

MINNEAPOLIS SHOOTING ICE to focus on 'targeted' ops

Says Trump border czar Homan

REUTERS, Minneapolis

US border czar Tom Homan, newly installed as commander of President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement surge in Minneapolis, said yesterday that federal agents would focus on "targeted, strategic enforcement operations," marking a shift in the aggressive tactics that have drawn national outrage.

Homan also said he intended to reduce the 3,000-strong force of agents deployed to the city after what he said were productive meetings with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and other local leaders.

"We can do better," he said. "We made some significant gains, significant coordination and cooperation, and you're going to see some massive changes occurring here in this city." His appearance suggested a continued escalation from Trump's administration, which has been under intensifying political pressure to recalibrate its approach in Minneapolis after two US citizens were shot dead by federal agents.

A newly issued internal memo from a high-ranking Immigration and Customs Enforcement official directs federal officers to refrain from any unnecessary communication and engagement with "agitators" so as to avoid "inflaming the situation."

The directive also orders ICE officers to only target immigrants who have records of criminal charges or convictions, a departure from earlier tactics that included randomly stopping people on the street to demand documented proof of legal US residence or citizenship.



Demonstrators from the youth collective "Generation Z" hold a giant Peruvian flag during a protest in Lima, Peru on Wednesday, demanding President Jose Jeri's resignation over a corruption scandal and justice for those killed in the 2023 protests under former president Dina Boluarte.

PHOTO: REUTERS

EU eyes migration clampdown

AFP, Brussels

The European Union yesterday laid out plans to overhaul its visa system and step up deportations as part of a five-year migration strategy that cements a hardening line on the hot-button issue.

Irregular arrivals in the 27-nation bloc were down by more than a quarter in 2025, but political pressure to act remains high.

"The priority is clear: bringing illegal arrival numbers down and keeping them down," Magnus Brunner, EU's migration commissioner, said.

The strategy unveiled yesterday stressed the need to boost deportations of failed asylum-seekers among the bloc's priorities.

"Abuse gives migration a bad name -- it undermines public trust and ultimately takes away from our ability to provide protection and undercuts our drive to attract talent," said Brunner.

Pak launches checks for Nipah virus

REUTERS, Lahore

Authorities in Pakistan have ordered enhanced screening of people entering the country for signs of infections of the deadly Nipah virus after India confirmed two cases, adding to the number of Asian countries stepping up controls.

Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam have also tightened screening at airports. But an Indian official said there were no plans to introduce screening at the country's airports and said there was no sign of any outbreak.

The Nipah virus can cause fever and brain inflammation and has a high mortality rate. There is also no vaccine. But transmission from person to person is not easy and typically requires prolonged contact with an infected individual.

"It has become imperative to strengthen preventative and surveillance measures at Pakistan's borders," the Border Health Services department said.

"All travelers shall undergo thermal screening and clinical assessment at the Point of Entry," which includes seaports, land borders and airports, the department added.

UK PM signals China reset in talks with Xi

Eyes security, economic gains amid Trump tensions

REUTERS, Beijing

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday that he wanted to build a "sophisticated relationship" with Beijing to bolster security and the economy, signalling a reset after years of strained ties.

On the key day of his four-day visit to China, the first by a British prime minister in eight years, Starmer spent around three hours with Xi during a formal summit and a lunch, during which the pair also chatted about soccer and Shakespeare.

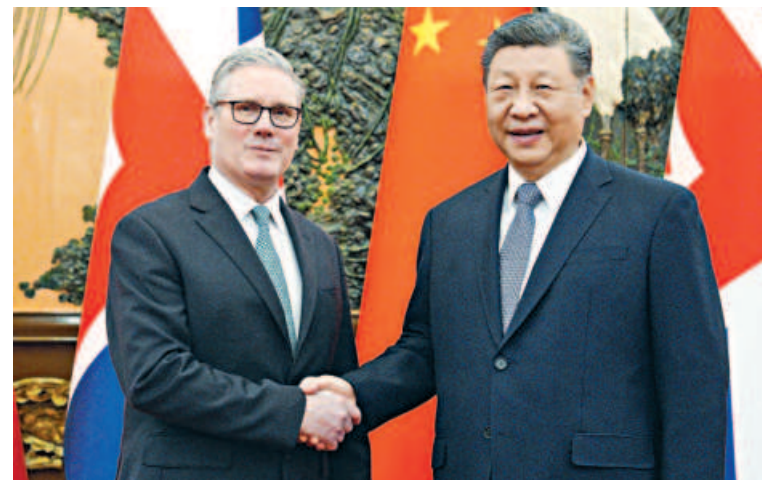
The British leader, whose centre-left Labour government has struggled to deliver the economic growth it promised, has made improving relations with the world's second largest economy a priority, despite misgivings about espionage and human rights.

"China is a vital player on the global stage, and it's vital that we build a more sophisticated relationship where we can identify opportunities to collaborate, but of course, also allow a meaningful dialogue on areas where we disagree," Starmer told Xi at the start of their meeting.

Xi said ties with Britain had gone through "twists and turns" that did not serve the interests of either country and that China was ready to develop a long-term

partnership.

"We can deliver a result that can withstand the test of history," the Chinese leader told Starmer, flanked by his top ministers, at their summit at the Great Hall of the People.



Starmer is the latest Western leader to engage in a flurry of diplomacy with China, as nations hedge against unpredictability from the United States under President Donald Trump.

Trump's on-off threats of trade tariffs and pledges to grab control of Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, have rankled long-standing allies like Britain.

Starmer's visit immediately

follows that of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who signed an economic deal with Beijing to tear down trade barriers, drawing Trump's ire.

The British leader told reporters he had made progress

in discussions with Beijing to reduce tariffs on whisky, while Xi said China would consider waiving visas for British nationals.

"The relationship is in a good place, a strong place," said Starmer, who is being accompanied by more than 50 business leaders on the trip.

Asked by a reporter if Xi was someone he could do business with, Starmer simply replied 'yes'.

15 dead in Colombia plane crash

AFP, Bogota

An airplane carrying 15 people, including a lawmaker, crashed near Colombia's border with Venezuela on Wednesday, killing all passengers and crew, Colombia's civil aviation authority said.

The plane, which was operated by state airline Satena, took off from the border city of Cucuta and lost contact with control towers shortly before it was due to land in nearby Ocana around noon.

"There are no survivors," an official from the aviation authority told AFP. There were 13 passengers and two crew members aboard. The Cucuta area is mountainous with changeable weather and swaths are controlled by largest guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army.

The government deployed the Air Force to search for the plane and recover the bodies. One lawmaker and one legislative candidate are feared to have been aboard.

"We have received with concern the information about the air accident... where my colleague Diogenes Quintero, Carlos Salcedo and their teams were traveling," local parliamentarian Wilmer Carrillo said.

GUNFIRE, BLASTS Heavy security near Niger capital's airport

AFP, Niamey

Security forces were deployed around the international airport in Niger's capital yesterday after heavy gunfire and explosions erupted overnight in what several observers said bore the hallmark of a jihadist attack.

Niger, a Sahelian country regularly hit by jihadist violence, has been led for more than two years by Abdourahmane Tiani, the head of a junta that overthrew the elected civilian president in 2023.

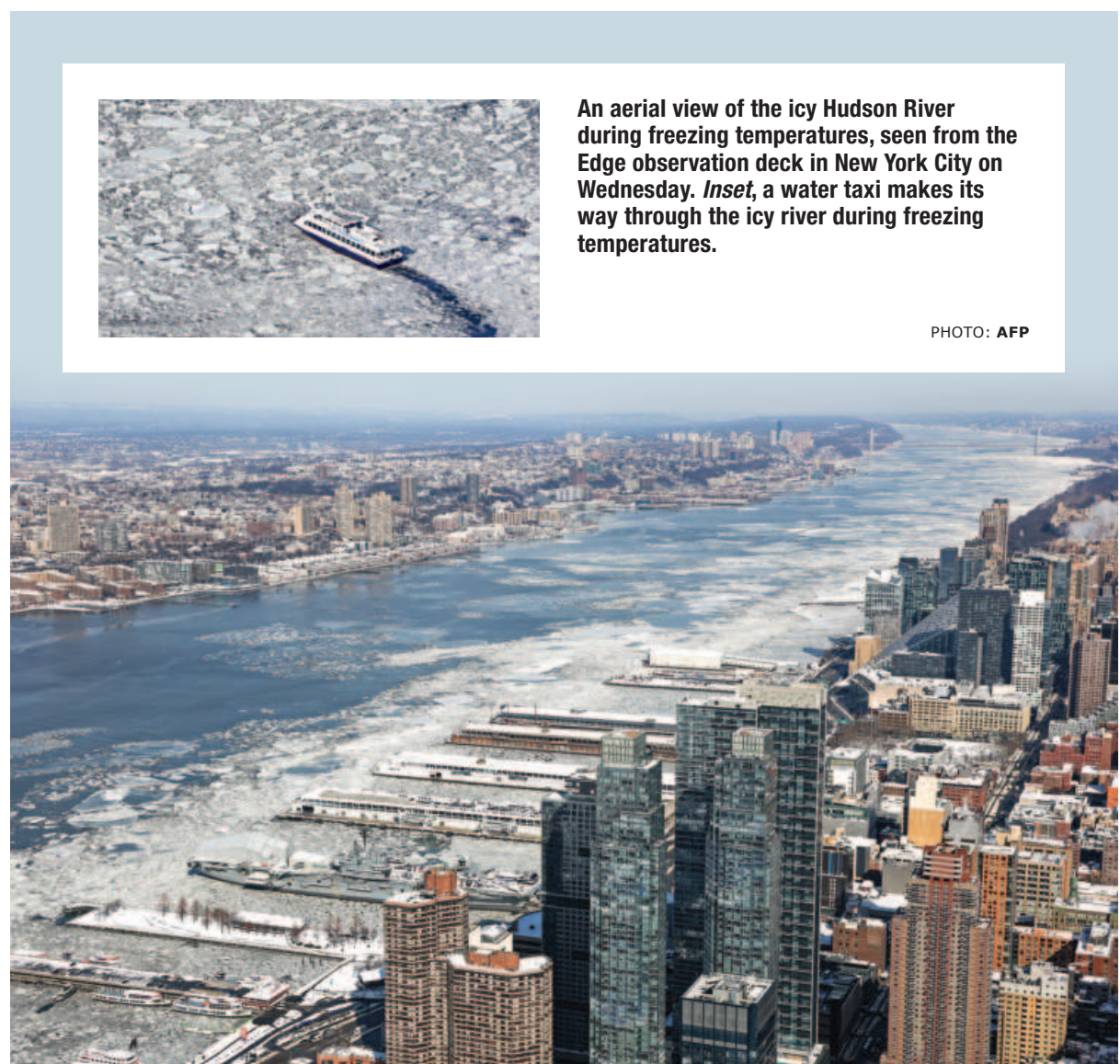
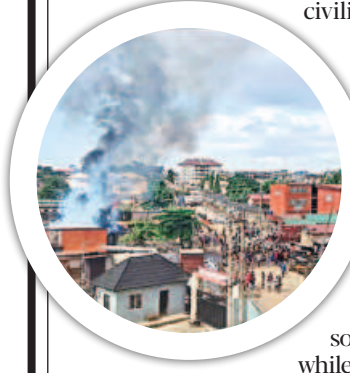
The shooting began shortly after midnight, according to residents of a neighbourhood near the airport in Niamey.

Calm returned two hours later, they told AFP.

Videos filmed by local people showed streaks of light in the sky with the sound of loud explosions, while other images showed flames several metres high and charred cars. The capital's Diori Hamani International Airport houses an air force base and is located 10 kilometres from the presidential palace.

A heavy security deployment was seen early yesterday in the area of the airport, where police and soldiers controlled access, especially to the military base, and an armoured vehicle was stationed, an AFP journalist saw.

It was not immediately clear what had caused the gunfire and whether there were any casualties. Residents recounted their nighttime "fear" including from "roofs that were shaking", as people in the capital went about their normal business early yesterday.



An aerial view of the icy Hudson River during freezing temperatures, seen from the Edge observation deck in New York City on Wednesday. Inset, a water taxi makes its way through the icy river during freezing temperatures.

PHOTO: AFP

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Establishment of Madaripur Textile Engineering College, Shibchar, Madaripur (2nd Revised)
Department of Textiles, BTMC Bhabon (11th Floor)
7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

Memo No:24.02.0000.075.07.057.23-306 Date: 29/01/2026

e-Re-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP Portal for the procurement of the following goods:

Sl No.	Re-Tender ID	Description of Goods & Related Services	Tender Publishing, Tender Opening Date & Time
01	1159893	Procurement of Machineries and Equipment for Knitting Department, Apparel Engineering Department, Fashion & Design Department, Wet Process Engineering Department, Mechanical Engineering & Workshop Machineries for Madaripur Textile Engineering College, Shibchar, Madaripur.	29 January 2026, 2.00 pm & 19 February 2026, 03.00 pm

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/helpdesk.jsp>).

(Mohammed Jahedur Rahman)
Project Director
Tel: 0255011918
Email: Shibchartec2018@gmail.com

29/01/26

GD-220