



SRI LANKA Navy rescues 102 Rohingyas

Sri Lanka Navy has rescued more than 100 Rohingyas, including 25 children and 40 women, from Myanmar distressed in the seas off the island's northeastern coast.

USA Man admits to running Chinese PS in NY

A resident of Manhattan, Chen Jinping, a US citizen, has admitted in the US federal court to his involvement in operating a secret Chinese police station in New York.

NEW YORK Sudan to get USD 200 million aid

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the additional assistance of USD 200 million to Sudan at the United Nations Security Council Meeting on Thursday.

PAKISTAN Eighth Mpox case in '24

Pakistan reported its eighth case of Mpox this year on Thursday. The victim was a 30-year-old labourer who arrived at Islamabad Airport from Saudi Arabia.

OLD THREATS IN NEW SYRIA | As Turkish-backed forces advance, US-backed militia commander warns of resurgence of 'Daesh'

Kurds fear rise of IS again

Agencies HASAKAH (SYRIA)

As the new Syria struggles to take shape, old threats are re-emerging. The chaos since the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad is 'paving the way' for the so-called Islamic State (IS) to make a comeback.

'Activity by Daesh [IS] has increased significantly, and the danger of a resurgence had doubled,' General Mazloum Abdi, commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a mainly Kurdish militia backed by the US, was quoted as saying by BBC.

He said that IS militants have seized some arms and ammunition left behind by Syrian regime troops, according to intelligence reports.

He warned there is 'a real threat' that the militants will try to break into SDF-run prisons here in north-east Syria, which are holding about 10,000 of their men.

Gen Abdi welcomed the fall of the Assad regime - which detained him four times. But he looked weary and admitted to frustration at the prospect of fighting old battles once again.

'We fought against them [IS] and paid 12,000 souls,' he said, referring to the SDF's losses. 'I think at some level, we will



Syrian fighters attend Friday prayers at the Umayyad Mosque, in Damascus

have to go back to where we were before.'

The risk of an IS resurgence is heightened, he said, because the SDF is coming under increasing attacks from neighbouring Turkey - and rebel factions it supports - and must divert some fighters to that battle.

Ankara views the SDF as an extension of the PKK - banned Kurdish separatists who have waged an insurgency for decades, and are classed as terrorists by the US, and the European

Union. Turkey has long wanted a 30-km 'buffer zone' in the Kurdish region in northeastern Syria. Since Assad's fall, it is pushing harder to get it.

'The number one threat is now Turkey because its airstrikes are killing our forces,' said General Abdi. 'These attacks must stop, because they are distracting us from focusing on the security of the detention centres,' he said, 'though we will always do our best.'

At the same time, Gen Abdi told Reuters that Kurdish fighters who came to Syria from around the Middle East to support Syrian Kurdish forces would leave if a total ceasefire is

reached in the conflict with Turkey in northern Syria.

Abdi said Kurdish fighters from Iran, Iraq and Turkey had first come to Syria to help drive the jihadists back from Kobani. Following the battle of Kobani, some - such as Iraq's Peshmerga - had returned home.

Kurdish security sources say most of the prisoners in Al-Sina were with IS until its last stand and were deeply committed to its ideology.

Some Kurdish civilians in the city of Al-Hasakah fear a comeback by the jihadis and another ground offensive by Turkey in north-eastern Syria. This would be the fourth invasion by Turkish forces.

Bibi eyes Iran after dismantling its allies

Agencies DUBAI

After the fall of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to cement his strategic goals: tightening his military control over Gaza, thwarting Iran's nuclear ambitions and capitalising on the dismantling of Tehran's allies - Palestinian Hamas, and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Without Syria, the alliances Tehran has nurtured for decades have unraveled. As Iran's influence weakens, Israel is emerging as the dominant power in the region.

Netanyahu is poised to zero in on Iran's nuclear ambitions and missile programme, applying an unyielding focus to dismantling and neutralising these strategic threats to Israel, according to sources Reuters spoke to.

Iran, Middle East observers say, faces a stark choice: Either continue its nuclear enrichment programme or scale back its atomic activities and agree to negotiations.

'Iran is very vulnerable to an Israeli attack, particularly against its nuclear programme,' said Joost R. Hiltermann, Middle East and North Africa Programme Director of the International Crisis Group. 'I wouldn't be surprised if Israel did it, but that doesn't get rid of Iran.'

'If they (Iranians) do not back down, Trump and Netanyahu might strike, as nothing now prevents them,'



said Palestinian analyst Ghasan al-Khatib, referring to President-elect Donald Trump. Khatib argued that the Iranian leadership, having demonstrated pragmatism in the past, may be willing to compromise to avert a military confrontation.

Trump, who withdrew from a 2015 agreement between Iran and six world powers aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear goals, is likely to step up sanctions on Iran's oil industry, despite calls to return to negotiations from critics who see diplomacy as a more effective long-term policy.

With 2024 coming to an end, the Israeli Prime Minister will likely agree to sign a ceasefire accord with Hamas to halt the 14-month-old Gaza war and free Israeli hostages held in the enclave, according to sources close to the negotiations.

But Gaza would stay under

Trump-backed spending Bill fails House test

Agencies WASHINGTON

A spending bill backed by Donald Trump failed in the US House of Representatives on Thursday as several Republicans defied the President-elect, leaving Congress with no clear plan to avert a fast-approaching government shutdown a step closer.

The vote laid bare fault lines in Trump's Republican Party that could surface again next year when they control the White House and both chambers of Congress.

A revised spending plan failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed in the lower chamber of Congress, with 38 Republicans voting against the Bill on Thursday night, defying the president-elect.

Trump had thwarted a previous cross-party funding deal that the Republican House leadership had struck with Democrats, after heavy criticism of the measure by tech billionaire Elon Musk. By a vote of 174-235, the House of Representatives rejected the Trump-backed package, hastily assembled by Republican leaders after the president-elect and his billionaire ally and increasingly close political partner Elon Musk scuttled a prior bipartisan deal.

After the Bill failed, Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson said he would come up with another solution before government funding lapses at midnight on Friday. The Trump-approved replacement Bill would have tied government funding to a two-year suspension of the federal debt limit, which determines how much the government can borrow to pay its bills. Republican rebels objected because they oppose increases in government spending, while Democrats voted against it because they said the extra borrowing would be used to give tax cuts to the wealthy.

Iran tries to build ties with new Syria

Agencies TEHRAN

The Iranian government is attempting to salvage some influence with Syria's new leaders, as Tehran reels from its sudden loss of authority in Damascus after the collapse of the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian is already facing multiple domestic and international crises, including power cuts due to a lack of oil supplies, continued tensions over its nuclear programme and a row about a new law that will make wearing the hijab compulsory for women. But it is the sudden loss of influence in Syria after the fall

Loss of authority in Syria after fall of Bashar al-Assad adds to domestic and international crises facing Iranian leaders

of Assad to rebel groups that is exacerbating Iranian officials most.

In the short term they want to salvage some influence with the rebels in Damascus. Iranian diplomats insist they were disillusioned with Assad's refusal to compromise. The Guardian quoting Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi, said in an interview this week: 'We had long ago reached the

conclusion that the continuation of governance in Syria would face a fundamental challenge. Government officials were expected to show flexibility towards allowing the opposition to participate in power, but this did not happen.'

He added: 'Tehran always had direct contacts with the Syrian opposition delegation. Since 2011, we have been suggesting to Syria the need to begin political talks with those opposition groups that were not affiliated with terrorism.'

Such explanations have not cut much ice in Damascus. Iran remains one of the few countries criticised by Ahmed al-Sharaa, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham leader.

The Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi said: 'We must follow the Syrian issue with hope and know that this situation will not continue, because the current rulers of Syria will not remain united with each other.'

The conservative Iranian newspaper predicted that 'the current honeymoon period in Syria will end due to the diversity of groups, Salafism, economic problems, the lack of security and diversity of actors.'

Officially Iran blames the US and Israel for Assad's collapse, but resentment at Ankara's role is rife, ironically echoing Donald Trump's claim that Syria has been the victim of an unfriendly takeover by Turkey.

DNA trail: Pelicot a suspect in rape-murder case

Agencies PARIS

Gisèle Pelicot's ex-husband, Dominique Pelicot, who has been jailed for 20 years for drugging her and inviting men to rape her, faces a further investigation for the rape and murder of an estate agent in Paris in 1991, and an attempted rape

in 1999, amid questions over whether he could have been a serial offender for decades. Investigators in Nanterre outside Paris have reopened two cold cases and placed Pelicot under formal investigation, as police consider potential links to other cases involving young estate agents. Pelicot could face another trial at a later date.

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Borrower(s), Description of secured asset, Total Outstanding, Date of Demand, Date of Possession. Includes details for Mr. Dheerendra, Mr. Akash Kushwah, and Mr. Ashish Singh.

REGD. A/D \ DASTI \ AFFIXATION \ BEAT OF DRUM SALE PROCLAMATION OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR. Includes details of the recovery officer and the debtor M/S. METALMAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED.

Table with 5 columns: No. of lots, Description of the property to be sold, Revenue assessed upon the property, Details of any other encumbrance, Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property. Includes details for Plot No. 802-A & 802-B, Sector-III, At Industrial Area, Pithampur.