



People dressed as zombies carry a placard reading “Stop being a zombie in Madrid, Spain, yesterday. The first edition of ‘Off February’ -- launched in France, Spain, the UK, and the US by a small foundation -- proposes uninstalling social media apps from phones to regain a healthier and less addictive relationship with these platforms. PHOTO: AFP

MINNESOTA PROTESTS US judge restricts federal agents

REUTERS, Minneapolis

A federal judge in Minnesota on Friday ordered that US immigration agents deployed en masse to Minneapolis be restricted in some of the tactics they have taken against peaceful demonstrators and observers, including arrests and tear gassing. Handing a victory to local activists in Minnesota’s most populous city, US District Judge Kate Menendez issued an injunction barring federal agents from retaliating against individuals engaged in non-violent, unobstructive protest activity. The ruling was in response to a lawsuit filed against the US Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies on December 17, three weeks before an immigration agent fatally shot Renee Good, a 37-year-old woman in Minneapolis, spawning waves of protests. The 83-page order explicitly prohibits federal officers from detaining people who are peacefully protesting or merely observing the officers, unless there is reasonable suspicion that they are interfering with law enforcement or have committed a crime. Federal agents also are banned from using pepper spray, tear gas or other crowd-control munitions against peaceful demonstrators or bystanders observing and recording the immigration enforcement operations. Stopping or detaining drivers and passengers in vehicles when there is no reason to believe they are forcibly obstructing or interfering with federal agents is likewise prohibited, according to the court order.

‘We need Greenland for national security’

Trump threatens tariffs on allies as US lawmakers back Denmark, Greenland

AFP, Copenhagen

Donald Trump on Friday warned that he could slap tariffs on countries that do not support his Greenland takeover plans, as US Congress members visited Copenhagen to give their backing for Denmark and its autonomous Arctic island. The bipartisan delegation, on a two-day trip to the Danish capital, said the US president’s long-held territorial ambitions -- strongly rejected by Denmark -- were not shared by the American people. Europeans have also been showing their backing for Greenland, in a military reconnaissance mission that a Danish general said Washington was invited to and which was linked to what Russia does after the war in Ukraine. “I may put a tariff on countries if they don’t go along with Greenland, because we need Greenland for national security,” Trump said at a White House event. The 11 visiting US lawmakers held talks with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and her Greenlandic counterpart Jens-Frederik Nielsen, as well as Denmark’s foreign and defence ministers, parliamentarians and business leaders. Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski said there was “good dialogue” and stressed it was important to “nurture” ties between the United States, Denmark and

Greenland.

“The vast majority” of Americans do not agree that it is a good idea for the United States to acquire Greenland, she told reporters. “Greenland needs to be viewed as our ally, not as an asset,” she added. The visit follows a meeting in Washington on Wednesday at which Danish representatives said Copenhagen and Washington were in “fundamental disagreement” over Greenland’s future. In Greenland’s capital, Nuuk, residents welcomed the show of support. “Congress will never approve of a military action in Greenland. It’s just one idiot speaking,” a 39-year-old union representative told AFP. “If he (Trump) does it, he’ll get impeached or kicked out,” said the union rep. Trump has repeatedly criticised Denmark -- a Nato ally -- for, in his view, not doing enough to ensure Greenland’s security. The US president has pursued that argument, despite strategically located Greenland -- as part of Denmark -- being covered by Nato’s security umbrella.

The head of Denmark’s Joint Arctic Command, Major General Soren Andersen, said the military mission was “about Russia”. “When the war in Ukraine is over, hopefully with a good result for Ukraine, it is our expectation that Russia will move the resources they have been using in Ukraine on other theatres,... including in the Arctic,” he told AFP. “So, in order to prepare for that, we simply have to step up... train, and that is what we are doing up here.” But he said he had not seen any Russian or Chinese combat ships in the area in the two and a half years he has been commander. The White House has said Trump’s aim to take over Greenland would not be affected by the European military presence. Britain, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have announced the deployment of small numbers of military personnel to prepare for future exercises in the Arctic. Large demonstrations were planned across Denmark and Greenland yesterday to protest against Trump’s plan.



Ukraine team arrive in US for talks

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian negotiators have arrived in the United States for talks with the Trump administration on ending almost four years of war with Russia, a member of the delegation said yesterday. They will meet US President Donald Trump’s envoy Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner. The talks will take place in Miami just days short of the fourth anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. “We will have an important conversation with our American partners regarding the details of the peace agreement,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s top aide Kyrylo Budanov said on social media. Trump has pushed for an end to the war and has expressed frustration with both sides, with no breakthrough made. He has also pressured Ukraine to accept peace terms that Kyiv likens to capitulation. Ukraine’s ambassador to the US said a day earlier that the talks would focus on security guarantees and post-war reconstruction. Zelensky said on Friday he hoped Ukraine would sign agreements with the United States next week.

UN biodiversity treaty enters into force

Deal aims to protect 30% of oceans by 2030

REUTERS, Singapore

A landmark global treaty to safeguard biodiversity in the high seas came into effect yesterday, providing countries with a legally binding framework to tackle threats such as overfishing and meet a target to protect 30 percent of the ocean environment by 2030. The UN treaty, also known as Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), was finalised in March 2023 after 15 years of negotiations, and will allow the creation of a global network of “marine protected areas” in vast and previously unregulated ocean ecosystems lying in international waters. “It’s two-thirds of the ocean, (and) it’s half the surface of the planet that for the first time will have a comprehensive legal regime,” said Adam McCarthy, first assistant secretary at the Australian foreign ministry and a co-chair of the treaty’s preparatory committee, speaking at a media briefing. The treaty reached the threshold of 60 national ratifications on September 19 last year, meaning that it would go formally into operation within 120 days. The number of ratifications has since risen to more than 80, with China, Brazil and Japan adding their names to the list. Others, including Britain and Australia, are expected to follow soon. The United States signed the treaty during the previous administration but

has not yet ratified it.

“Whilst we only needed 60 for it to enter into force, obviously it’s really critical for its implementation and for it to be as effective as possible for us to achieve global or universal ratification of the treaty,” said Rebecca Hubbard, director of the High Seas Alliance, a coalition of environmental groups. Under the treaty, countries must conduct environmental assessments of activities that have an impact on ocean ecology. It will also create mechanisms allowing nations to share the spoils of the “blue economy”, including “marine genetic resources” used in industries such as biotechnology. Environmentalists say more than 190,000 protected areas would need to be established in order to meet the “30 by 30” target to bring 30 percent of the oceans under formal protection by 2030. Currently, only about 8 percent -- or 29 million square kilometres (11.2 million square miles) -- is protected. But the treaty will have little impact on what some conservationists identify as one of the greatest threats facing the marine environment -- the clamour to extract mineral resources from the ocean bed. “BBNJ is very ambitious but there are certain defined limits,” McCarthy said. “The question of mining in the substrate or in the seabed simply belongs to the ISA (International Seabed Authority). It’s not something where the BBNJ gets a role.”



Delta PLC.

Change of Name

Pursuant to the amendments made to the Companies Act, 1994 (Act No. 18 of 1994) through the insertion of Section 11A by the Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2020, all Public Limited Companies are required to use the suffix “PLC.” at the end of their registered names.

In compliance with the said amendment, the name of Delta Limited has been changed to **Delta PLC.**, which has duly been approved and recorded by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC).

This change relates only to the suffix of the Company’s name and does not constitute the creation of a new legal entity, nor does it affect the Company’s corporate identity, ownership, management, rights, obligations, or liabilities. Accordingly, all existing contracts, approvals, licenses, permissions, undertakings, and legal instruments executed or issued in the former name shall remain valid, binding, and enforceable as if executed or issued in the revised name, in accordance with Section 11(8) of the Companies Act, 1994.

Date: 15 January 2026

Sd/-
Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain
Managing Director



Syrian army soldiers, along with their armoured vehicles, gather as they prepare to enter the town of Deir Hafer yesterday. Syria’s army said it took control of Deir Hafer outside Aleppo city yesterday, a day after Kurdish forces agreed to withdraw from the area. PHOTO: AFP