

News in brief

◆ **A drone crashed into a** Kazakh-chartered oil tanker en route to a Russian Black Sea port earlier Tuesday, causing an explosion but no serious damage, Kazakhstan's state energy firm Kazmunaygas said. Kazmunaygas did not say who was behind the attack. Ukraine, which has waged a years-long campaign of strikes against Russia's energy sector in retaliation for Moscow's invasion, did not immediately comment. The ship, named "MATILDA", was en route to load Kazakh oil at the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) terminal on Russia's southern Black Sea coast when the attack took place, Kazmunaygas said. "There were no injuries among the crew. According to preliminary assessments, the vessel remains seaworthy, and there are no signs of serious structural damage," it added. Russian state media reported Ukraine attacked at least one other ship in the Black Sea earlier Tuesday, but that it also remained seaworthy.



Drone hits tanker scheduled to load Kazakh oil at Russian port

◆ **South Korean prosecutors demand death penalty for ex-leader Yoon**

South Korean prosecutors called on Tuesday for the death penalty to be handed down to former president Yoon Suk Yeol for his December 2024 declaration of martial law, which plunged the country into chaos. Yoon triggered a political crisis when he announced an end to civilian rule in December 2024 and sent troops to parliament to enforce it. But his attempt failed and he became the country's first sitting president to be taken into custody when he was detained last January. Yoon's criminal trial for insurrection, abuse of power and other offences linked to the declaration drew to a close on Tuesday after 11 hours of proceedings. In closing remarks, prosecutors accused him of being the ringleader of an "insurrection" motivated by a "lust for power aimed at dictatorship and long-term rule".

◆ **India's army chief accused Pakistan** on Tuesday of flying drones into Indian-administered territory in Kashmir. They have been told that this is unacceptable to us, and please put a stop to it," General Upendra Dwivedi told reporters in New Delhi in an annual briefing to the media. eads of military operations of both countries spoke to each other earlier on Tuesday, he said. "These drones, I believe, were defensive drones, which want to come over (our territory) to see if any action is being planned against them," Dwivedi said. There was no immediate response from Pakistan's army. "We are fully alert along the Line of Control," Dwivedi added, referring to the heavily fortified de facto border. Dwivedi said several low-flying drones entered Indian-controlled airspace with their lights switched on -- as many as seven on Saturday, and another two or three on Sunday. "It's possible they wanted to see if there were any gaps, laxity in our defence, any gaps through which they could send terrorists," he added.

India accuses Pakistan of cross-border drone incursions



SPOTLIGHT

Apple chooses Google's Gemini AI to power Siri



San Francisco, United States

Tech giants Apple and Google announced Monday a multi-year partnership that will see Apple's next-generation artificial intelligence features, including its Siri assistant, be powered by Google's Gemini technology. The collaboration marks a significant shift for Apple, which has traditionally developed its core technologies in-house. A joint statement said Apple had selected Google's AI technology after a "careful evaluation" determined that it provided "the most capable foundation" for the iPhone-maker's AI ambitions. The announcement represents a rare alliance between two companies that have long competed in the smartphone market, where Apple's iOS and Google's Android operating systems dominate globally. However, the two rivals have maintained a lucrative partnership for years, with Google paying Apple billions of dollars annually to remain the default search engine on iPhones and other Apple devices. That arrangement has faced scrutiny from regulators, with the US Department of Justice arguing in an antitrust case that the deal helps Google maintain its search monopoly, though a judge said the arrangement could continue. Tesla boss Elon Musk, who owns his own AI company xAI, slammed the latest arrangement as anti-competitive. He called it "an unreasonable concentration of power for Google, given that they also have Android and Chrome." Apple reportedly had also considered partnerships with OpenAI, Anthropic, and Perplexity.

Trump urges Iranians to oust rulers, says 'help' on its way

Trump has repeatedly threatened Iran with military intervention

- The president did not specify what form the promised "help" would take
- Press Secretary said that a channel for diplomacy with Tehran remained open
- Iranian authorities insist they have regained control

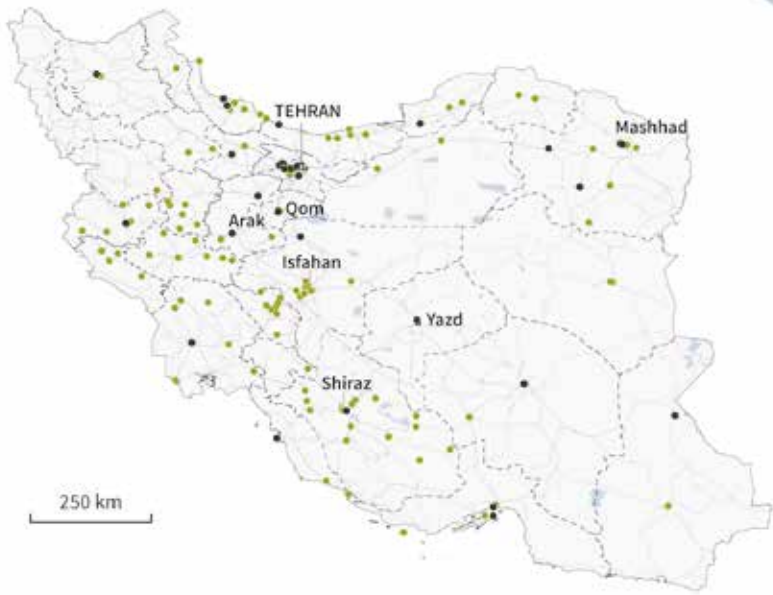
AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday said Iranians should continue nationwide protests and take over the country's institutions as authorities there cracked down on mass demonstrations. "Iranian Patriots, KEEP PROTESTING - TAKE OVER YOUR INSTITUTIONS!!!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Save the names of the killers and abusers. They will pay a big price. "I have cancelled all meetings with Iranian Officials until the senseless killing of protesters STOPS. HELP IS ON ITS WAY." Trump, who has repeatedly threatened Iran with military intervention, signed off with "MIGA" -- "Make Iran Great Again." The president did not specify what form the promised "help" would take, in a message that appeared to back toppling the government in the Islamic Republic -- marking a change in the US stance from one day ago.

On Monday, his Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that a channel for diplomacy with Tehran remained open, saying that Iran was taking a "far different tone" in private discussions with Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff. Trump on Monday also announced a 25% tariff on any country doing business with Iran, ramping up pressure as a rights group estimated the crackdown has killed at least 648 people. Iranian authorities insist they have regained control after successive nights of mass protests that have posed one of the biggest challenges to the clerical leadership since the 1979 Islamic revolution ousted the shah. But rights groups accuse the government of using live fire against protesters and masking the scale of the crackdown with an internet blackout that has now lasted more than four days.

Protests in Iran

Cities where demonstrations have been reported:
● from December 29 to January 8 ● from January 9 to 11



Source: Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project

AFP

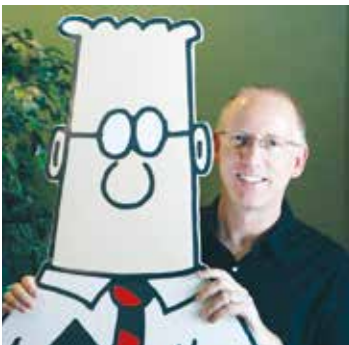


This video grab taken on January 13, 2026 from UGC images posted on social media on January 12, 2026 shows dozens of bodies lying inside the Tehran Province Forensic Diagnostic and Laboratory Centre in Kahrizak, with what appears to be grieving relatives searching for loved ones. Other videos showing the same scenes first appeared online. (AFP)

Scott Adams, US creator of 'Dilbert' cartoon, dies at 68

AFP | New York, United States

Scott Adams, the US cartoonist famous for his "Dilbert" comic strip whose career was later soured by a racism row, has died at age 68, his ex-wife said yesterday. Adams, who rose to fame in the 1990s with his satirical take on white-collar office life, had been receiving hospice care at his home in northern California after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Ex-wife Shelly Miles announced his passing in an emotional, live-streamed message on Adams's YouTube channel, "Real



Coffee with Scott Adams." US President Donald Trump paid tribute to Adams as a "great influencer" in a post on his Truth Social platform. "He was a fantastic guy, who

liked and respected me when it wasn't fashionable to do so," Trump wrote. Adams endorsed Trump before his 2016 election win. "Dilbert" was first published in 1989 and followed its title character working as an engineer in a micromanaged office. It was syndicated to some 2,000 newspapers internationally at its peak. But many publications including the Washington Post dropped the comic after Adams posted a video in 2023 calling Black people a "hate group." His rant was prompted by a poll by conservative-leaning Rasmussen Reports, whose results

he said showed a slim majority of Black respondents agreed with the statement, "It's okay to be white." "That's a hate group and I don't want anything to do with them," Adams said in the video. "Based on the current way things are going, the best advice I would give to white people is to get the hell away from Black people." Adams later defended his comments and said that he had been using hyperbole. He won support from right-wing billionaire Elon Musk, who called US media "racist" for their decision to stop publishing the cartoon.