

**MUSTREAD**

**Three dead in light plane crash**

Sydney: Three people died after a light plane crashed and immediately caught fire south of Wollongong, in southeast Australia, this morning. The plane crashed at Shellharbour Airport shortly after taking off, police of the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) said in a statement. The aircraft caught fire upon hitting the ground, but the blaze was quickly extinguished by Fire and Rescue NSW personnel. Emergency services are currently at the scene, and a crime scene has been established.

**At least 12 killed in Sudan's Al-Fashir after drone strike**

Al-Fashir, Sudan: Drone strikes by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on a displacement shelter on Friday night and Saturday morning killed at least 12 people, according to a local journalist, and potentially dozens more, according to local activists. Al-Fashir is under siege by the RSF as it struggles to wrest control of the army's last stronghold in the Darfur region. The siege has spread hunger and disease in the city and relentless drone and artillery strikes have hit civilian areas.

**Hydropower workers block Karakoram Highway**

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Protests by the Dasu Hydropower Project workers entered their second day, with demonstrators blocking the Karakoram Highway to demand long-overdue wages and fair treatment under Pakistan's labour laws. The blockade disrupted traffic between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) for several hours, as reported by Dawn. According to Dawn, hundreds of workers gathered in the Chuchang area of Upper Kohistan after marching along the highway, raising slogans against what they called exploitation and negligence by the company executing the multi-billion-rupee energy project.

**BYC accuses Pakistan of using courts as tool of repression**

Balochistan: The Baloch Yakjehi Committee (BYC) has accused Pakistani authorities of deliberately extending the illegal detention of its key leaders through systematic legal delays and denial of justice, as reported by The Balochistan Post. According to The Balochistan Post, the organisation stated that its central organisers, Dr Mahrang Baloch, Beebag Baloch, Sibghatullah Shah Jee, Beebow Baloch, and Gul Zadi Baloch, remain imprisoned under extended judicial remand after an already lengthy period of physical detention. Despite several court orders, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has yet to file a formal charge sheet, which the BYC described as a deliberate tactic to prolong their custody indefinitely.

**Trump to visit Israel, Egypt**

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) outlined his upcoming visits to Israel and Egypt, following the Israeli government's approval of phase one of the Gaza peace plan. Describing the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas as a "great deal" for the world, Trump said that the deal would secure the release of hostages and the return of approximately 28 bodies. "It is a great deal for Israel, but it's a great deal for everybody, for Arabs, for Muslims, everybody, for the world."

**Trump announces USD 50 billion AstraZeneca investment**

Washington: US President Donald Trump announced Friday that biopharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca will invest USD 50 billion in the United States over the next five years to support research and development of new medicines and expand domestic manufacturing. "Furthermore, AstraZeneca will invest USD 50 billion in the United States over the next five years for research and development of new drugs and to onshore manufacturing facilities across the country—like the new plant that broke ground yesterday in Charlottesville, Virginia, where the governor attended," Trump said.

**Macron reappoints Sebastien Lecornu as French PM**

Paris (UNI)

President Emmanuel Macron has asked Sébastien Lecornu to return as French prime minister only four days after he stood down from the post, sparking a week of high drama and political turmoil.

Macron made the announcement late on Friday, hours after meeting all the main parties together at the Élysée Palace, except the leaders of the far right and far left, reports BBC.

Lecornu's return came as a surprise, as he said on national TV only two days ago he was not "chasing the job" and his "mission is over".

It is not even certain he will be able to form a government, but he will have to hit the ground running. The new prime minister faces a deadline on Monday to put next year's budget before parliament.

The Élysée said the president had "tasked [Lecornu] with forming a



government" and Macron's entourage indicated he had been given "carte blanche" to act.

Lecornu, who is 39 and one of Macron's most loyal allies, then released a long statement on X in which he accepted "out of duty the

mission entrusted to me by the president, to do everything to provide France with a budget by the end of the year and respond to the everyday problems of our compatriots".

When he appeared on French TV this week, Lecornu described himself as a "soldier-monk", and as he prepared to get to grips with forming a government he said on Friday

"I will do everything to succeed in this mission".

Political divisions over how to bring down France's national debt and cut the budget deficit have led to the fall of two of the past three prime ministers in the last year, so his challenge is immense.

France's public debt earlier this year was almost 114% of economic output (GDP) - the third highest in the eurozone - and this year's budget deficit is projected to hit 5.4 percent of GDP.

**UK jets flew 12-hour mission with US, NATO near Russian border**

London: Britain said on Saturday that two Royal Air Force aircraft flew a 12-hour mission earlier this week alongside U.S. and NATO forces to patrol the border of Russia, amid a series of recent Russian drone and aircraft incursions into NATO airspace.

"This was a substantial joint mission with our U.S. and NATO allies," defence minister John Healey said.

"Not only does this provide valuable intelligence to boost the operational awareness of our Armed Forces, but sends a powerful message of NATO unity to (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and our adversaries," Healey added.

An RC-135 Rivet Joint electronic surveillance aircraft and a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol plane flew from the Arctic region past Belarus and Ukraine on Thursday, supported by a U.S. Air Force KC-135 refuelling aircraft.

**Dharma ensures protection to "animate or inanimate of entire universe": Rajnath Singh in Sydney**

Agencies, Sydney

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh offered prayers at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Sydney, where he said that Dharma (religion) ensures protection to the "animate or inanimate of this universe."

He stated that Dharma ensures the protection of the universe's rules, regulations, and laws.

"What is Dharma? If we were to define Dharma, I could do so in very simple terms. (It is) That which guarantees the protection of the animate or inanimate of this entire universe is called Dharma. That which guarantees the protection of the sanctity of its rules, regulations, and laws is called Dharma. That which guarantees the development and support of both of these is called Dharma," Singh said while addressing a gathering.

Singh visited the BAPS Swami-



narayan Mandir in Sydney on Friday, where he was warmly welcomed by children singing devotional hymns and chants. Singh also performed aarti at the temple.

Later, addressing the Indian diaspora in Sydney, Rajnath Singh said, "I arrived here the day before yesterday, and yesterday I had fruitful

**White House blasts Nobel Committee for not awarding Peace Prize to Trump**



Washington (UNI)

The White House has accused the Nobel Committee of placing "politics over peace" for awarding its most coveted prize to a Venezuelan pro-democracy activist over US President Donald Trump.

On Friday, the Committee announced María Corina Machado would receive the Peace Prize for her "tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela", reports BBC.

Trump has been outspoken about his desire for the award, taking credit for ending several global conflicts. He regularly brought it up, including during his address to the UN General Assembly in September.

He called Ms Machado to congratulate her and say she deserved the award, a senior White House official told CBS, the BBC's US media partner.

"The Nobel Committee proved they place politics over peace," White House communications director Steven Cheung said after the announcement on Friday morning.

**Brutal shooting at Ahmadi worship site in Lahore**

Lahore: In an incident highlighting the persecution of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community, six volunteer security guards were injured when a gunman opened fire outside the Baitul Mehdi worship place in Chenab Nagar, Chiniot district, as reported by Dawn.

According to Dawn, the CCTV footage captured the assailant approaching the gate of the worship site before indiscriminately firing at the guards, all belonging to the Ahmadi community.

Despite sustaining bullet injuries, the guards managed to shut the main entrance, preventing further bloodshed.

Two policemen stationed nearby retaliated promptly and shot the attacker dead on the spot.

**E3 countries willing to contribute to Gaza reconstruction**



Moscow (UNI/ Sputnik)

The UK, France, and Germany (E3) have expressed their readiness to contribute to the reconstruction of Gaza and to transitional security arrangements, aligning with a recent ceasefire plan.

However, they are opposed to any new Israeli settlement activity, and the involvement of E3 countries would be part of a broader international effort that includes the United States, Arab states, and the United Nations.

The Trump administration and

other intermediaries this week brokered a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, potentially ending a war that began more than two years ago when Hamas attacked Israel, killing more than 1,000 people.

Thousands of Palestinians have been killed in Gaza in the subsequent Israeli military campaign, which has also caused mass destruction and famine.

Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas had reached an agreement to implement the first phase of a peace plan for Gaza.

Under this initial phase, Hamas is set to release Israeli hostages, while Israel will withdraw its forces to a mutually agreed-upon line within the semi-exclave and free hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including many serving life sentences for terrorism-related offenses.

Meanwhile, Israeli government had approved the deal to release hostages from Gaza.

**At least 22 dead as heavy rains lash Mexico**

Mexico City: At least 22 people have been killed and thousands of homes damaged as torrential rains triggered floods and landslides across central and eastern Mexico, authorities said Friday.

The heaviest casualties were reported in Hidalgo state of eastern Mexico, where 16 people died and about 1,000 homes were damaged. Puebla state, in central Mexico, recorded five deaths and 11 people missing, while two people were killed in Veracruz and one in Queretaro, officials said.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said federal and state agencies are working together to restore power, reopen roads and deliver aid.

The national civil protection agency said 31 of Mexico's 32 states have been affected, with tropical storm Raymond intensifying rainfall along the Pacific coast.

**Putin fully supports Gaza ceasefire deal: Trump**

Washington (UNI/SPUTNIK)

US President Donald Trump announced on Friday that Russian President Vladimir Putin is fully backing a ceasefire agreement aimed at ending hostilities in Gaza.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump emphasized that the peace deal has garnered wide international support, including from countries directly involved in the region as well as global powers such as Iran and Russia.

"Most of the countries have passed all these resolutions. Every country is on board. Iran came in—I was very happy to see that. I was honored that Iran supported it," Trump said. "Russia came in, President Putin. He supports it fully—



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**N-Korea holds military parade, shows off new intercontinental missile**

Agencies, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a large military parade displaying its new intercontinental ballistic missile in front of visiting international dignitaries, state media KCNA said on Saturday.

The parade, which began late on Friday, marked the 80th anniversary of the foundation of its ruling Workers' Party and followed celebrations on Thursday.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Russia's former President Dmitry Medvedev, as well as Vietnam's Communist Party chief To Lam were seen at Kim's side at the parade, while other foreign dignitaries looked on.

In the military parade, nuclear-armed North Korea displayed its most advanced Hwasong-20 intercontinental ballistic missile, de-



scribed by KCNA as the country's "strongest nuclear strategic weapon system."

The Hwasong series of ICBMs has given North Korea the capacity to target anywhere on the U.S. main-

land, but questions remain over the sophistication of its guidance system to reach a target, and the ability of a warhead it carries to withstand atmospheric re-entry.

"The Hwasong-20 represents, for

the moment, the apotheosis of North Korea's ambitions for long-range nuclear delivery capabilities. We should expect to see the system tested before the end of this year," said Ankit Panda of the U.S.-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"The system is likely designed for the delivery of multiple warheads... Multiple warheads will increase stresses on existing U.S. missile defence systems and augment what Kim sees as necessary to achieve meaningful deterrence effects against Washington."

Other weapons on display included hypersonic ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, a new type of multiple rocket launcher and a launcher for suicide drones, said Hong Min, North Korea analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

**India, Czechia hold 7th joint Defence Committee meeting**

Prague, Czechia: India and Czechia held the 7th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting in Prague from October 7 to 9, focusing on strengthening defence industrial collaboration, military training, and expanding overall bilateral cooperation, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) A. Anbarasu, while the Czech side was headed by Radka Konderlova, Director General of the Industrial Cooperation Division at the Czech Ministry of Defence.

The talks centred on new opportunities for joint defence production, research and development, technology sharing, and capacity-building. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation in de-



fence manufacturing and training, in line with their growing strategic partnership.

An India-Czechia Defence Industry Seminar was also held alongside the meeting, which saw active participation from defence industries and representatives of both coun-

tries. The seminar served as a platform to explore new avenues for partnership and enhance industrial engagement between Indian and Czech defence companies.

India and the Czech Republic share a long-standing defence relationship dating back to the establishment of diplomatic ties with Czechoslovakia in 1947. Following the country's dissolution in 1993, India immediately recognised the Czech Republic, and the two nations have since maintained close cooperation, especially in defence and industrial development, as per Ministry of External Affairs.

Bilateral defence cooperation gained renewed momentum with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation in October 2003, leading to the creation of the Joint Defence Committee.

**Chinese envoy warns of rising tensions in Caribbean**

United Nations

(UNI/Xinhua)

A Chinese envoy expressed deep concern over rising tensions in the Caribbean, blaming US military operations near Venezuela for destabilizing the region.

Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN, criticized the recent US deployment of forces in Caribbean waters off Venezuela under the pretext of combating drug trafficking.

Fu highlighted actions such as the sinking of Venezuelan vessels, shoot-

ing of sailors, and seizure of fishing boats, which he argued have exacerbated regional tensions.

"The unilateral and excessive enforcement operations by the United States against another country's vessels in so-called international waters infringe

on the right to life and other basic human rights," Fu told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council. "These acts threaten the freedom and security of navigation and could undermine countries' rights on the high seas," he added.

