

4 people
trapped as building
collapses in Nairobi

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing 29 19 SNY Los Angeles 20 12 SNY
Colombo 29 23 TDS Melbourne 17 5 LC
Dhaka 27 16 TDS Moscow 4 2 SNY
Dubai 26 22 SNY New York 2 -3 SNY
Houston 30 23 TDS Singapore 27 25 TDS
Istanbul 33 21 SNY Toronto -6 -8 SNY
London 12 8 SNY Washington 3 -2 SNY

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Maduro open
to US talks on
drugs, silent
on CIA strike

CARACAS

VENEZUELA is open to negotiating an agreement with the United States to combat drug trafficking, the South American country's President Nicolás Maduro said in a pre-taped interview aired Thursday on state television, but he declined to comment on a CIA-led strike last week at a Venezuelan docking area that the Trump administration believed was used by cartels.

Maduro, in an interview with Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet, reiterated that the U.S. wants to force a government change in Venezuela and gain access to its vast oil reserves through the months-long pressure campaign that began with a massive military deployment to the Caribbean Sea in August.

"What are they seeking? It is clear that they seek to impose themselves through threats, intimidation and force," Maduro said, later adding that it is time for both nations to "start talking seriously, with data in hand."

"The U.S. government knows, because we've told many of their spokespeople, that if they want to seriously discuss an agreement to combat drug trafficking, we're ready," he said. "If they want oil, Venezuela is ready for US investment, like with Chevron, whenever they want it, whenever they want it and however they want it."

Chevron Corp. is the only major oil company exporting Venezuelan crude to the U.S. Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves.

The interview was taped on New Year's Eve, the same day the US military announced strikes against five alleged drug-smuggling boats, which make a total of 35 boat strikes by US.

AFP

Trump warns of intervention if more protesters killed; keep off, says Iran

To Donald's US is 'locked and loaded' threat, Tehran says any such step will destabilise region

DUBAI

US President Donald Trump and top Iranian officials exchanged dueling threats Friday as widening protests swept across parts of the Islamic Republic, further escalating tensions between the countries after America bombed Iranian nuclear sites in June last.

At least seven people have been killed so far in violence surrounding the demonstrations, which were sparked in part by the collapse of Iran's rial currency but have increasingly seen crowds chanting anti-government slogans.

The protests, now in their sixth day, have become the biggest in Iran since 2022, when the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody triggered nationwide demonstrations. However, the demonstrations have not been as intense as those surrounding the death of Amini, who was detained over not wearing her hijab to the liking of authorities.



Iranians wave their national flag in Tehran, Iran, on Friday. The protests have hit 15 cities as of Friday (inset) Donald Trump and Ali Larijani AP

Trump initially wrote on his Truth Social platform, warning Iran that if it "violently kills peaceful protesters," the United States "will come to their rescue."

"We are locked and loaded and ready to go," Trump wrote, without elaborating. Shortly after, Ali Larijani, a former par-

liament speaker who serves as the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, alleged on X that Israel and the US were stoking the demonstrations. "Trump should know that intervention by the US in the domestic problem corresponds to chaos in the entire region and the destruction of

the US interests," Larijani wrote on X, which the Iranian government continues to block.

Larijani's remarks likely referenced America's wide military footprint in the region. Iran in June attacked Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar after the US strikes on three nuclear sites during Israel's 12-day war on the Islamic Republic. No one was injured though a missile hit a radome there.

Ali Shamkhani, an adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who previously was the council's secretary for years, separately warned that "any interventionist hand that gets too close to the security of Iran will be cut." "The people of Iran properly know the experience of 'being rescued' by Americans: from Iraq and Afghanistan to Gaza," he added on X.

The protests, taking root in economic issues, have heard demonstrators chant against Iran's theocracy as well. AP

Seven dead as Saudi-led coalition strikes Yemen

MUKALLA, YEMEN

AIR strikes killed seven separatist fighters in Yemen on Friday, according to an official with the group, as a Saudi-led coalition hit back against a sweeping advance by the UAE-backed Southern Transition Council, threatening a major confrontation.

The deaths are the first from coalition fire since the secessionist STC seized swathes of Hadramawt and Mahra provinces last month.

Following the strikes, a military spokesman for the STC said it was in a "decisive and existential" war with Saudi-backed Yemeni forces, characterising it as a fight against radical Islamism -- a longtime preoccupation of the UAE.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have for years supported rival factions in Yemen's government-run territories, but the STC's offensive has angered Riyadh and left the oil-rich Gulf powers at loggerheads.

Mohammed Abdulmalik, head of the STC in Wadi Hadramaut and Hadramaut Desert, said seven air strikes



File photo of Southern Yemen soldiers of Southern Transitional Council at a check point, in Aden, Yemen | AP

hit the Al-Khasha camp, killing seven and wounding more than 20. Further strikes targeted other sites in the same region, he added.

The air raids came shortly after pro-Saudi forces launched a campaign to "peacefully" take control of military sites in Hadramawt.

"This operation is not a declaration of war, nor an attempt to escalate tensions," Hadramawt governor Salem Al-Khanbashi, also leader of the province's Saudi-backed local forces, was quoted as saying by the Saba Net news agency.

"This operation does not target any political or social group," he said. AFP

Kyiv names new military chief as Russia says 27 dead

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN authorities said on Friday that the death toll from a Ukrainian drone strike they said struck a cafe in a Russian-occupied village in Ukraine's Kherson region rose to 27 people. Kyiv denied attacking civilian targets.

Svetlana Petrenko, spokeswoman of Russia's main criminal investigation agency, the Investigative Committee, said in a statement that a Ukrainian drone strike on a cafe and hotel in the village of Khorly, where at least 100 civilians were celebrating New Year's Eve overnight into Thursday, killed 27 people, including two minors.

In Kyiv, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky appointed Kyrylo Budanov, as his new chief of staff on Friday, following the resignation of Andrii Yermak after a corruption scandal over a month ago.

AP

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B)

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E-mail - secbbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 25/2025-26
No. 4651 / Date 22.12.2025

B-902: The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from dt.06.01.2026 at 05.00 P.M. to dt.20.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened dt.21.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
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QuoteExpress IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE > NELSON MANDELA

'Chinese drills near Taiwan unnecessarily raise tension'

WASHINGTON

CHINESE war games around Taiwan "unnecessarily" spiked tensions in the region, the US State Department said early on Friday, calling on Beijing to "cease its military pressure."

"China's military activities and rhetoric toward Taiwan and others in the region increase tensions un-

necessarily. We urge Beijing to exercise restraint, cease its military pressure against Taiwan, and instead engage in meaningful dialogue," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a statement.

Beijing launched missiles and deployed dozens of fighter jets, navy ships and coastguard vessels on Monday and Tuesday to encircle

Taiwan, saying the drills simulated a blockade of the self-ruled island's main ports.

China claims that democratic Taiwan is part of its territory and has refused to rule out using force to annex it. It again defended the drills as "legitimate" on Friday, and warned countries to "stop stirring up trouble on the Taiwan Strait issue." PTI

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TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, for recovery of sum of Rs.33,03,44,305/- (Rupees Thirty Three Crore Three Lakh Four Thousand Three Hundred and Five only) as on 18-12-2025 together with further interest to be charged from 19-12-2025 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. Kanjiravelli Traders, No.XI447, Kanjiravelli, Pazhamthottam, Ermakulam - 683565, No.2) Mr. Jenny Varghese, S/o. Varghese, Kanjiravelli House, Pazhamthottam, Pattimattom, Ermakulam - 683568, No.3) Mrs. Geeta Jenny, W/o. Jenny Varghese, Kanjiravelli House, Pazhamthottam, Pattimattom, Ermakulam - 683565, No.4) Mr. Jimi KV @ Jini Varghese, S/o. Varghese, Kanjiravelli House, Pazhamthottam, Pattimattom, Ermakulam - 683565, No.5) Mrs. Meenu Unnikrishnan, S/o. Jenny Varghese, Kanjiravelli House, Pazhamthottam, Pattimattom, Ermakulam - 683565, No.6) Mr. Joy Jose, S/o. Jose, Chamkambaluthu House, No.246, Anchukunnu Echchome Post, Panamaram, Mananthavady - 670721, No.7) Mr. Kurikash, S/o. Mathai, Thuruvakkal House, Kunukammoona, Payyampall Post, Wayanad - 670746, No.8) Mrs. Elizabeth, W/o. Thomas, Thengapparayil, Panamaram, Nirvaram, Wayanad, Kerala - 670724, No.9) Mr. Jose, S/o. Chacko, Chambakkaluthu House, Anchukunnu, Echchome (Post), Panamaram, Wayanad, Mananthavady - 670721, No.10) M/s. Genuine Agro Spices, X/447 D, Kanjiravelli, Pulimude, Pazhamthottam, Ermakulam - 683565.

IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES MORTGAGED TO OUR BANK

Schedule - A : Property Owned by Mr. Kuriakose, S/o. Mathai

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property with land and Building Having an Extent of 14 Ares, 14 Sq.Meters made up of 08 Ares, 09 Sq.Meters, in Re-Survey No.325/16, 04 Ares, 05 Sq.Meters, in Re-Survey No.325/19 and 02 Ares, in Re-Survey No.325/8 in Block No.27 of Payyampally Village, Mananthavady, Wayanad District, with the Following Boundaries : East : Property of Club, West : Property of John, North : Kurukkamoola - Palvelicham Road, South : Property in Possession of John.

Schedule - B : Property Owned by Mr. Joy Jose, S/o. Jose

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property with land and Building Having an Extent of 06 Ares, 07 Sq.Meters made up of 04 Ares, 05 Sq.Meters, in Re-Survey No.123/29-3, 17.48 Acres, in Re-Survey No.123/31, 02.02 Acres, in Re-Survey No.123/31-1, 9 Acres, 12 Sq.Meters, in Re-Survey No.123/31-2, 46 sq.meters, in Re-Survey No.123/31-2 and 02.02 Acres, in Re-Survey No.123/31-3 of Pattimattam Village, Kunthamadu Taluk, Ermakulam District with the following boundaries : East : Property of Club, West : Property of John, North : Kurukkamoola - Palvelicham Road, South : Property in Possession of John.

Schedule - C : Property Owned by Mr. Joy Jose, S/o. Jose

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property with land and Building Having an Extent of 06 Ares, 07 Sq.Meters, in Re-Survey No.184/16, in Block No.54 of Anjukunnu Village, Mananthavady Taluk, Wayanad District, with the Following Boundaries : East : Property of Club, West : Property of John, North : Kurukkamoola - Palvelicham Road, South : Property in Possession of John.

Schedule - D : Property Owned by Mr. Jose, S/o. Chacko

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property with land and building having an extent of 10 Ares, 08 Sq.Meters, in Re-Survey No.351/9, in Block No.60 of Nadavally Village, Sultan Bathery Taluk, Wayanad District and building bearing No.498/B, in Ward No.7 of Panamaram Grama Panchayat with the following boundaries : East : Property of Babychan @ Baby James, West : Alunkel Thazheza - Puzhakkal Road, North : Property of Tony, South : Property of Babychan @ Baby James.

Schedule - E : Property Owned by Mrs. Elizabeth, W/o. Thomas

All the piece and parcel of the property with land and building having an extent of 12.15 Acres, in Re-Survey No.351/9, in Block No.60 of Nadavally Village, Sultan Bathery Taluk, Wayanad District and building bearing No.498/B, in Ward No.7 of Panamaram Grama Panchayat with the following boundaries : East : Property of Babychan @ Baby James, West : Alunkel Thazheza - Puzhakkal Road, North : Property of Tony, South : Property of Babychan @ Baby James.

Schedule - F : Property Owned by Mr. Jimi KV @ Jini Varghese, S/o. Varghese

All that piece and parcel of the property with land and building with Do No.7423/A, in an area of 8 Ares, under Sy.No.331/18 (Old Sy.No.58/1B), including all appurtenances and improvements there on. The Property situated in Kozhukkallur Village, Meppayar Taluk, Kozhikode District with the following boundaries : East : Property of Latheef, West : Panchayath Road, North : Property of Latheef, South : Property of Latheef.

Schedule - G : Property Owned by Mrs. Geeba Jenny, W/o. Jenny Varghese

All that piece and parcel of the property with land and building in an area of 10.34 Ares with Do No.57/3/A under Sy.No.92/15 including all appurtenances and improvements there on. The property situated in Orumanayir Village, Chavakkad Taluk, Thrissur District with the following boundaries : East : Property of Anitha, West : Panchayath Road, North : Property of Meenu Unnikrishnan and Saji, South : Property of Kunikose.

Schedule - H : Property Owned by Mr. Jenny Varghese, S/o. Varghese

All that piece and parcel of the property with land and building in an area of 10.34 Ares with Do No.57/3/A under Sy.No.92/15 including all appurtenances and improvements there on. The property situated in Orumanayir Village, Chavakkad Taluk, Thrissur District with the following boundaries : East : Property of Anitha, West : Panchayath Road, North : Property of Meenu Unnikrishnan and Saji, South : Property of Kunikose.

Schedule - I : Property Owned by Mr. Jenny Varghese, S/o. Varghese

All that piece and parcel of the property with land and building in an area of 10.34 Ares with Do No.57/3/A under Sy.No.92/15 including all appurtenances and improvements there on. The property situated in Orumanayir Village, Chavakkad Taluk, Thrissur District with the following boundaries : East : Property of Anitha, West : Panchayath Road, North : Property of Meenu Unnikrishnan and Saji, South : Property of Kunikose.

Schedule - J : Property Owned by Mr. Joy Jose, S/o. Jose

All that piece and parcel of the property with land and building along with Do No.14/542, in an area of 16.19 Acres (consisting of 1.62 Ares in Sy.No.61/2 + 2.43 Acres in Sy.No.61/2 + 12.14 Acres in Sy.No.61/3) including all appurtenances and improvements there on. The Property situated in Vadakkumuri Village, Vaikom Taluk, Kottayam District with the following boundaries : East : Property of John, South : Panchayath Road, West : Property of Mr. Thomas, North : Property of Mrs. Jayanthikumar (as per Valuation Report). (Along with 2 stories Building exists).

Schedule - K : Property Owned by Mr. Jay Jose, S/o. Jose

All that piece and parcel of the property with land and building along with Do No.14/542, in