

News in brief

◆ **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky** said

yesterday that around 4,000 buildings in Kyiv were still without heating and most of the capital was cut off from electricity after Russian strikes earlier in the week. Russia has hit Ukrainian energy infrastructure throughout the nearly four-year war, but Kyiv says this winter has been the toughest yet, with hundreds of Russian drones and missiles overwhelming air defences during particularly fierce frosts. "As of this morning, about 4,000 buildings in Kyiv are still without heat, and nearly 60 percent of the capital is without electricity," Zelensky said, after Russia pounded Ukraine's energy grid between Monday and Tuesday. The situation also remained difficult across the country, including in the Sumy, Chernigiv, Dnipro and Kharkiv regions, he added. Zelensky announced a "state of emergency" in the country's energy sector last week, with Kyiv schools remaining closed, street lights dimmed and roughly half a million residents leaving the capital.



Over half of Kyiv still lacks power after strikes, Zelensky says

◆ **North Korea produces enough nuclear material a year for 10-20 weapons: S. Korea president**

◆ **North Korea** is producing enough nuclear material a year for up to 20 weapons, South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung said yesterday. "Even now, nuclear materials sufficient to produce 10 to 20 nuclear weapons a year are still being produced" in North Korea, Lee told reporters at a New Year news conference. At the same time, the North is continuing to improve its long-range ballistic missile technology aimed at striking the US mainland, Lee added. "At some point, North Korea will have secured the nuclear arsenal it believes it needs to sustain the regime, along with ICBM capabilities capable of threatening not only the United States but the wider world," he said, referring to intercontinental ballistic missiles. "And once there is excess, it will go abroad -- beyond its borders. A global danger will then emerge," he said.

◆ **Israeli strike kills three Gaza journalists including AFP freelancer**

◆ **An Israeli air strike** killed an AFP freelancer and two other journalists in Gaza on Wednesday, the territory's civil defence agency said, while the military said it struck "suspects" operating a drone. Since October 10, a fragile US-sponsored ceasefire in Gaza has largely halted the fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas, but both sides have alleged frequent violations. In a statement, the civil defence said "the bodies of the three journalists killed in an Israeli air strike in the Al-Zahra area southwest of Gaza City were transported to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah". It named the dead as Mohammed Salah Qashta, Abdul Raouf Shaat and Anas Ghneim.



SPOTLIGHT

Over 300 journalists behind bars for fifth straight year: watchdog

AFP | New York, United States

The number of journalists imprisoned worldwide for their work was 330 in the final month of 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists said yesterday, the fifth consecutive year the count has exceeded 300.

China held 50 prisoners as of December 1, followed by Myanmar with 30 and then Israel, which detained 29 Palestinian journalists, the press freedom watchdog said in its annual report.

Next was Russia with 27 prisoners, of which five were Ukrainian, then Belarus with 25 and Azerbaijan with 24, the CPJ said.

It is the third highest total recorded by the CPJ since its census began in 1992 and just short of the record 384 journalists in prison for their work at the end of 2024.

"These record-setting numbers reflect growing authoritarianism and escalating numbers of armed conflicts worldwide," the CPJ said in its report.

The New York-based NGO said that almost half of the imprisoned journalists had not been convicted of a crime. Of those who had been, more than a third were serving prison sentences of over five years.

Nearly a third of the detained journalists had experienced "mistreatment," the CPJ said, including 20 percent with



claims of torture or beatings. Since 1992, Iran has had the greatest incidence of torture and beatings, followed by Israel and Egypt.

In 2025, Asia remained the region with the highest number of imprisoned journalists at 110. Beyond China and Myanmar, Vietnam held at least 16, Bangladesh four, India three, and the Philippines one.

The United States detained Salvadoran journalist Mario Guevara in June after he covered a protest against President Donald Trump, but he was deported over his immigration status before the December 1 CPJ census was taken.

Trump rules out force against Greenland

Demands 'immediate' talks

● **Trump desire to avoid military force over Greenland is 'positive' sign: Danish FM**

AFP | Davos, Switzerland

US President Donald Trump ruled out using force to take Greenland for the first time as he addressed world leaders in Davos yesterday, but demanded "immediate negotiations" to acquire the island from Denmark.

Trump's quest to take control of Greenland from a NATO ally has deeply shaken the global order and the markets, and it dominated his first address to the World Economic Forum in six years.

In a speech lasting more than an hour in the Swiss ski resort, Trump slammed "ungrateful" Denmark for refusing to give up Greenland, and said the United States alone could guarantee the security of the "giant piece of ice".

But Trump appeared to take the threat of military action off the table, in a dramatic turnaround from his previous threats that the US could use force to take control of the mineral-rich Arctic island.

"We probably won't get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force where we would be, frankly, unstoppable -- but I won't do that," Trump said.

"I don't have to use force. I don't want to use force. I won't use force. All the United States is asking for is a place called Greenland."

Wall Street stocks opened higher Wednesday after Trump's comments.

'Immediate negotiations'

Trump however pushed his claims to what he called "our territory" -- and mistakenly called it Iceland on several occasions -- during lengthy remarks on the deepest crisis in transatlantic relations for decades.

He said he was "seeking immediate negotiations to once again discuss the acquisition of Greenland by the United States" and added that Washington would "remember" if Denmark said no.

Trump says Greenland is under threat from Russia and China.

The US president also lambasted Europe on a number of fronts from security to tariffs and the economy, saying it was "not heading in the right direction".

Trump flew into Davos by helicopter, stepping onto a red carpet laid in the snow -- but he flew into a growing international storm over Greenland.

He arrived some two hours behind schedule, after an electrical issue earlier forced Air Force One to turn back to Washington and switch planes.

In a sign of dissent against



Trump desire to avoid military force over Greenland is 'positive' sign: Danish FM

AFP | Copenhagen, Denmark

Denmark's foreign minister said yesterday it was a "positive" sign that Donald Trump had said he wanted to avoid military force in Greenland, but stressed the US president had not backed away from his threat to seize the Arctic territory.

"What is quite clear after this speech is that the president's ambition remains intact," Foreign Minister Lars Lokke

Rasmussen told reporters in Copenhagen, referring to a speech by Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"It is, of course, positive in isolation that the president said that about the military, but it doesn't make the problem go away."

Lokke noted that it had been stated "very clearly that it is better to own than to rent" and that Trump did not believe that Denmark could take care of Greenland.

Greenland, threatened by Trump, releases 'crisis' guidelines: minister

AFP | Nuuk, Denmark

Greenland's government unveiled a new brochure on Wednesday offering advice to the population in the event of a "crisis" in the territory, which US President Donald Trump has repeatedly vowed to seize from ally Denmark.

This document is "an insurance policy", said Self-Sufficiency Minister Peter Borg at a press conference in Nuuk, the Greenlandic capital, shortly after Trump demanded "immediate" talks on his bid to control Greenland but said he would not use military force to take the island.

"We don't expect to have to use it," Borg emphasized.

Trump, the words "No Kings" were dug into the snow overlooking mountain-fringed Davos overnight, referring to a US protest slogan.

Europe and Canada had earlier closed ranks against what they view as a threat to the US-led global order from Trump's territorial ambitions over semi-autonomous Greenland.

In Britain, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Wednesday he would not "yield" to pressure from Trump on Greenland.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney won a standing ovation at Davos on Tuesday when he warned of a "rupture" to the US-led system. French President Emmanuel Macron meanwhile said Europe would not be bullied.

But Trump, who was due to

asked. "I tell him, yes they will," Rutte said.

Trump however repeated his doubts on NATO during his speech, saying Washington was treated "so unfairly".

The Greenland row has also soured relations with the European Union, which has threatened countermeasures after Trump vowed tariffs of up to 25 percent on eight European countries for backing Denmark.

But Polish President Karol Nawrocki, a Trump ally, told AFP after the "very important" speech: "I think the situation will be calm." He said he understood the US leader's stance amid Russian pressure at EU borders.

In a speech that veered from topic to topic, Trump also boasted of his achievements since his return to power a year and a day ago. He last spoke at Davos in his first term in 2020.

Trump unleashed his trademark anti-migrant rhetoric, particularly against Somalis in the United States -- while hailing the US economy as the "engine" of the world.

The US president also expressed hope of ending the Ukraine war soon, saying he expected to meet President Volodymyr Zelensky in Davos on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, meanwhile, Trump is set to formally announce the first charter of his so-called "Board of Peace".



Denmark began colonising Greenland in the early 18th century, starting in 1721, and ruled it as a colony until 1953, when Greenland was formally integrated into the Kingdom of Denmark.