এর আওতাভুক্ত ইরিগেশন ফিডার বিদ্যুৎ বিহীন থাকবে।

অত্র এলাকার বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়নের স্বার্থে সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকগণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য পাওয়ার গ্রিড কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিক দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে।

মোঃ মামুনুস সবুর
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, সিরাজগঞ্জ

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শাখার নাম পরিবর্তন

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এর গাবতলী হাট শাখা ঢাকা এর নাম পরিবর্তিত হয়ে মাজার রোড শাখা ঢাকা নামে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।

পুরাতন নাম রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি গাবতলী হাট শাখা ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি করপোরেশন গাবতলী, ঢাকা।	বর্তমান নাম রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি মাজার রোড শাখা ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি করপোরেশন গাবতলী, ঢাকা।
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সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক এবং শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণের জন্য মাজার রোড শাখা ঢাকায় যোগাযোগের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD US designates 3 chapters as global terrorists

AFP, Washington

The United States on Tuesday designated the Muslim Brotherhood branches in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan as terrorist organizations, fulfilling a long demand of Arab allies and US conservatives.

Founded in 1928 in Egypt, the pan-Islamist movement once spread across the Muslim world, but it has been in retreat as it comes under concerted pressure from major Arab powers.

"These designations reflect the opening actions of an ongoing, sustained effort to thwart Muslim Brotherhood chapters' violence and destabilization wherever it occurs," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the Muslim Brotherhood "has a longstanding record of perpetuating acts of terror, and we are working aggressively to cut them off from the financial system."

The designations mean that the United States will block any assets owned by the Muslim Brotherhood in the world's largest economy, criminalize transactions with its members and severely impede their ability to travel to the country. The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood in a statement posted to social media vowed to seek legal channels to challenge the decision, saying it opposed violence and has never threatened the US.

"This designation is both detached from reality and unsupported by evidence. It is a result of foreign pressure on the United States, particularly from the UAE and Israel, to adopt policies that serve external agendas rather than the interests of the American people," it said.

31 killed after crane falls on train in Thailand

64 hurt; construction firm vows to compensate victims

REUTERS, Sikhio District

A train derailed in northeastern Thailand yesterday after a construction crane fell on two of its carriages, killing at least 31 people and injuring 64, the health ministry said.

The accident took place in the morning in the Sikhio district in Nakhon Ratchasima province, 230 km (143 miles) northeast of Bangkok, on a train from the capital bound for Ubon Ratchathani province.

Transport Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said in a statement that there were 195 people on board, adding that he had ordered a thorough investigation to be carried out.

The crane was working on a high speed rail project when it collapsed and hit the passing train, causing it to derail and briefly catch fire. The Italian-Thai Development Public Company Limited, the company contracted to construct the segment, issued a statement expressing regret and said it would provide compensation and relief to the families of those who died or were injured by the crane collapse.

Images shared by the ministry showed carriages overturned next to shrubland and firefighters extinguishing a blaze as smoke billowed out.



Ukraine strikes kill two near Russian border

Russian drone attack forces power cuts in Kryvyi Rih

AGENCIES

Two people were killed and several wounded as a result of Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian border regions, local authorities said yesterday.

In the city of Rostov-on-Don, a drone attack sparked a fire in a residential building and the body of a man was found in the charred remains of one of the apartments, the local governor, Yuri Slyusar, wrote on Telegram.

The Rostov region is a key military hub for Russia's four-year-long campaign on Ukraine, reports AFP. Four other people, including a four-year-old child, were wounded in strikes elsewhere in the Rostov region, which sparked fires in several industrial areas.

In the border region of Belgorod, a woman was killed and a man wounded when a Ukrainian drone struck a vehicle, regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov wrote on Telegram.

Russian drones struck infrastructure in the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih yesterday, forcing emergency power blackouts for over 45,000 customers and disrupting heat supplies, administration head Oleksandr Vilkul said.

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