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Several world leaders set to attend 47th ASEAN summit in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur: The 47th ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) summit, being hosted by Malaysia from Oct 26 to Oct 28, will see a host of world leaders in attendance, including US President Donald Trump, Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and most likely Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India. However, India has not confirmed the attendance of Prime Minister Modi as of yet. Russian President Vladimir Putin is also to attend, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has said. Other leaders to attend include Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and the newly elected Japanese Premier Sanae Takaichi.

63 confirmed dead in western Uganda road accident

Kampala: At least 63 people have been confirmed dead and several others injured following a road accident on a major highway in western Uganda early Wednesday, according to local police. According to a statement issued by the police, the fatal crash happened at around 12:15 a.m. local time along the Kampala-Gulu Highway in the district of Kiryandongo, and involved four vehicles — two passenger buses, a Toyota Surf and a Tata lorry. The collision triggered a chain reaction, leading to multiple vehicles overturning several times.

35 killed, dozens injured after gasoline tanker explosion in Nigeria

Abuja: At least 35 people were killed and 46 others injured after a gasoline-laden tanker crashed and exploded in Niger State, central Nigeria, local authorities said Tuesday. The explosion occurred as some residents attempted to scoop petrol from the overturned tanker at Essa village in Niger's Katcha local government area, said Aishatu Sa'adu, sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, who confirmed the incident to reporters late Tuesday. Preliminary police investigation showed the crash was a lone incident "caused by a loss of control by the tanker driver," Sa'adu said, adding that many victims sustained severe burns.

Mongolia's measles cases surpass 13,000

Ulan Bator: The total number of measles cases in Mongolia has increased to 13,532, the country's National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) said Wednesday. Meanwhile, the total number of recoveries has reached 13,514. Currently, seven people remained in hospital, the NCCD said in a statement. The majority of new measles infections were among school-age children who had only one shot of the measles vaccine, it said. In view of this, the NCCD advised parents to protect their children from a potentially severe disease by getting them two doses of the measles vaccine.

Bangladesh records over 250 dengue deaths with over 61,600 cases so far in 2025

Dhaka: A total of 814 people were diagnosed with dengue fever in Bangladesh in the past 24 hours on Tuesday, said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health. With the fresh infections reported as of 8 a.m. local time Tuesday, the number of dengue cases has surged to 61,605 in Bangladesh so far this year, the DGHS said. Also in the same period, four people died due to the mosquito-borne disease, bringing the total number of dengue-related deaths this year to 253, the DGHS said. So far in October, 14,263 dengue cases were recorded after 15,866 people were infected with the disease in September, according to the DGHS, which confirmed. While 55 deaths were reported so far in October, there were 76 deaths in September and 39 in August, the DGHS said. Dengue fever, typically a monsoon-season illness in Bangladesh, is now spreading beyond its usual June-September period.

Trump says he did not want 'wasted meeting' after plan for Putin talks shelved

Washington (UNI)

Donald Trump has said he did not want a "wasted meeting" after a plan to have face-to-face talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin about the war in Ukraine were put on hold.

The US president indicated that a key sticking point remained Moscow's refusal to cease fighting along the current front line, in remarks at the White House on Tuesday, reports BBC.

Earlier, a White House official had said there were "no plans" for a Trump-Putin meeting "in the immediate future", after Trump said on Thursday that the two would hold talks in Budapest within two weeks.

Key differences between US and Russian proposals for peace became increasingly clear this week, appearing to have dashed chances of a summit.

Trump and Putin last met in Alaska in August, during a hastily organised summit which yielded no con-



crete results.

The White House decision to shelve plans for a second Trump-Putin meeting may be seen as an attempt to avoid another similar scenario.

"I guess the Russians wanted too much and it became evident for the Americans that there will be no deal for Trump in Budapest," a senior European diplomat told Reuters.

Putin-Trump meeting in Hungary postponed, timing undecided

Washington: A planned meeting in Hungary between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin has been postponed on Tuesday, with no new date set, according to U.S. and Russian officials. Preparations for a possible meeting in Budapest, Hungary, were put on hold following what was described as a "constructive but inconclusive" phone conversation between U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov earlier this week, the officials said. Following a phone conversation with Putin last week, Trump said he was ready to meet the Russian leader soon to seek a breakthrough in efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict. However, the U.S. president told reporters in Washington on Tuesday that he did not want to have "a wasted meeting."



Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the timing of a possible summit remains undecided, stressing that "serious preparation" would be required before any meeting could take place. Despite the delay, Russia's special envoy for investment and economic cooperation, Kirill Dmitriev, said late Tuesday on his X account that "preparations continue" for a future summit, adding that the meeting had not been cancelled.

Ukrainian city in total blackout after 'massive' Russian assault

Kyiv (UNI)

The Ukrainian city of Chernihiv is in total blackout following what the authorities describe as a "massive" assault by Russian missiles and drones, with hundreds of thousands of people affected.

Across the wider Chernihiv region, four people are reported to have been killed as residential neighbourhoods were struck in the town of Novhorod-Siverskyi. Ten others were injured, including a 10-year-old girl.

The country's most northerly region is the latest to be hit in an intensifying series of attacks on civilian infrastructure as Russia targets energy supplies, the rail network,



homes and businesses in its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, reports BBC.

"I personally heard the drones flying overhead," 55-year-old Oleksandr Babich said.

The Chernihiv city resident spoke in matter-of-fact terms about a night filled with the low whine

of Iranian-designed Shahed drones, a sound now being increasingly heard far from the war's front lines.

"Unfortunately, our region is very close to our scheming neighbour," he said, adding an expletive for good measure. The Chernihiv region

shares a border with both Russia and Belarus, giving the air defences here less time to react to any incoming attacks.

In a raid involving more than 100 Shahed drones - each of which carry a 50kg warhead - and six ballistic missiles, the direct strikes on Chernihiv's electricity generating facilities left the whole city without power, as well as large parts of the surrounding area.

Andriy Podorvan, the deputy head of the Chernihiv Regional Military Administration, told the BBC that it was part of a pattern across much of the country, with things getting much worse in recent months.

Iran's ex-security chief under fire after wedding video goes viral



Tehran (UNI)

Iran's former security chief Ali Shamkhani, a senior aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has become the center of controversy following the leak of a video showing his daughter's lavish wedding, sparking widespread public outrage and accusations of hypocrisy among Iran's ruling elite.

The video, leaked on October 17, shows Shamkhani escorting his daughter Fatemeh down the aisle amid cheering guests, many of whom filmed the grand event. The wedding took place at Tehran's ultra-luxurious Espinas Palace Hotel, with Fatemeh seen wearing a white strapless designer gown with a low neckline — a striking departure from Iran's strict dress codes for women in public.

The footage triggered immediate backlash online, with critics accusing Iran's leadership of blatant double standards. Several argued that while the regime enforces draconian hijab laws and punishes ordinary citizens, often brutally, for violations, it appears to turn a blind eye to similar behavior among its privileged elite.

French ex-president Sarkozy begins jail sentence for campaign finance conspiracy

Paris (UNI)

Nicolas Sarkozy has become the first French ex-president to go to jail, as he starts a five-year sentence for conspiring to fund his election campaign with money from late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Not since World War Two Nazi collaborationist leader Philippe Pétain was jailed for treason in 1945 has any French ex-leader gone behind bars.

Sarkozy, who was president from 2007-2012, has appealed against his jail term at La Santé prison, where he will occupy a small cell in its isolation wing, reports BBC.

More than 100 people applauded and shouted "Nicolas!" as he left his villa in the exclusive 16th district of Paris, holding his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy by the hand.

His son Louis, 28, had appealed to supporters for a show of support, while another son, Pierre, called for a message of love — "nothing else, please".

Nicolas Sarkozy, 70, was driven through the entrance of the notoriously overcrowded 19th-Century prison in the Montparnasse district south of the River Seine at 09:40 local time (07:40 GMT), while dozens of police officers cordoned off most of the surrounding streets.

He continues to protest his innocence in the highly controversial Libyan money affair and posted a message on X as he was driven to the jail, saying: "I have no doubt. Truth will prevail. But how crushing the price will have been."

"With unwavering strength I tell [the French people] it is not a former president they are locking up this morning - it is an innocent man," he wrote.

"Do not feel sorry for me because my wife and my children are by my side... but this morning I feel deep sor-



row for a France humiliated by a will for revenge."

Moments after Sarkozy entered jail, his lawyer Christophe Ingrain said a request for his release had been filed. Nothing justified his imprisonment, said Mr Ingrain, adding: "He'll be inside for at least three weeks or a month."

Sarkozy has said he wants no special treatment at La Santé prison, although he has been put in its isolation section for his own safety as other inmates are infamous drugs dealers or have been convicted for terror offences.

Sarkozy's cell in the prison's isolation wing is believed to be on the top floor and will measure between 9-11 sq m (95-120 sq ft). There had earlier been talk of him serving his term in another wing for "vulnerable people", where other VIPs have been jailed in the past.

He will have a toilet, a shower, a desk, a small electric hob and a small TV, for which he will have to pay a monthly 14 (£12) fee, and the right to a small fridge.

The former president has the right to receive information from the outside world and family visits as well as written and phone contact.

But he is in effect in solitary confinement, allowed just one hour a day for exercise, by himself in the wing's segregated courtyard.

Gaza ceasefire deal going better than expected, Vance says

Jerusalem (UNI)

The implementation of a Gaza ceasefire agreement is "going better than expected" and the truce can hold, US Vice-President JD Vance has said during a visit to Israel.

Vance also warned that "if Hamas does not co-operate, it will be obliterated", while refusing to give a deadline for when the Palestinian group must disarm - a part of US proposals yet to be agreed.

US President Donald Trump, who brokered the ceasefire deal earlier this month, said America's "great allies" in the Middle East would be ready to "go into Gaza with a heavy force and 'straighten out Hamas' if Hamas continues to act badly".

Vance's visits come after a flare-up of violence on Sunday that threatened to derail the 12-day-old truce, reports BBC.

Israel said a Hamas attack killed two soldiers, triggering Israeli air



strikes which killed dozens of Palestinians.

Trump wrote on social media that "there is still hope that Hamas will do what is right", adding: "If they do not, an end to Hamas will be FAST, FURIOUS, & BRUTAL!"

Vance is expected to push Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to start negotiations on long-term issues for a permanent end to the war with Hamas during his visit.

The vice-president praised Israel

Russian President Vladimir Putin to skip G-20 summit in Johannesburg amid ICC arrest warrant

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin will not be attending the upcoming G-20 session in South Africa in November this year, announced Kremlin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, reports state media.

The bloc - which comprises 20 of the world's largest economic powers - makes up 85% of the world's total GDP, 75% of international trade, and represents approximately two-thirds of the global population.

"Putin will not participate personally, but Russia, as we have said, will be represented at a worthy level. We will inform you in due time who will go there," the Kremlin spokesman said, commenting on Russia's participation in the G20 summit in South Africa.

Airbus launches new assembly line in China

Tianjin: Airbus on Wednesday inaugurated its latest Final Assembly Line (FAL) for A320 family aircraft in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin, the second of its kind in both China and Asia as a whole.

The new facility will double the A320 family's final assembly capacity in China, demonstrating Airbus' confidence in the country's thriving civil aviation market, resilient supply chain and favorable business climate.

Via the FAL, the A320 planes will be assembled from large components like fuselage sections and wings, painted, tested and delivered to customers in China and beyond, said Airbus CEO, Guillaume Faury.

Europe's leaders back Trump call for frontline freeze but Russia says no

Kyiv (UNI)

European leaders have joined Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky in insisting that any talks on ending the war in Ukraine should start with freezing the current front line, and warned that Russia is not serious about peace.

In a statement signed by 11 leaders including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, they said they "strongly support" US President Donald Trump's position that "the fighting should stop immediately, and that the current line of contact should be the starting point of negotiations". But Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday dis-



missed the idea of halting the conflict at the current contact line, reports BBC.

Moscow was only interested in "long-term, sustainable peace", Lavrov said, implying that freezing the front

line would only amount to a temporary ceasefire.

The European statement referred to "Russia's stalling tactics", indicating how intractable Moscow's position remained.

Trump, who has often adopted a conciliatory tone towards Russia, is now planning direct talks with Putin in Budapest - although the date for a preparatory meeting between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Lavrov seems to be slipping. The US president spoke by phone to Putin last week, a day before meeting Zelensky and his team in the White House.

First case of new mpox variant detected in Netherlands

The Hague: The Netherlands has confirmed its first case of a new, more transmissible variant of mpox, Minister for Health, Welfare and Sport Jan Anthonie Bruijn said in a letter to parliament on Tuesday.

The infection, identified on Oct. 17, is the first time the mpox variant 1b has been detected in the country.

"This is the first time that this new mpox-variant has been identified in the Netherlands," the minister said in the letter. He added that the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are "closely monitoring the situation."

Stolen Louvre jewellery worth £88m, prosecutor says



Paris (UNI)

Jewellery allegedly stolen from the Louvre in Paris in a daring daylight robbery has been valued at 88 million euros (£76m; \$102m), a French public prosecutor has said, citing the museum's curator.

Laure Beccuau told RTL radio the sum was "extraordinary" but said the greater loss was to France's historical heritage. Crown jewels and pieces gifted by two Napoleons to their wives were among the items taken, reports BBC.

Thieves wielding power tools took less than eight minutes to make off with the loot shortly after the world's most-visited museum opened on Sunday morning.

With the thieves having not been

caught more than two days on from the heist, experts fear the jewellery will already be long gone.

Ms Beccuau said she hoped announcing the estimated worth of the jewellery would make the robbers think twice and not destroy them.

She added the thieves would not pocket the full windfall if they had "the very bad idea of melting down these jewels".