



Trump curious why Iran has not 'capitulated', US envoy Witkoff says.

US has been building up its military presence near Iran. US President Donald Trump is questioning why Iran has not yet "capitulated" in the face of Washington's military build-up in the Middle East, the US president's special envoy Steve Witkoff has said.

Witkoff told Fox News on Saturday that Trump was "curious" about Iran's position after he had warned of a limited military strike if a deal was not reached on Tehran's nuclear programme. The US and its European allies suspect Iran of moving towards making a nuclear weapon, which it denies.

Within Iran, anti-government protests were staged at several universities over the weekend - the first rallies on such a scale since January's deadly crackdown by the authorities, which saw thousands killed.

In his interview with Fox News, Witkoff said: "I don't want to use the word 'frustrated'... because he [Trump] understands he's got plenty of alternatives, but he's curious as to why they haven't... I don't want to use the word 'capitulated', but why they haven't capitulated." Many believe that Iran is experiencing significant unrest and pressure on its regime, suggesting that a moment for potential change may be approaching. However, the current evidence indicates that the regime remains resilient and is not yet at the point of collapse.

Current Situation in Iran Protests and Unrest

Iran is experiencing significant unrest, with protests erupting against the Islamic regime. Many Iranians are expressing their anger over economic hardships, including soaring food prices and a declining currency. Despite the protests, the regime has shown resilience, largely due to the loyalty of its security forces, particularly the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

Political Landscape

The Islamic Republic is characterized by authoritarian rule, with ultimate power resting in the hands of the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Elections are held, but they are heavily

influenced by the Guardian Council, which disqualifies many candidates. This limits genuine political competition and participation.

Perspectives on Change Calls for Support

Exiled figures, such as Reza Pahlavi, argue that the regime's grip is weakening and advocate for international support for a peaceful transition to democracy. They emphasize that the Iranian people do not harbor animosity towards the West, a sentiment manipulated by the regime.

Challenges Ahead

While there is hope for change, the path to freedom is fraught with challenges. The IRGC and other security forces maintain a stronghold, and the regime has a history of violently suppressing dissent. The potential for civil unrest and chaos is a concern, but many believe that a free Iran could lead to stability in the region.

Conclusion

The desire for freedom in Iran is palpable, but the situation remains complex. The combination of internal pressures and external support could influence the future, but significant obstacles still exist.

Editor's comment: *don't believe everything you read in the mass-media. Iran is about to be hit, and hit hard. The talks are just giving time to put all the players in place. Just our opinion, but you wait and see.*

A failed SpaceX Falcon 9 lights up the sky as it breaks up.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 upper stage failed to de-orbit as planned after launching 22 Starlink satellites from California on Feb. 1. On Feb. 19, the rocket stage re-entered Earth's atmosphere uncontrolled,

creating a bright fireball visible across parts of Europe, including England, Germany, and Poland. Residents in Lincolnshire and Berlin shared images online, while debris measuring about 1.5 by 1 meter was later discovered near Poznań, Poland. No injuries were reported.

Although Falcon 9's first-stage boosters are reusable, the upper stage is expendable but normally designed for a controlled descent. This time, however, it broke apart over Europe before reaching the ground.

Scientists later linked the re-entry to a spike in lithium levels high in the atmosphere — the first time pollution has been directly connected to a specific piece of falling space debris. Researchers at the Leibniz Institute of Atmospheric Physics used laser instruments to detect metal atoms released from the rocket's aluminium-lithium structure. They found lithium concentrations at around 100 km altitude increased tenfold.

While small meteors naturally deposit 50–80 grams of material into the atmosphere daily, a single Falcon 9 upper stage contains roughly 30 kilograms of lithium — far more than natural sources. Scientists are particularly concerned about aluminium oxides and their potential effects on the ozone layer and atmospheric aerosols, which help regulate climate.

With SpaceX planning major expansions to its satellite network, researchers warn that pollution from rocket re-entries could grow significantly. About 30,000 pieces of space debris are already orbiting Earth, raising concerns not only about atmospheric contamination but also collision risks in space.

Scientists say this is an emerging field of study and call for stronger monitoring and possibly tighter regulations to address the environmental impact of growing space activity.

Fentanyl Improvement Breakthrough

Researchers at Scripps Research have reengineered fentanyl at the molecular level, overturning long-held assumptions about opioid chemistry.

Fentanyl is one of the most potent drugs available for severe pain management. Yet its powerful effects come with major risks, including addiction and respiratory depression — a potentially fatal



slowing of breathing. Because of these dangers, physicians must strictly control its use, even though it remains highly effective. Its low cost and relative ease of production have also fueled widespread illegal manufacturing, contributing to an overdose crisis that claimed more than 70,000 lives in the United States in 2023.

In a new study published in ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters, scientists report creating a redesigned version of fentanyl that preserves strong pain relief while significantly reducing respiratory suppression. The findings suggest that carefully rethinking opioid structure could lead to safer pain medications with lower risks of addiction, overdose, and death.

“For decades, drug development has been guided by the belief that major structural changes would destroy opioid pain relief,” said senior author Kim D. Janda of Scripps Research. “Our results show that it’s possible to fundamentally redesign the molecule while maintaining analgesic effects and improving safety.”

Opioids have long occupied a complicated place in medicine. Initially promoted as safe and effective painkillers, they later proved highly addictive. Despite this, they remain essential in hospitals and emergency care for managing acute, severe pain.

To redesign fentanyl, the researchers used a medicinal chemistry strategy known as bioisosteric replacement — altering a molecule’s structure while preserving its biological activity. Rather than making minor adjustments, they replaced fentanyl’s central ring with a different framework called 2-azaspiro[3.3]heptane, a compact spirocyclic structure made of two four-membered rings joined at a single point.

Although this change significantly altered the molecule’s architecture, the new compound retained strong pain-relieving effects. The team

believes this is because the redesign preserved a key interaction between the drug and the opioid receptor — an electrostatic attraction that anchors the molecule inside the receptor’s binding pocket. By maintaining this crucial contact while modifying other structural features, the researchers were able to sustain analgesic activity while reducing harmful respiratory effects.

And the bad side

A veterinary tranquilizer known on the street as “tranq” or the “zombie drug” is increasingly being found in the U.S. illicit drug supply. The drug, xylazine, was once primarily diverted from veterinary clinics — especially along the East Coast — but researchers now report evidence that it is also being manufactured abroad and smuggled across the southern U.S. border.

Dr. Joseph Friedman, who has studied the drug for years, says there is evidence of both cross-border trafficking and domestic diversion from veterinary supplies. His most recent research, published in January, found xylazine mixed with fentanyl in Tijuana, Mexico, as well as in San Diego and across Southern California, suggesting its geographic footprint is expanding.

Xylazine is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for veterinary use as a sedative, anesthetic, muscle relaxant, and pain reliever for animals such as horses and cattle. Developed in 1962 by Bayer in Germany as a potential antihypertensive drug, it was never approved for human use. The drug acts as a central nervous system depressant, producing sedation and muscle relaxation by stimulating alpha-2 adrenergic

receptors. In the early 2000s, xylazine began appearing in the illicit drug market in Puerto Rico before spreading to the mainland United States. It is now frequently mixed with fentanyl — a powerful synthetic opioid — in a combination often referred to as “tranq dope.” Because



xylazine is not an opioid, overdose symptoms can differ from typical opioid overdoses and may not fully respond to naloxone.

Public health officials are increasingly alarmed by its spread. In addition to sedation and slowed breathing, xylazine has been linked to severe skin ulcers, infections, and tissue damage among users. Sold cheaply on the street, the drug has become part of a broader overdose crisis driven by potent synthetic substances combined in unpredictable ways.

Experts warn that the growing presence of xylazine in the drug supply represents a serious and evolving public health threat.

Deprivation in London.

Overview

London continues to experience significant income deprivation, with several boroughs ranking among the most deprived in England. The highest levels of deprivation are concentrated in Inner and East London, highlighting stark inequalities across the capital.

Boroughs with the Highest Levels of Income Deprivation

Tower Hamlets – Over 40% of households are income-deprived, with particularly severe impacts on children and older residents.

Hackney – Also above 40%, facing similar challenges affecting vulnerable age groups.

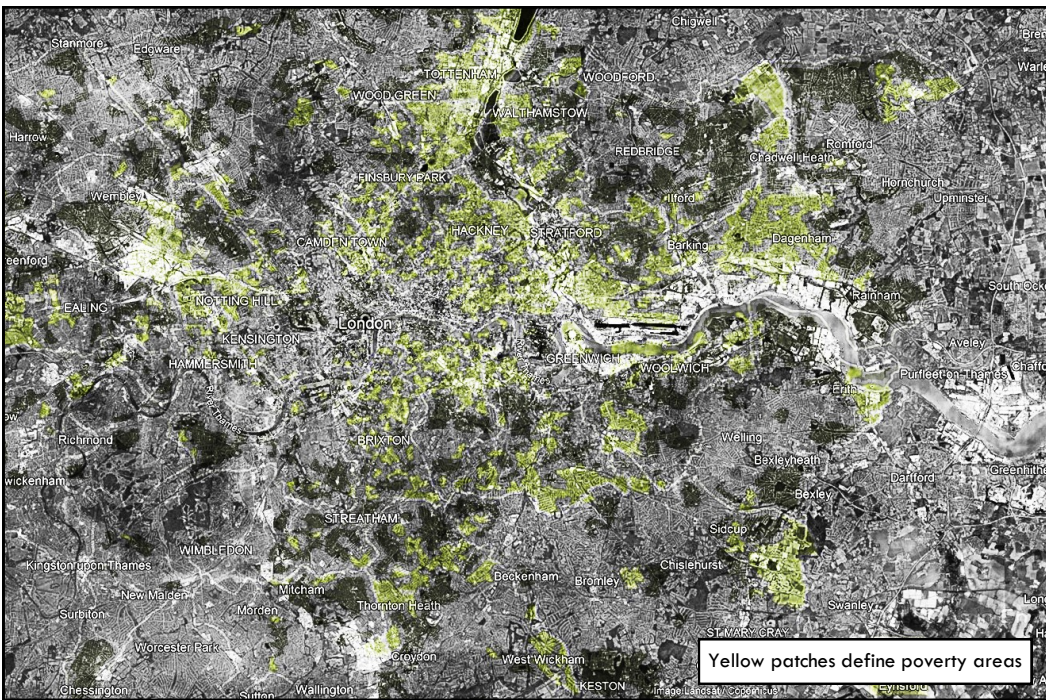
Newham – Around 39% of households experience income deprivation, with high rates among both young and elderly populations.

Barking & Dagenham – Approximately 37.1%, ranking among the most deprived across multiple overall deprivation indicators.

Brent – Around 36.5%, with consistently high deprivation levels.

Additional Context

Child Poverty: Hackney, Islington, Tower Hamlets, and Newham report some of the highest child



Yellow patches define poverty areas

poverty rates in London, with more than 40% of children living in poverty.

Geographical Divide: Deprivation tends to be more concentrated in northern and eastern boroughs, while parts of southwest London experience significantly lower levels.

Inequality Within the Capital: Boroughs such as Richmond and Wandsworth rank among the least

deprived, underscoring the pronounced socioeconomic disparities across London.

These figures reflect persistent structural challenges and reinforce the need for targeted policy interventions and local support.

Understanding the “Extent” Measure of Deprivation



The Extent measure is designed to show how widespread serious deprivation is within each ward. Rather than measuring average deprivation levels, it focuses on the proportion of residents living in the most deprived areas.

It works by:

Counting 100% of the population in Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) ranked within the most deprived 10% nationally.

Including a graduated proportion of residents in LSOAs ranked between the 10th and 30th percentiles. For example:

100% of the population is counted for areas just beyond the 10% threshold.

This percentage then reduces gradually (e.g., 95%, 90%, etc.) down to 5% for areas at the 29th–30th percentile.

No population is included from areas ranked below the 30% most deprived nationally.

For LSOAs split between wards, the population is apportioned proportionally and then adjusted according to the deprivation weighting. For example, if 80% of an LSOA's population qualifies under the measure and two-thirds of that LSOA lies within a particular ward, the calculation would be:

$$\text{Total population} \times \frac{2}{3} \times 0.8$$

Ranking of Wards

Wards are ranked across London based on this measure, with:

Rank 1 representing the most deprived ward.

Rank 427 representing the least deprived (where no residents fall within the 30% most deprived LSOAs nationally).

In total, 196 London wards record a zero score under the Extent measure, meaning none of their residents live in the 30% most deprived areas in England. These wards are spread across 27 boroughs.

Overall, wards ranking highest on the Extent measure tend to mirror those identified as most deprived by average score and average rank, reinforcing the concentration of deprivation in specific parts of the city

Article is based on Steve Rosenberg's BBC article, Russia editor, in Lipetsk

Inside Russia After 4 Years Of War

When the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine on 24 February 2022, many outside Russia saw it as an attempt to drag Kyiv back under Moscow's influence and to redraw Europe's post-Cold War order. Russian officials appeared to expect a swift, decisive campaign.

That is not how it unfolded.

Four years on, the war continues — now longer than Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, remembered here as the Great Patriotic War. In towns far from the front, the conflict's imprint is impossible to miss.

In Yelets, a provincial town a few hundred kilometers from Ukraine's border, a towering mural stretches across the side of a nine-storey apartment block. Five local soldiers stare out from the wall — men killed in the fighting. Above their faces, bold letters declare: "Glory to the heroes of Russia."

Official casualty numbers are not published. But

the losses are evident. In town after town I've visited, there are new memorials, fresh graves, museum displays dedicated to men who never

then the whole world." It echoes rhetoric I've heard from President Vladimir Putin, who has suggested that wherever a Russian soldier steps becomes



AI RECONSTRUCTION PHOTO

returned.

Irina, a ticket inspector at the bus station, pauses to speak with me beneath the mural. She counts the dead close to her: a friend's husband, a cousin's son, a grandson. "So many," she says quietly. "I feel sorry for these boys."

Her own life is a struggle. Utility bills climb. Food costs more each month. "We're suffocating," she tells me. Yet she still helps assemble aid parcels for soldiers at the front. She does not openly criticise the war — but she admits she doesn't fully understand it. "In the Great Patriotic War, we knew what we were fighting for," she says. "Now? I'm not sure."

Though the border lies about 250 kilometers

Russian land.

But beyond slogans and murals lies the economic strain. Russia's budget deficit has widened, and VAT has risen from 20% to 22%, with officials saying the additional revenue will fund defence and security. State television urges patience, framing the conflict as a confrontation imposed by the West that demands sacrifice.

Small businesses feel the pressure. In a Yelets bakery filled with the scent of raisin loaves and pastries, owner Anastasiya Bykova explains she has had no choice but to increase prices. Rent, utilities, taxes — all higher. Ingredients cost more after the VAT rise. "If we close," she says, glancing toward the street, "what's left? Just grey."



In Lipetsk, an hour away, military posters line the streets. In a dim apartment stairwell, pensioner Ivan Pavlovich vents his frustration — not about geopolitics, but about a burst pipe no one has repaired. Ice creeps along the wall. The lift is broken. Prices keep rising.

"If I were younger, I'd go and fight," he tells me. He calls the operation "excellent." Yet he concedes that without it, life might be easier. "They spend so much on it," he says. "Pensions go up — but prices go up faster. So what do I get? Nothing."

There is a weariness in these conversations. Many people acknowledge that life has become harder. Few believe they can influence events. As the war moves into its fifth year, optimism is scarce. In towns like Yelets, people carry on — tightening belts, lowering expectations, waiting to see what comes next.

away, the war feels close. Ukrainian drones have targeted the Lipetsk region, and emergency shelters — concrete bunkers that did not exist here before 2022 — now sit beside bus stops and in parks. Apartment basements double as safe spaces. Air-raid sirens sound frequently. Irina says she usually stays inside her building, retreating to a windowless corridor when alarms blare.

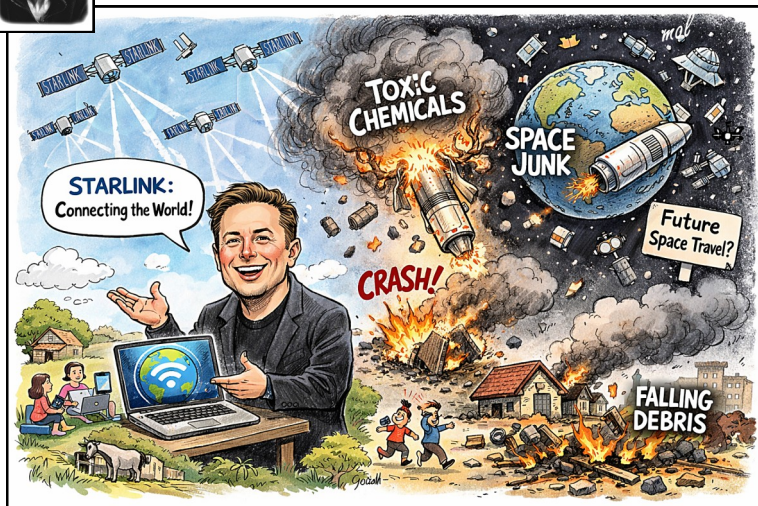
The war's symbols appear in unexpected places. A pancake café in Yelets incorporates the letters "V" and "Z" — military insignia associated with the campaign — into its branding. The slogan outside proclaims: "Grab a pancake,



INSIDE YELETS



The truth is here, not out there!



WHITE MATES IN 2 MOVES

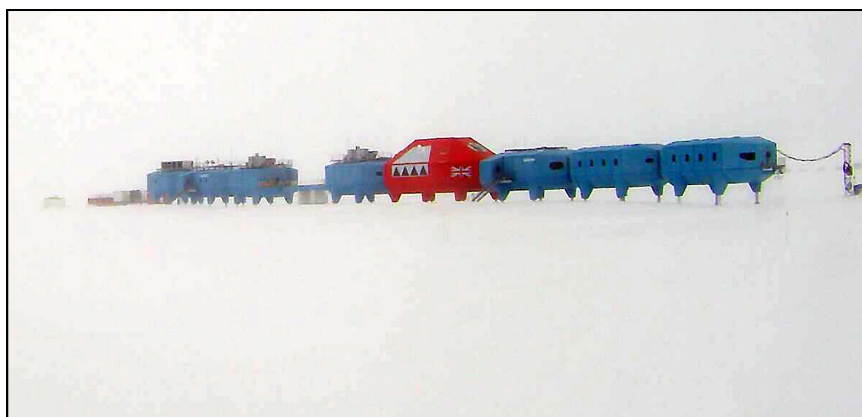


An in-depth, uplifting article... The Cleanest Place On Earth

With us British always putting ourselves down, and with so much bad news always dominating the headlines, we thought it might lift one's spirits to look into something amazing that few people know is going on.

meaningful difference worldwide. Space weather observations gathered at the station contribute to expert advisory groups that help governments protect infrastructure and communications systems. Through European collaborations such as SPACESTORM, Halley's data supports more accurate space weather forecasting, reducing risks to satellites and critical

mounted on hydraulic legs fitted with skis. These can be raised to stay above accumulating snow and towed to new locations when required. In 2016–17, the entire station was successfully relocated 23 kilometres to a safer site after monitoring detected changes in the ice shelf. Over 13 weeks, teams carefully moved each module — a testament to planning, teamwork and technical expertise.



The red central module forms the heart of the station, housing dining and social areas, while the blue modules contain accommodation, laboratories, offices, power generation and observation facilities. A snow runway supports field operations and summer research campaigns.

Monitoring a Living Ice Shelf

Halley sits atop 130 metres of floating ice that slowly moves toward the sea. A network of GPS sensors known as the "Lifetime of Halley" system continuously tracks the ice shelf's movement, measuring strain and tidal flexing. This monitoring allows scientists to anticipate changes and ensure the station remains safe while contributing valuable data about ice dynamics and climate processes.

A Hub of Expertise and Collaboration

Working in Antarctica requires resilience, teamwork and specialised skills. During the summer season, Halley supports up to 70 scientists, engineers and operational staff. While the station currently operates

Halley VI Research Station, Halley VI, Brunt Ice Shelf, Caird Coast: Pioneering Science at the Edge of the World

Halley Research Station stands as one of the world's most inspiring centres for Earth, atmospheric and space weather research. Located on the Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica's Weddell Sea, Halley VI represents a remarkable achievement in scientific innovation and international collaboration.

As the world's first fully relocatable research station, Halley VI was designed to adapt to its dynamic icy environment. Its award-winning modular structure provides scientists with cutting-edge laboratories and comfortable living spaces, enabling them to tackle some of the most important global challenges — from climate change and rising sea levels to space weather and atmospheric chemistry. It was here, in 1985, that British scientists made the groundbreaking discovery of the ozone hole, transforming our understanding of the planet's atmosphere.

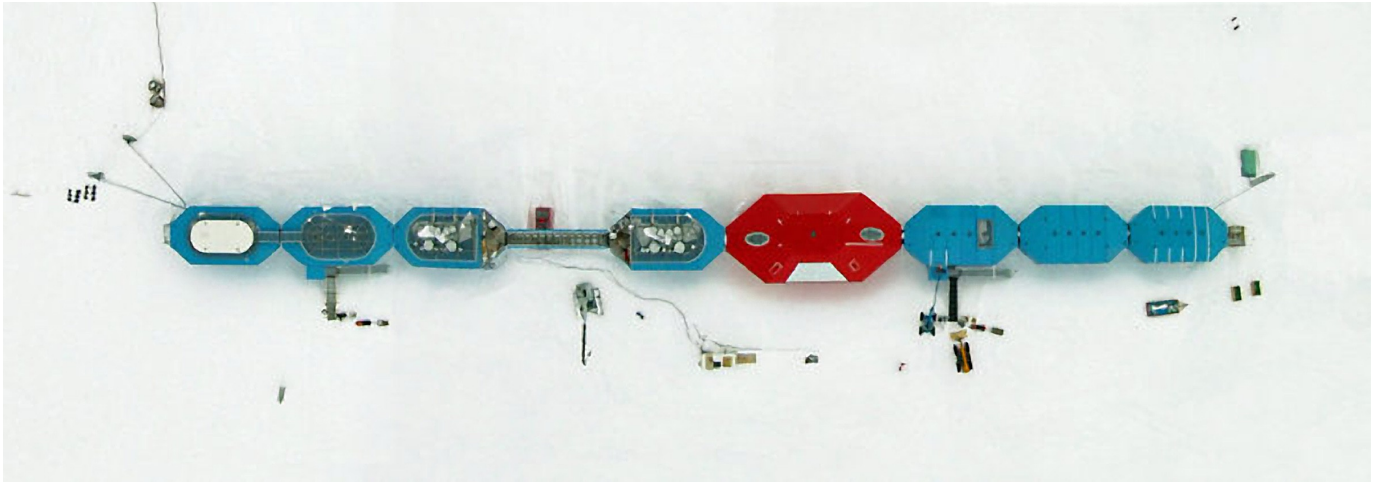
Advancing Global Science

Halley's research continues to make a

technologies. In 2013, Halley joined the World Meteorological Organization's Global Atmosphere Watch network — one of just 30 stations globally and only three in Antarctica. Together, these stations provide essential long-term data on atmospheric composition and environmental change.

Continuous ozone and meteorological measurements have been recorded at Halley since 1956. This extraordinary long-term record is a powerful example of how sustained scientific observation can lead to discoveries that shape global policy and environmental protection. Designed for a Moving Landscape Halley VI is an engineering triumph. The station consists of eight brightly coloured modules — each





seasonally as a precaution while the ice shelf stabilises, automation systems now allow key instruments to continue collecting data throughout the dark winter months. A micro-turbine power system and remote data links ensure uninterrupted scientific monitoring even when no staff are present.

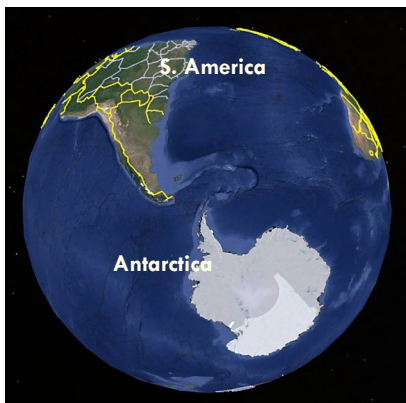
Life in a Unique Climate

Halley experiences some of the planet’s most dramatic conditions. Winter temperatures can fall below -20°C , with extremes reaching -55°C , while summer days often hover around -10°C . Around 1.2 metres of snow falls each year, and steady winds reshape the landscape. Yet these challenges make Halley uniquely valuable for studying Earth’s polar systems.

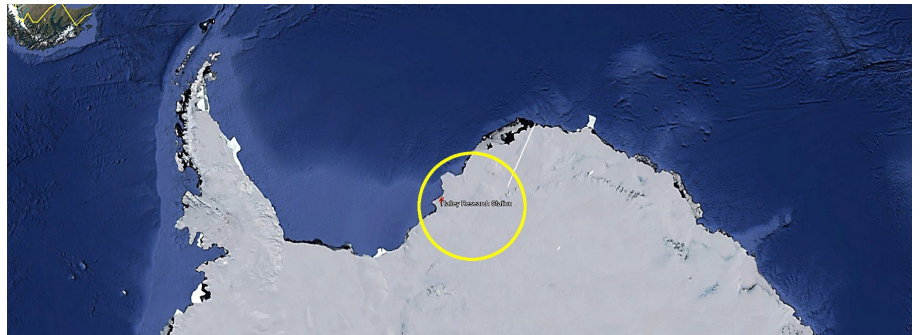
Positioned beneath the auroral oval, Halley frequently witnesses breathtaking displays of the Aurora Australis — particularly during the 105 days of winter darkness when the sky glows with shimmering ribbons of light. Halley VI is more than a research station — it is a symbol of scientific curiosity, adaptability and global cooperation. From discovering the ozone hole to advancing space weather forecasting, Halley continues to deepen our understanding of Earth and safeguard our shared future.

Ed continues:

For most of us, our perceptions of the Antarctic are probably drawn from the movies rather than real-life. Most mortals never go there. If you look at the picture below, you’ll get an idea of this huge ice-locked land mass by comparing it to South America.



The next image shows the location of Halley station as depicted on Google Earth, circled,

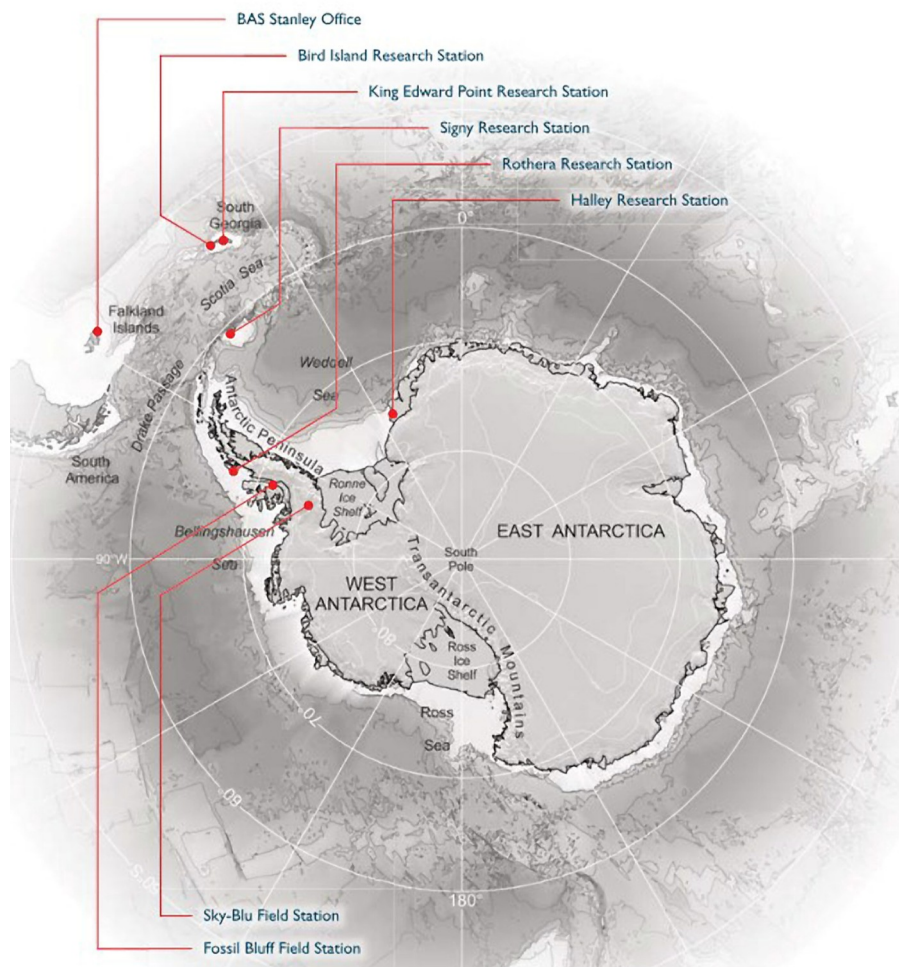


above.

The image below, taken from the public information leaflet, shows the locations working collaboratively in the research.

[Download the public information leaflet](#)

[Find out more here](#)





The truth is here, not out there!



Reform UK is set to promise sweeping visa restrictions on Pakistan

based on an article in the Telegraph

Nigel Farage's party, Reform UK, is set to promise sweeping visa restrictions on Pakistan and five other predominantly Muslim nations that decline to accept the return of deported migrants and convicted criminals.

In a speech scheduled for Monday, Zia Yusuf, recently appointed as the party's "shadow" home secretary, will announce that a Reform-led government would enforce comprehensive visa suspensions. These would apply to diplomats, high-profile individuals, employees, students and tourists from Pakistan, Somalia, Eritrea, Syria, Afghanistan and Sudan.

Pakistan ranks among the largest recipients of UK visas, with more than 160,000 issued over the past year. However, it reportedly accepts back just 7 per cent of its nationals whose asylum claims have failed, and has resisted UK requests to repatriate certain leading figures involved in child-grooming gang cases.

The proposed policy echoes visa bans introduced by Donald Trump on 75 countries and would form a central part of Reform's plan to remove up to 288,000 undocumented migrants via five charter flights per day.



Speaking in Dover, Mr Yusuf is also expected to outline plans to reopen negotiations over the UK's Brexit settlement with the EU. The goal would be to allow the government to prevent foreign nationals — including EU citizens who hold settled status — from accessing welfare payments. He is expected to argue that without reform, the annual cost of Universal Credit claims

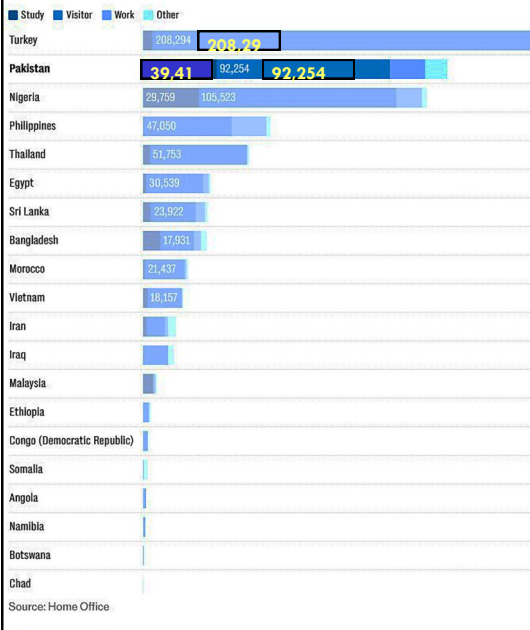
made by foreign nationals could increase from £10 billion to £25 billion by 2028-29. In addition, Mr Yusuf will pledge to grant immediate listed status to all 40,000 churches across England and Wales, a move intended to block their conversion into mosques or other religious buildings. The speech will also propose tougher domestic security measures.

These include automatic home searches for individuals referred to the Prevent counter-terrorism programme by three independent

support the target of removing up to 288,000 individuals. For comparison, Labour has deported 60,000 illegal migrants in the 18 months since taking office.

Separately, three African nations — Namibia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo — agreed to accept thousands of deported offenders and undocumented migrants after the Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, warned they could face visa sanctions similar to those used by Mr Trump.

Pakistan is granted tens of thousands of visas despite low return rates
Number of work, study and travel visas issued to countries where less than 10% of failed asylum seekers are returned to



based on a report in the Telegraph

Murder in Wimbledon High Street

A man in his 30s has been arrested on suspicion of murder following a fatal stabbing in south-west London.

Police launched a murder investigation after a man in his 40s was attacked in The Broadway, in central Wimbledon, shortly after midnight on Sunday. The Metropolitan Police said officers responded to reports of a stabbing at approximately 12:37am.

When emergency services arrived, they found the victim suffering from stab wounds. Paramedics treated him at the scene, but he died a short time later.

A suspect in his 30s was later arrested on suspicion of murder and remains in police custody.

and corroborating authorities, alongside a major expansion of stop-and-search powers and the introduction of "saturation policing" in areas with high crime rates.

Declaring "I will make you feel safe," Mr Yusuf is expected to criticise both Conservative and Labour governments, saying they have ignored mounting societal pressures for decades. He will argue that the UK's social contract has been fundamentally damaged.

Under a Reform administration, he will say, parliamentary sovereignty would be restored. The party would tighten border controls, withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), and accelerate the removal of people residing in the UK unlawfully. He will frame the message to voters as a commitment to border security and public safety.

Beyond leaving the ECHR, Reform would repeal the Human Rights Act and introduce a British bill of rights, enabling the government to override certain international legal protections that currently prevent the immediate deportation of Channel migrants and asylum seekers.

Fresh legislation would require the Home Secretary to deport illegal migrants and limit judicial intervention. Detention capacity would be expanded to 24,000 places to

Authorities have described the incident as isolated and confirmed that detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Command are leading the inquiry. At this stage, officers are not seeking any additional suspects.

Detective Chief Inspector Wayne Jolley, who is overseeing the investigation, expressed his condolences to the victim's family. He described the attack as a shocking act of violence in the centre of a busy town and acknowledged the concern it would cause within the local community.

Although an arrest has been made, police are continuing to appeal for witnesses or anyone with relevant information to come forward, stressing that no detail is too small. The victim's next of kin have been informed and are receiving support from specially trained officers.

