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5.8-magnitude quake hits Cebu, Philippines: GFZ

Beijing: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 jolted Cebu, Philippines at 1706 GMT on Sunday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said. The epicenter, with a depth of 10 km, was initially determined to be at 10.95 degrees north latitude and 123.99 degrees east longitude.

6 injured as Ukrainian drone hits bus in Donetsk

Moscow: A Ukrainian drone struck a passenger bus in Gorlovka, Donetsk region of Ukraine, resulting in six civilians being injured, the city's mayor said on Sunday. Ivan Prikhodko, mayor of Gorlovka, said on his Telegram channel that "a Ukrainian drone hit a bus in a residential district of Gorlovka" and that "the number of injured civilians has risen to six," Russia's state-owned RIA Novosti news agency reported. Gorlovka is one of the most populated cities in the Donetsk region.

Two dead after plane crashes near Texas airfield

Texas: Two people died after a plane crashed near an airfield in Texas and collided with an 18-wheeler before bursting into flames on Sunday, the New York Post reported. The two victims have not been identified so far, and it remains unclear if any others nearby were injured, NYP further mentioned. Citing local officials, it noted that the plane crashed and collided with an 18-wheeler and multiple trailers before bursting into flames on Sunday afternoon. It further reported that thick plumes of smoke rose from the wreckage, visible from miles away.

EU council agrees to reduce customs duties on food products in Ukraine

Moscow: The EU Council agreed on its position on reducing customs duties on a number of agricultural goods imported into the EU from Ukraine, including dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, and meat, the Council said on Monday. "Today, the Council adopted a decision on the position that the EU will take in the EU-Ukraine Association Committee (in trade configuration) as regards the reduction or elimination of customs duties for a variety of agri-food products," the document read. Access to the European market for Ukrainian "sensitive goods" such as dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and meat preparations will be limited, the document said.

China activates Level-IV emergency response for flood control in 3 provinces

Beijing: The Ministry of Water Resources activated a Level-IV flood-control emergency response on Sunday for Shanxi, Henan and Shaanxi provinces. The move was made to cope with the autumn flooding in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, as rainfall has caused tributaries of the middle reaches of the river to exceed warning levels, according to the ministry. Based on current water conditions and rainfall forecasts, the Yellow River is projected to experience its first major flood of 2025, with peak flow around 6,000 cubic meters per second anticipated around Wednesday, it said.

China detains dozens of underground church pastors in crackdown

Beijing: Police in China detained dozens of pastors of one of its largest underground churches over the weekend, a church spokesperson and relatives said, in the biggest crackdown on Christians since 2018. The detentions, which come amid renewed China-U.S. tensions after Beijing dramatically expanded rare earth export controls last week, drew condemnation from Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who called on Sunday for the pastors' immediate release. Pastor Jin Mingri, the founder of Zion Church, an unofficial "house church" not sanctioned by the government, was detained at his home in the southern city of Beihai on Friday evening, said his daughter, Grace Jin, and a church spokesperson, Sean Long.

Netanyahu lauds US President Trump at Knesset

Jerusalem (UNI)

Ahead of US President Donald Trump's speech at the Knesset, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday lauded the American prez, stating that he "has never seen anyone (else) move the world so quickly, so decisively, so resolutely."

With Trump's "global pressure," and the IDF's strength "We've achieved this historic moment," the Israeli premier added.

Netanyahu praised Trump for his decision to bomb the Fordo nuclear site in Iran during the 12-day war, and for eliminating the erstwhile IRGC commander Qasem Soleimani in 2020, back in his first term, stating that he completely "changed the balance of power in the world."

"You brought America back again to the driver's seat," Netanyahu added.

"The last two years have been a time of war. The coming two years will hopefully be a time of peace. Peace inside Israel and peace outside

Says he was 'bold' facing danger



Israel." "I look forward to continuing marching with you on the path we paved together with the Abraham Accords," he remarked, and announced his intention of elevating the Accords, formalising ties "with Arab countries in the region and

Muslim countries beyond the region."

He added, "Abraham's children will work together to build a better future, a future that will unite civilisation against barbarism, light against darkness, and hope against despair."

Iran not to attend Sharm el-Sheikh summit for Gaza agreement



Tehran (UNI)

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said Monday that Tehran will not attend an international summit in the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh on an agreement to end the Gaza war.

"While favoring diplomatic engagement, neither President Pezeshkian nor I can engage with counterparts who have attacked the Iranian People and continue to threaten and sanction us," Araghchi said on social platform X.

Iran welcomes any initiative that aims to end Israel's "genocide" in Gaza and ensure the expulsion of the Israeli "occupation forces," he said.

Araghchi noted that Palestinians are "fully entitled to secure their fundamental right to self-determination, and all states remain obliged, more than ever, to assist them in their lawful and legitimate cause."

He said Iran has always been, and will always remain, a "vital force" for peace in the region, adding that unlike Israel, Iran seeks no "forever wars" but lasting peace, prosperity and cooperation.

Trump may give go-ahead for Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine

Washington/ New Delhi (UNI)

US President Donald Trump said he may authorize providing Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine if Russia fails to agree to a settlement in its ongoing war with the country.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump said he may first speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin before making the decision. "I may say that the Tomahawk is an incredible weapon, a very offensive weapon. And honestly, Russia does not need that," Trump said, referring to the long-range missiles capable of striking targets over 1,000 miles away.

Trump also held a telephonic call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday. Zelensky later told Fox News that his country "needs long-distance capabilities" and confirmed that he and Trump are "working" on securing Tomahawk missiles for Ukraine.

Trump hails return of all living hostages

US President Donald Trump hailed the return of all the living hostages at the Knesset, where he wrote in the Knesset's guest book: "It is a great honor for me - this is a beautiful day, a new beginning. With great respect."

Affirming it to be the end of the war, he said, "This is a whole new beginning, and I think there's never been an event like it."

Trump was joined in the Knesset by senior officials from the administration, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Dan Caine, who met with IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir in the Knesset halls ahead of Trump's speech. Trump is the fourth American president to ever speak before the Knesset's plenum.

When asked about what will happen to Hamas if it doesn't comply with the ceasefire demands, he merely responded "They'll comply."

"We're so happy for them," he said, addressing the returned living hostages. "They're going to be happy and they're going to have a great life." "They've been very brave," he added.

At least 4 killed, 20 injured in U.S. South Carolina shooting

New York: At least four people were killed and about 20 were injured in a deadly shooting early Sunday morning at a crowded bar in Beaufort County in the U.S. state of South Carolina, local authorities said Sunday. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office said that shortly before 1:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) Sunday, deputies were called to several reports of a shooting at Willie's Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island, Live 5 News reported.

Deputies learned that hundreds of people were at the scene when the shooting happened. Many victims and witnesses ran to nearby businesses and properties to find shelter from the gunshots.

Four victims were reportedly killed at the scene, and about 20 people were hurt during the shooting, with four of them in critical condition, according to the report.

France's Macron won't resign, as no-confidence votes threaten his new govt

Agencies, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron rejected calls to resign and blasted his opponents on Monday, as his latest government was threatened by two no-confidence motions that could bring it down by the end of the week.

France is in the midst of its worst political crisis in decades as a succession of minority governments seek to push deficit-reducing budgets through a truculent legislature split into three distinct ideological blocs.

Macron has burned through five prime ministers in less than two years, and many of his rivals have said the only way out of the crisis is for the president to call fresh legislative elections or resign, both of which he has refused to do.

Shortly after arriving in Egypt on Monday to attend a meeting to end the war in Gaza, Macron was defiant,



blaming his rivals for destabilising France and saying he had no plans to step down before his second and final term ends in 2027.

"I ensure continuity and stability, and I will continue to do so," he said, urging people not to forget that the mandate given to the president

means "to serve, to serve, and to serve."

On Friday, Macron reappointed Sebastien Lecornu, who had resigned as prime minister earlier in the week. Macron's office announced

Lecornu's new cabinet late on Sunday, with many of the top jobs remaining unchanged, despite the prime minister's pledge to name ministers who embody "renewal and diversity."

French PM Lecornu announces new cabinet

French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu on Sunday evening unveiled the lineup of his new government, comprising a total of 34 ministers, according to the Presidency. Key appointments include Laurent Nunez as minister of the interior, Jean-Pierre Farandou as minister of labor, Monique Barbut as minister of ecological transition, Edouard Geffray as minister of national education, and Catherine Vautrin as minister of defence.

Roland Lescure was reappointed as finance minister. Jean-Noel Barrot remains in office as minister of foreign affairs, while Gerald Darmanin has retained his post at the Ministry of Justice.

Lecornu met with President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace earlier in the evening, according to local media reports. Lecornu proposed "a mix of civil society figures with experience and young parliamentarians" for the second edition of his government. Lecornu had resigned on Monday, less than a month after his initial appointment and just one day after announcing part of his first cabinet.

Sudanese army claims killing of over 100 paramilitary fighters

Khartoum (UNI)

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) said on Sunday that more than 100 fighters from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were killed in battles in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State in western Sudan.

In a statement, the SAF's 6th Infantry Division said it had "successfully repelled a fierce attack launched by the militia on the city of El Fasher early Sunday."

"Our forces bravely confronted the attackers, inflicting heavy losses in personnel and equipment, with more than 100 militia fighters killed and others wounded," it added.

According to the statement, the

RSF launched the assault with infantry, combat vehicles, and two tanks, under cover of heavy weapons fire.

On Saturday, Sudan's Foreign Ministry reported that drone strikes by the RSF killed 57 civilians at a temporary shelter in El Fasher.

However, the RSF on Sunday denied responsibility for the bombing.

In a statement, RSF spokesperson Al-Fateh Qurashi said, "we categorically deny the false claims being circulated regarding the deaths of civilians as a result of an air or artillery strike targeting a displacement shelter in the city of El Fasher."

At least 40 killed in bus accident in South African province

Johannesburg: At least 40 people, including seven children, were killed in a bus accident in South Africa's Limpopo Province on Sunday evening, the country's Road Traffic Management Corporation said Monday.

Preliminary reports showed that the bus veered off the road along a steep mountain pass and rolled down an embankment. The victims were Zimbabwean and Malawian nationals on their way to homeland from the Eastern Cape Province, said the corporation.

"This is a heartbreaking tragedy," said Limpopo Provincial Premier Phophi Ramathuba.

NATO nuke drills begin in Netherlands featuring over 70 aircraft from 14 nations

Brussels (UNI/ SPUTNIK)

NATO Launches Annual Nuclear Deterrence Exercise 'Steadfast Noon' in the Netherlands

NATO's annual nuclear deterrence exercise Steadfast Noon began on Monday in the Netherlands, with the participation of 71 aircraft from 14 alliance countries.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said last week that the drill is a regular, pre-planned training exercise conducted every year.

"It helps us make sure that our nuclear deterrent remains as credible, safe, secure, and effective as possible," Rutte stated.

According to media reports, Germany has deployed several fighter-bombers, including nuclear-capable



aircraft, to take part in the exercise. Germany's contingent reportedly includes three Tornado fighter-bombers capable of delivering U.S. nuclear bombs, along with four Eurofighter jets.

Sweden and Finland have also confirmed the participation of their air forces. The Swedish Air Force has deployed JAS 39 Gripen fighters,

while Finland is contributing F/A-18 Hornet jets. The United States is also expected to take part in the training operations.

The exercises will continue until October 24. NATO emphasizes that Steadfast Noon involves training for aircraft and personnel but does not use live nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin, in an interview earlier with U.S. journalist Tucker Carlson, reiterated that Russia has no intention of attacking NATO countries, describing such claims as Western fearmongering aimed at distracting from domestic issues.

"Smart people understand perfectly well that this is fake," Putin said.

Germany may reverse suspension of military exports to Israel: FM

Moscow (UNI/SPUTNIK)

Germany will "reassess the situation" concerning its suspension of certain military exports to Israel, Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil said on Sunday, ahead of a high-profile summit in Egypt aimed at ending the war in the Gaza Strip. The statement comes two months after German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced that Berlin would halt permits for the export of military products that could be used in Gaza "until further notice." According to the DPA news agency, Germany has not issued a single arms export permit to Israel since the decision was made on August 8.

"We will reassess the situation,"

Klingbeil told the ARD broadcaster, suggesting that Berlin may review its policy as diplomatic efforts toward a ceasefire advance.

Meanwhile, Egypt confirmed that the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit, aimed at bringing an end to the Gaza conflict, will take place on Monday, October 13, with participation from leaders of more than 20 countries. The summit will be co-chaired by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and U.S. President Donald Trump. Last Thursday, President Trump announced that Israel and Hamas had agreed to implement the first phase of a peace plan to resolve the Gaza conflict.

Clashes in an anti-Israel rally in Pakistan kill five

Agencies, Lahore

At least five people were killed when Pakistani police clashed with members of a headline Islamist group at an anti-Israel protest on the country's busiest highway, police said.

The far-right Tehrik-e-Labaik Pakistan, whose massive and often violent street protests have been a thorn in the side of multiple Pakistani governments, had called for the march ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement last week of a ceasefire deal to end the Gaza war.

The march from the eastern metropolis of Lahore to capital Islamabad, a nearly 400 km (248 miles)

walk, along the historic Grand Trunk Road started on Friday and has led to several clashes with the police, who have tried to slow its movement.

On Monday, police said they had launched an operation to disperse hundreds of protesters in the town of Muiridke when the group's supporters opened fire on officers and set over 40 vehicles on fire in clashes that lasted for over three hours.

Scores of protesters have also been arrested, police added. The entry and exit routes to the capital, blocked by authorities since the march started, were partially reopened on Monday.