

'We want change, not destruction'

Iranian protesters reject US, Israeli interference

AGENCIES

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 শুক্রেবার, সকাল ৮:০০ টা হতে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত সম্পূর্ণ সাইট 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 ইরিশেশন ফিডার বিদ্যুৎ বিহীন থাকবে।
অত্র এলাকার বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়নের স্বার্থে সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকগণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য পাওয়ার গ্রিড কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিক দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে।

মোঃ মামুন 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।

Govt inaction

FROM PAGE 12

He clarified that he does not blame political parties, as no party officially called for attacks on newspapers or journalists. Instead, he said, "Exactly eight months and 28 days after we submitted the report, the building where I work [The Daily Star] has been set on fire, and 28 media workers were almost burned alive. Even the fire service was obstructed from rescuing them."

He also expressed concern that the recommendations of the report might never be implemented by the current government.

Kamal made the remarks at a dialogue titled "Media Reforms: Present Progress and Future Imperatives", organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) at the Cirdap Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

Describing the attack on the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star buildings on the night of December 18, he said, "If the incident had occurred a few hours earlier, I too would have faced the same fate."

The journalist questioned the government's apparent inability to protect media institutions and highlighted how social media is increasingly being used to target journalists.

He accused the government of fostering a "culture of fear" by creating and validating mobs as "pressure groups."

CGS Chairman Zillur Rahman also criticised the government's inaction over the attacks on the two media houses. At the same time, he expressed concern that media organisations themselves appear disinterested in addressing their own problems or achieving true independence.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, former general secretary of the Community Party of Bangladesh, said a culture of fear has replaced traditional censorship in the media.

Other speakers at the event included journalists M Abdullah, Muktaadir Rashid, Kazi Jesin, Supreme Court lawyer Shihab Uddin Khan, NHK TV representative Parveen F Chowdhury, and BNP member Mir Arshadul Huq.

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.

Will boycott all matches

FROM PAGE 12

If Najmul does not step down by today's first match of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) between Chattogram Royals and Noakhali Express, scheduled to begin at 1:00pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka, CWAB president Mithun has threatened to "announce a boycott of all cricket".

Earlier in the day, Najmul told the media that the board owes no compensation to players if Bangladesh miss the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, set to begin on February 7 in India and Sri Lanka, arguing that the BCB has never sought refunds from cricketers after poor performances at global events.

"The question [of compensation] does not even arise. We have invested so much on them, they haven't been able to achieve anything, anywhere. Have we won a single global trophy till now?" Najmul said.

"Then we could've said every time, you have failed to perform, whatever we have spent on you, now we will take it back. Return it to us," he added.

Following these comments, CWAB held an internal discussion before announcing its demand, during which the BCB issued a press release, saying it won't take any responsibility for Najmul's remarks.

"The board expresses its sincere regret for remarks that may be deemed inappropriate, offensive, or hurtful. Such comments do not reflect the values, principles, or official position of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, nor do they align with the standards of conduct expected from individuals entrusted with the responsibility of serving Bangladesh cricket," the press release read.

"The BCB reiterates that it does not endorse or take responsibility for any statement or remark made by any director or board member unless issued formally through the board's designated spokesperson or the Media & Communications Department.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board also makes it clear that it will take appropriate disciplinary action against any individual whose conduct or comments show disrespect towards cricketers or cause harm to the reputation and integrity of Bangladesh cricket," it further read.

Najmul had previously courted controversy after labelling former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal an "Indian agent" in a social media post after the cricketer had urged the board to consider the interests and future of Bangladesh cricket during its communications with the ICC to relocate World Cup matches from India.

Several national team and first-class cricketers then rallied behind Tamim, expressing displeasure at the comments made against a former captain.

CWAB demanded a public apology from the BCB director and sought appropriate action from BCB president Aminul Islam Bulbul.

The BCB president had stated during a press event in Sylhet that the board had requested the director to issue a clarification, but also noted that his comments were made in a personal capacity.

Meanwhile, there was no progress on Bangladesh's request to relocate its T20 World Cup matches. On Tuesday, the BCB reaffirmed its decision not to travel to India for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, citing security concerns, during a video conference with ICC officials.

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