

GREENLAND ROW

Nato chief can't negotiate on behalf of Denmark

Says Danish govt after Trump announced a deal following talks between the two men

AFP, Copenhagen

Nato chief Mark Rutte cannot negotiate on behalf of Denmark over Greenland, the Danish government said yesterday, a day after US President Donald Trump announced a deal following talks between the two men.

Trump backed down on threats to seize Greenland by force after meeting Rutte on Wednesday, saying he had reached a "framework" of a deal on the Danish autonomous territory.

Details of the agreement made at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos remain scant.

"The position of Denmark and that of Greenland are the same, and no negotiations were held yesterday with Nato about our sovereignty," Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told Danish television.

"Of course it is only Denmark and Greenland themselves that can make decisions on issues concerning Denmark and Greenland," she said earlier in a statement.



The United States and Denmark will renegotiate a 1951 defence pact on Greenland, a source familiar with the talks between Trump and Rutte told AFP yesterday.

Putting US military bases on Greenland under US sovereignty had not been discussed during the talks, the source said.

Danish Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen said on social media yesterday that Rutte "cannot negotiate an agreement on behalf of Denmark or Greenland".

However, he said Rutte had "worked loyally to maintain unity within Nato" and it was "very positive" that the alliance wanted to do more to strengthen Arctic security.

"We have a clear red line," he added. "We will not cede sovereignty over parts of the kingdom."



Family members and colleagues carry the body of a Palestinian journalist killed in an Israeli strike, during a funeral procession in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Gaza's border crossing with Egypt will reopen next week, the Palestinian technocrat leader Ali Shaath announced.

PHOTO: AFP

Death toll in Karachi mall fire hits 55

AFP, Karachi

The death toll from a mall fire in Pakistan's biggest city rose to at least 55 people, a Karachi government official said yesterday.

"A total of 55 bodies have been recovered since Saturday night" when the fire erupted, said Javed Nabi Khoso, deputy commissioner of Karachi's south district.

Relatives of those still missing have criticised the slow operation at the three-storey Gul Plaza, where rescuers are scouring the wreckage for human remains. More than 50 families have given DNA samples, provincial health official Summaiya Syed told journalists Wednesday.

'Finger on trigger'

Iran warns as Trump says it wants talks

AFP, Paris

The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards yesterday warned Washington that the force had its "finger on the trigger" in the wake of mass protests, as US President Donald Trump said the Islamic republic still appeared interested in talks.

A fortnight of protests starting in late December shook the clerical leadership under supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but the movement has petered out in the face of a crackdown that activists say has left thousands dead, accompanied by an unprecedented internet blackout.

The prospect of immediate American action against Tehran appears to have receded over the last week, with both sides insisting on giving diplomacy a chance even as US media report Trump is still studying options.

Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Trump said the US struck Iranian uranium enrichment sites last year to prevent Tehran from making a nuclear weapon. Iran denies its nuclear programme is aimed at seeking the bomb.

"Can't let that happen," he said, adding: "And Iran does want to talk, and we'll talk."

Guards commander General Mohammad Pakpour warned Israel and the US "to avoid any miscalculations, by learning from historical experiences and what they learned in the 12 day imposed war, so that they do not face a more painful and regrettable fate".

"The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and dear Iran have their finger on the trigger, more prepared than ever, ready to carry out the orders and measures of the supreme commander-in-chief -- a leader dearer than their own lives," he said.

Europe 'fragmented', looks 'lost' facing Trump

Says Ukraine's Zelensky

AFP, Davos

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that Europe was "fragmented" and looked "lost" while facing fresh challenges from US President Donald Trump, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"Instead of becoming a truly global power, Europe remains a beautiful but fragmented kaleidoscope of small and middle powers," he said, adding: "Europe looks lost trying to convince the US president to change."

He also said the documents being drafted with Washington aimed at ending the nearly four-year Russian invasion are "nearly, nearly ready".

"We met with President Trump, and our teams are working... ending this war are nearly, nearly ready," Zelensky said.

VENEZUELA CRISIS

Son-in-law of opposition leader freed from prison

AFP, Caracas

Venezuelan authorities released the son-in-law of opposition figure Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, his family said yesterday.

Dozens of journalists, government critics and activists have been freed in Venezuela since the US military deposed leader Nicolas Maduro this month.

Rafael Tudares has returned home, his wife Mariana Gonzalez de Tudares posted on X. Tudares was arrested in January 2025 after being intercepted by hooded men while on his way to school with his two children. He was charged with terrorism and eventually sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Venezuela's interim president Delcy Rodriguez said on Wednesday she was approaching dialogue with the United States "without fear".



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