

## MUSTREAD

## Two Israelis arrested for spying for Iran

Tel Aviv: The Shin Bet (Israel's anti-terror General Security Service) and the Israel Police arrested two Israeli citizens who passed on photos and locations of sensitive sites in Israel to Iranian intelligence agencies. He used his girlfriend, who serves in the Israel Air Force reserves, to obtain various pieces of information about the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and Air Force bases. Shimon Azarzar, 27, a resident of Kiryat Yam - located outside of Haifa - and his girlfriend were both arrested in October on "suspicion of committing security offences involving contact with Iranian intelligence elements and carrying out security missions under their direction."

## Seven killed in firecracker factory blast in S-Pakistan

Islamabad: At least seven people were killed and seven others injured in a powerful explosion at a firecracker factory in southern Sindh province, officials said on Sunday. The blast occurred in Laghari Goth in Hyderabad district on Saturday evening. Hassan Ul Haseeb, spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Sindh, said. "The explosion triggered a massive fire that quickly engulfed the factory," Haseeb said. Rescue teams recovered the bodies from the debris and shifted the injured to a local hospital.

## Four dead after suspected migrant boat capsizes

Washington: Four people died and four others were hospitalized after a suspected migrant smuggling vessel capsized in rough surf late Friday off San Diego, the U.S. Coast Guard said. In addition to the eight casualties, one person was taken into custody by the U.S. Border Patrol, the Coast Guard said. A search for additional survivors continued on Saturday off San Diego County's Imperial Beach, according to the Coast Guard. The Border Patrol informed the Coast Guard about the capsized panga-style boat at 11:40 p.m. Friday, the Coast Guard said. Panga-style boats are frequently used by smugglers attempting to transport migrants from Mexico into California by sea, often in dangerous conditions amid the Pacific surf.

## Nine injured after car crashes through fence during race

Sydney: Nine people have been hospitalized after they were injured when a vehicle crashed through a fence during a race event north of Sydney. Police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) on Sunday said in a statement that the vehicle was competing in a race when it crashed through a fence and hit a grandstand in the small town of Walcha, 320 km north of Sydney, at around 6:15 p.m. on Saturday. Spectators rendered assistance until ambulance paramedics arrived and transported seven men and two women, all aged between 20 and 75, to a nearby hospital.

## Highway mishap kills 6, injures 3 in east Afghanistan

Kabul: Six commuters lost their lives and three others were injured in a road accident in Qarghayi district, eastern Afghanistan's Laghman province on Sunday morning, the provincial police office said in a statement. The accident took place along the highway linking the capital of Kabul to eastern provinces, when a passenger vehicle veered off the road and caught fire, leaving six dead on the spot and three injured, according to the statement. The injured are receiving treatment in a local hospital.

## Two killed in shooting at café

Damascus: Two people were killed and several others injured on Saturday evening when unidentified gunmen opened fire inside a café in the western countryside of Homs province, Syrian Interior Ministry authorities reported. According to the ministry, the assailants carried out random gunfire in the crowded café before fleeing the scene. Authorities immediately secured the area and began collecting evidence to identify the perpetrators.

## Dhaka under tight security ahead of ICT verdict on Sheikh Hasina

Dhaka (UNI)

Security has been significantly heightened in Dhaka and surrounding districts as the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is set to deliver its verdict on Monday in a case filed against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Police, the army, and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have set up additional checkpoints, especially near government buildings, the Secretariat, and the tribunal complex.

Authorities have reported a recent spike in arson attacks and crude bomb blasts, further raising public anxiety. While the government has urged calm, student organisations and opposition political groups have warned against any attempt to "destabilise" the situation.

The Awami League, still banned from political activity, earlier announced a "Dhaka Lockdown" for



November 13 to protest what it calls politically motivated trials and the arrests of its senior leaders.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered all security agencies to remain on maximum alert in the days leading up to the verdict.

The date was set by a three-member

judicial bench of Tribunal-1, headed by Justice Md. Golam Mortaza Mojumder, with Justice Md. Shafiqul Alam Mahmud and Justice Mohitul Haque Enam Chowdhury serving as members. The verdict pertains to alleged crimes committed during the July 2024 mass uprising, which triggered widespread violence and preceded the fall of the Awami League government. Along with Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdulla Al-Mamun were charged.

Al-Mamun later turned approver in the case. Trial proceedings concluded on October 23.

Business leaders have voiced concern over the escalating political uncertainty, expressing hope that the upcoming national elections will help stabilise the country.

Since the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus banned activities of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations, party leaders have been issuing directives through social media from undisclosed locations while engaging in online campaigns.

## Iran accuses U.S., allies of attempting to build "force-based" international order

Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday accused the United States and several of its allies of trying to build a "force-based" international order.

Speaking at an international conference titled "International Law under Attack: Aggression and Defense" in Tehran, he said the current global environment reflects "anti-international law" policies advanced in recent years by Washington and its partners, a move in favor of a West-centered order promoted as a "rules-based" international order rather than a "law-based" one.

War and violence have become normalized in international affairs and some governments now rely on military force as a routine tool of foreign policy, he added.

The minister said the United States "naked and reckless" use of force and its ongoing erosion of international law foundations amount to "the law of the jungle," adding that such an approach cannot endure.

## China urges Philippines to halt Provocations in South China Sea



Beijing (UNI)

China has urged the Philippines to stop what it calls "provocative actions" and to avoid further escalating tensions in the South China Sea, Tian Junli, spokesperson for the Peo-

ple's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command, said on Sunday.

"The Philippines continues to involve external forces in organizing so-called 'joint patrols,' undermining regional peace and stability. We strongly warn the Philippines to immediately cease provoking incidents and escalating the situation," Tian was quoted as saying by the ministry.

According to Tian, Southern Theater Command bombers conducted routine patrols over the South China Sea on Sunday. He added that PLA forces remain on high alert and are prepared to "resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and security, as well as peace and stability in the South China Sea."

## Sakurajima volcano in southwestern Japan erupts

Tokyo: A volcano on Sakurajima in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, erupted early Sunday morning, with plumes rising up to 4,400 meters above the summit crater, the country's weather agency said.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the eruption occurred at the Minamidake crater at 12:57 a.m. local time, sending a plume of ash and smoke above 4,000 meters for the first time since Oct. 18 last year.

There were no immediate reports of injuries and damage to buildings.

The eruption continued following the initial event, prompting the JMA to issue an ashfall forecast for parts of Kagoshima, Kumamoto and Miyazaki prefectures.



## Anti-Govt youth march in Mexico City ends in clashes with police

Mexico City (UNI/SPUTNIK)

A youth anti-government march in the center of the Mexican capital ended in clashes with police near the National Palace; there were injuries among both participants and law enforcement, the Milenio newspaper reported.

After the destruction of protective barriers erected in front of the National Palace during the so-called Generation Z march, a clash erupted between a group of masked people and security forces in Mexico City's Zocalo district.

Police were injured while attempting to contain the protesters' advance, the newspaper said.

Several marchers were also injured; according to media reports, they were treated by ambulance crews on duty at the scene.

The protest march began at the Angel of Independence on the central Avenue of Reforma and concluded at Zocalo, where some demonstrators reportedly clashed with law enforcement.

Although the main columns have

already dispersed, roadblocks remain in the surrounding neighborhoods, and police continue to disperse small groups of remaining activists.

Amid the unrest in the city center, the metro adjusted train service on Line 2, temporarily closing the section between Hidalgo and Zocalo/Tenochtitlan stations.

Calls for participation in the Generation Z protest march in Mexico City on November 15 were spread through a network of accounts, including those created specifically for the campaign and linked to foreign administrators, Miguel Angel Elorza Vasquez, coordinator of the Infodemia project at the Mexican National Broadcasting System, said earlier.

According to Vasquez, the march was not an initiative or a consequence of civil discontent, but was the result of disinformation aimed at polarization, weakening the government and manipulating young people for political purposes.

## Putin, Netanyahu phone call over Gaza

## Ahead of UNSC vote on US resolution as Russia offers counter proposal

Agencies, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the situation in Gaza and the region with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over a phone call, his office said.



On October 9, the parties signed an agreement to implement the first phase of the peace plan previously presented by US President Donald Trump.

The ceasefire agreement in Gaza entered into force on October 10. Phase one of the ceasefire includes the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. The plan also envisages the rebuilding of Gaza and the establishment of a new governing mechanism without Hamas.

The United States has proposed a UN Security Council resolution to back President Donald Trump's plan for Gaza.

It will be put to a vote at the UN Security Council on November 17.

## Ukraine seeking exchange of 1,200 prisoners with Russia



Agencies, Kyiv

Ukraine is working to resume the exchange of prisoners with Russia, hoping for the release of 1,200 Ukrainians, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and his Security Council chief said.

"We are ... counting on the resumption of exchanges," Zelenskiy said in a video posted on the Telegram messaging app on Sunday. "Many meetings, negotiations and calls are now devoted to this."

His security chief, Rustem Umerov, said on Saturday that he had held consultations in Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, with the support of Kyiv's partners, on resuming the process of exchanges.

"As a result of these negotiations, the parties agreed to return to the Istanbul agreements," he said. "This concerns the release of 1,200 Ukrainians," Umerov said in a statement on Telegram.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow to Ukraine's statements.

## Ukraine agrees on gas imports from Greece, Zelenskiy says

Kyiv: Ukraine will receive gas imports from Greece to help cover its winter needs, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Sunday, pledging to secure nearly 2 billion euros to offset Russian attacks on domestic output. "Today, we have already prepared an agreement with Greece on gas for Ukraine, which will be another gas supply route to secure imports for the winter as much as possible," he said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

"We already have agreements in place for financing gas imports - and we will cover nearly 2 billion euros (\$2.3 billion) needed for gas imports to compensate for the losses in Ukrainian production caused by Russian strikes," Zelenskiy's statement came ahead of his expected visit to Greece on Sunday, from where he is to travel to France and Spain.

## Japanese protesters demand PM Takaichi's resignation



Tokyo (UNI)

Japanese residents held a protest in front of the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on Saturday evening, demanding Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's resignation.

About 100 people rallied with banners and shouted slogans such as "Takaichi step down" and "Those who cannot conduct diplomacy are unfit to be prime minister," expressing strong dissatisfaction with Takaichi's recent erroneous remarks.

At a Diet meeting on Nov. 7, Takaichi claimed that a Taiwan emergency involving the use of military vessels and military force from the Chinese mainland could constitute a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan.

According to legislation, Japan's Self-Defense Forces could exercise the right of collective self-defense if such a situation is recognized as "survival-threatening."

## Toll rises to 36 as three more dengue-related deaths reported in Sindh

Karachi: The death toll in Pakistan's Sindh province due to dengue climbed to 36 after three more patients, including two women, lost their lives, Dawn reported, citing the provincial health department.

According to Dawn, citing officials, a 50-year-old man and an 80-year-old woman died in Hyderabad, while a 55-year-old woman passed away in Karachi.

The department reported 180 new dengue cases in the last 24 hours, with 113 patients admitted to public hospitals and 57 to private facilities. A total of 241 patients are currently under treatment across Sindh, Dawn reported. In Karachi division, 44 patients were admitted to government hospitals, while Hyderabad reported 35 admissions, and other districts recorded 34.

## Trump's Teflon tested as Epstein saga looms over 2026 campaign

Agencies, Washington

President Donald Trump was eager to claim victory this week after the record-long U.S. government shutdown ended on his terms. But almost immediately, the White House was forced to battle a familiar bogeyman: Jeffrey Epstein.

A trove of emails released by Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday reignited questions about Trump's relationship with the disgraced financier and how much the president knew about Epstein's alleged abuse of girls.

While the White House swiftly dismissed the effort as a Democratic smear campaign, the headline-grabbing messages underscored a potential vulnerability for Trump that could shadow the president and his Republican Party into next year's midterm congressional elections.

Trump has weathered controversies that would have sunk many



politicians. But the Epstein saga has proven to be a persistent liability that disrupts Trump's message discipline and complicates his effort to keep his coalition focused on policy rather than scandal.

Many of Trump's most loyal supporters believe the government is

withholding sensitive documents about Epstein, a convicted sex offender who died by suicide in jail in 2019. A handful of Republicans have broken ranks to join Democrats seeking a full documents release, drawing a rebuke from Trump, who called them "soft and foolish."

"I think the hope was that it would die down and go away, and that was never going to be the case," said Republican strategist Terry Sullivan, who headed Secretary of State Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign.

"It's an impossible issue to handle effectively," he added. "It's impossible to prove a negative. If he (Trump) didn't know anything, how do you prove it?" Pia Carusone, a Democratic strategist and partner at political consultancy SKDK, said the specter of Epstein could depress Republican turnout in the 2026 midterm elections if new revelations keep dripping out.

## Storm Claudia kills three in Portugal, causes flooding in Britain

Lisbon: Violent weather brought on by Storm Claudia killed three people and injured dozens in Portugal, authorities there said on Saturday, while in Britain rescue workers were organising evacuations due to heavy flooding in Wales and England.

Portugal and parts of neighbouring Spain have faced days of extreme conditions brought on by Storm Claudia, which had reached parts of Britain and Ireland by Saturday.

Rescue workers found the bodies of an elderly couple inside their flooded home in Fornalh Ferro, across the River Tagus from Lisbon, on Thursday. They had apparently been sleeping and were unable to flee as the water rose during the night. On Saturday, a tornado struck Albufeira in southern Portugal, emergency services said.