

Trump says Iran seeks talks as toll hits 572

Supreme Leader faces rare street challenge as prosecutors seek death penalty for protesters

Iran govt declares three days of national mourning for 'martyrs'

PARIS: The Iranian government on Sunday declared three days of national mourning for "martyrs" including members of the security forces killed in two weeks of protests, state television said.

DUBAI

US President Donald Trump said Iran wants to negotiate with Washington after his threat to strike the Islamic Republic over its crackdown on protesters, a move coming as activists said on Monday that the death toll in nationwide demonstrations rose to at least 572.

Iran had no direct reaction to Trump's comments, which came after the foreign minister of Oman — long an interlocutor between Washington and Tehran — traveled to Iran this weekend. It also remains unclear just what Iran could promise, particularly as Trump has set strict demands over its nuclear programme and its ballistic missile arsenal, which Tehran insists is crucial for its national defense.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, speaking to foreign diplomats in Tehran, insisted "the situation has come under total control" in remarks that blamed Israel and the US for the violence, without offering evidence.

"That's why the demonstrations turned violent and bloody to give an excuse to the American president to intervene," Araghchi said, in comments carried by Al Jazeera. The Qatar-funded network has been allowed to report live from inside Iran, despite the internet being shut off. However, Araghchi said Iran was "open to diplomacy."

China urges stability in Iran, opposes force

BEIJING: China says it opposes the use of force in international relations and expressed hope the Iranian government and people are "able to overcome the current difficulties and maintain national stability."



Anti-Iranian regime protesters stand with the Imperial Standard of the Shahanshah of Iran flag during a gathering outside the Iranian Embassy, central London | AFP

and concerns, not a negotiation that is one-sided, unilateral and based on dictation."

Meanwhile, pro-government demonstrators flooded the streets on Monday in support of the theocracy, a show of force after days of protests directly challenging the rule of 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran's attorney general has said prosecutors will levy such charges against protesters, which carry the death penalty.

Trump and his national security team have been weighing a range of potential responses against Iran, including cyberattacks and direct strikes by the US or Israel, according to two people familiar with internal White House discussions who weren't authorised to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The military is looking at it, and we're looking at some very strong options," Trump told reporters on Air Force One on Sunday night. Asked about Iran's threats of retaliation, he said: "If they do that, we will hit them at levels that they've never been hit before."

White House weighs blocking Exxon's return to Venezuela

NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump has said that he is 'inclined' to keep ExxonMobil out of Venezuela after its top executive described conditions in the South American nation as "uninvestable."

Trump chaired a meeting in the White House on Friday with oil and gas executives to discuss plans for the Venezuelan oil reserves in the wake of the ouster of former President Nicol's Maduro.

"No, I didn't like Exxon's response. You know, we have so many that want it, and I'd probably be inclined to keep Exxon out. I didn't like their response. They're playing too cute," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Washington DC from Florida.



Donald Trump

country," Woods said. Woods had then expressed confidence that with the Trump administration and President Trump working hand in hand with the Venezuelan government, "that those changes can be put in place."

China warns US against using Greenland as 'pretext'

NUUK

China said on Monday that the United States shouldn't use other countries as a 'pretext' to pursue its interests in Greenland and said that its activities in the Arctic comply with international law.

The comment by a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson came in response to a question at a regular daily briefing. US President Donald Trump has said that he would like to make a deal to acquire Greenland, a semi-autonomous region of NATO ally Denmark, to prevent Russia or China from taking it over.

Tensions have grown between Washington, Denmark and Greenland this month as Trump and his administration push the issue and the White House considers a range of options, including military force, to acquire the vast Arctic island.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has warned that an American takeover of Greenland would mark the end of NATO. On Friday, Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen and the leaders of the four other parties in the territory's parliament issued a joint statement reiterating that Greenland's future must be decided by its people and emphasising their "wish that the United States' contempt for our country ends."



This January 8 photo allegedly shows Israeli settlers beating a man in the northern West Bank village of Deir Sharaf | AP

Palestinians flee homes amid settler violence

JERUSALEM

OVER two dozen families from one of the few remaining Palestinian Bedouin villages in the central West Bank have packed up and fled their homes in recent days, saying harassment by Jewish settlers living in unauthorised outposts nearby has grown unbearable.

The village, Ras Ein el-Auja, was originally home to some 700 people from more than 100 families that have lived there for decades. Twenty-six families already left on Thursday, scattering across the territory in search of safer ground, say rights groups. Several other families were packing up and leaving on Sunday.

"We have been suffering greatly from the settlers. Every

day, they come on foot, or on tractors, or on horseback with their sheep into our homes. They enter people's homes daily," said Nayef Zayed, a resident, as neighbours took down sheep pens and tin structures.

Israel's military did not respond to requests for comment. Other residents pledged to stay put for the time being. That makes them some of the last Palestinians left in the area, said Sarit Michaeli, international director at B'Tselem, an Israeli rights group.

She said that mounting settler violence has already emptied neighboring Palestinian hamlets in the dusty corridor of land stretching from Ramallah in the West to Jericho, along the Jordanian border, in the east. AP

Indian-born US astronomer gets top Royal Astronomical Society honour

LONDON

US-BASED astronomer Professor Shrinivas Kulkarni has been awarded the prestigious Gold Medal by the Royal Astronomical Society in London for his "field-defining" discoveries in time-domain astronomy.

Maharashtra-born Kulkarni is the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where he has discovered a wide range of astronomical objects, including brown dwarfs and remote bursts of gamma rays.

His RAS Gold Medal citation from last week recognises his "sustained, innovative and ground-breaking contributions to multi-wavelength transient astrophysics". In receiving the highest honour from the historic organisation, awarded annually since 1824, he joins great scientific minds such as Stephen Hawking, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Albert Einstein and Edwin Hubble. "I was very surprised to hear the news, especially given the stellar list of past winners," said Kulkarni. "I would like to thank my long-term collaborators and the engineering crew and members of the Palomar Transient Factory and the Zwicky Transient Facility for their immense contribution to the projects," he said.

The scientist described this discovery of the first millisecond pulsar as "the most fun achievement in my life", adding: "I was a graduate student when I made the discovery. I could not sleep for several days!" Kulkarni joined Caltech in 1985 and made landmark discoveries in gamma-ray bursts. PTI



Shrinivas Kulkarni

CLASSIFIEDS

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CHANGE OF NAME I, SATYAM son of SURENDRA KUMAR OJHA resident of FLAT NO. E-1-008 BLOCK, RAINBOW VISTA, ROCK GARDEN, OPP IDL FACTORY, GREEN HILLS ROAD MOOSAPET, BALANAGAR, K V RANGAREDDY, TELANGANA, HYDERABAD PIN-500072 have changed my name from SATYAM to SATYAM OJHA vide Affidavit Certificate No. IN-KA36531381806303X dated 29 Dec 2025 before District Court Bidar.

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CHANGE OF NAME I, NEETHA KRISHNA NAIK W/O PARAMESWARA NAIK TAKRYA resident of H.NO.8 MATHRU SHREE CHAYAMMA LAYOUT NEAR DURGAMMA STREET VIDYA NAGAR SHIMOGA - 577203 KARNATAKA STATE, do here by change of my name from NEETHA PARAMESWARA NAIK to NEETHA KRISHNA NAIK affidavit before Advocate and notary by Baswaraj Adv and Notary Bidar. Dated 12-01-2026 Bidar-585401 (K.S.)

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME I, SHARNAPPA WADEKAR S/O MARUTI resident of H.NO. 9-6-33 CHIDRI ROAD HANUMAN NAGAR BIDAR- 585401 KARNATAKA STATE, do here by change of my name from SHARNAPPA to SHARNAPPA WADEKAR Affidavit before Advocate and notary by Baswaraj Adv. and Notary Bidar. Dated 12-01-2026. at Bidar-585401 (K.S.)

Public notice in Kannada regarding a name change for a resident of Bidar.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE. The borrowers, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/02/2026 from 10.00 am onwards.

Karnataka Gramena Bank. REGIONAL OFFICE: BIDAR R & L SECTION. BRANCH: MEHKAR. REF: KGB/ROBDR/R&L/SARFAESI/PN18/2025-26 DATE: 06.01.2026. (POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

ICICI Bank SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

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