

MUSTREAD

Canadian PM Carney accepts PM Modi's invitation to visit India in early 2026

New Delhi: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to visit India in early 2026, the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada stated. Following the return of high commissioners in August 2025, the two prime ministers agreed to enhance diplomatic staffing levels to meet growing consular demands and strengthen people-to-people linkages. They also agreed to support reciprocal knowledge transfer as part of ongoing engagement between the two countries. Carney welcomed the progress being made in the law enforcement dialogue between India and Canada.

Khaleda Zia hospitalised with chest infection, under intensive observation

Dhaka: Former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Khaleda Zia, has been admitted to Evercare Hospital in Bashundhara after being diagnosed with a chest infection, Bangladesh News 24 reported, citing her doctors' statement. She is currently under intensive medical observation in a private cabin. According to Bangladesh News 24, Khaleda Zia was brought to the hospital on Sunday night for health examinations, and following preliminary tests, she was admitted for urgent treatment. Dr FM Siddiqui, a member of the medical board assigned to her care, said, "Her condition over the next 12 hours is crucial. Over the past few months, she has been falling ill very frequently. The reason we admitted her here to Evercare Hospital is that multiple health issues have coincided."

China to launch Shenzhou-22 spacecraft on November 25, state media reports

Beijing: China will launch the Shenzhou-22 spacecraft on November 25, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Monday, a move that will help return the country's space station and manned flight programme to normality after a vessel was damaged in early November. The Shenzhou-22 spacecraft is being sent to China's space station Tiangong to replace the Shenzhou-21, which was forced to return to Earth six months before schedule after another vessel docked at the station was damaged.

Malaysia to introduce ban on social media for users under 16

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia will prohibit users under age of 16 from signing up for social media starting from 2026, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadil has said, adding that social media platforms will be required to ensure proper age verification. "We expect all platform providers to be ready to implement eKYC by next year," Fadil was quoted by The Straits Times newspaper as saying on Sunday. In addition to implementing the age verification system, the Malaysian government is to also consult platforms and the public in the coming months about the details of establishing a compliance monitoring mechanism. In October, the Malaysian government decided to raise the minimum social media age from 13 to 16 in a bid to defend teenagers from cyberbullying, online fraud and sexual violence via the internet.

Erdogan likely to discuss energy cooperation with Vladimir Putin

Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expects to discuss bilateral cooperation, including in energy, during a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday, a Turkish diplomatic source told Sputnik. During a press conference in South Africa on Sunday, Erdogan said that he expects to have a telephone conversation with Putin on November 24. "The full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, including energy. The bilateral agenda is always broad," the source said. Erdogan also seeks to confirm Turkey's readiness to once again host negotiations between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Istanbul during the planned phone conversation, it added.

G20 declaration in defiance of US marks rare victory for multilateralism

Agencies, Johannesburg/Washington

Born of crisis but torn by years of tensions among its members, the Group of 20 major economies scored a rare victory this weekend for multilateralism after overcoming the boycott and objections of its most powerful member, the United States.

South Africa, this year's G20 president, rallied all but two member nations - the U.S. and Argentina - to issue a declaration, ignoring Washington's warnings and quelling questions about the G20's future - at least for now.

Many doubted Pretoria would secure a declaration, much less tackle issues such as helping poor nations cope with climate change and external debt.

That success strengthened a body which for years was struggling to reach meaningful agreements - and



highlighted the power of multilateralism when it seemed in retreat, researchers and delegates said.

The outcome infuriated the United States, next year's G20 host. The

White House accused South Africa of weaponizing its presidency to undermine the G20's founding principles on unanimous consensus. It said U.S. President Donald Trump

would restore its "legitimacy" while hosting next year.

The White House had no immediate comment when asked if it planned to disinvite South Africa from next year's G20 events.

The declaration's final paragraph was carefully worded to commit to meeting in future G20 summits in Britain and South Korea, but only to "working together" under the U.S. presidency, a South African delegate said.

President Cyril Ramaphosa declined an American offer to hand over the rotating G20 presidency to a junior diplomat. That ceremony will now take place between equivalent diplomats this week.

The summit had seemed hopelessly overshadowed by Trump's boycott over false allegations that South Africa's Black majority government mistreats its white minority.

Iraqi Sunni factions form unified council amid govt formation

Baghdad: Leading Iraqi Sunni Muslim parties agreed on Sunday to form a "National Political Council" to coordinate their strategy in the new parliament, seeking to unify their stance as Shiite factions move to form the next government.

The decision was announced following a meeting convened by Khamis al-Khanjar, leader of the Sovereignty (al-Siyada) Alliance, which secured significant seats in the Nov. 11 general election.

The move comes shortly after Iraq's ruling Shiite Coordination Framework declared it had formed the largest bloc in parliament, a decisive constitutional step that allows the Shiite alliance to name the next prime minister.

In a statement, the newly formed Sunni council said it would serve as an overarching framework to "unify visions" and strengthen joint action to secure constitutional rights and bolster Sunni representation in state institutions.

US, Ukraine work on 'refined' peace plan to end war with Russia

Agencies, Kyiv/Geneva

The United States and Ukraine pressed on with talks in Switzerland on Monday to come up with a mutually acceptable peace plan, after agreeing to modify a U.S. proposal that Kyiv and its European allies saw as a Kremlin wish list.

Washington and Kyiv said in a joint statement they had drafted a "refined peace framework" after a first day of talks in Geneva on Sunday, although they did not provide specifics.

The United States blindsided Kyiv and European countries with a 28-point peace plan last week, giving Ukraine until Thursday to agree to a framework to end Europe's deadliest war since World War Two.



After Sunday's talks, no public statement was released on how the revised plan would handle contentious issues such as how to guarantee Ukraine's security against future Russian threats and how to fund the rebuilding of Ukraine.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy

said negotiations were still ongoing.

"We all continue working with partners, especially the United States, to look for compromises that will strengthen but not weaken us," Zelenskiy said via video link from a separate summit of Ukraine's allies in Sweden.

Zelenskiy said Russia must pay for the war in Ukraine and that a decision on using frozen Russian assets was crucial.

"Right now, we are at a critical moment, and we are working with the United States, European partners, and many others to define steps that can end Russia's war against us, against Ukraine, and bring real security."

Lula stresses Brazil's sovereignty against Trump's comment

Sao Paulo: The arrest of ex-president Jair Bolsonaro should not affect bilateral ties between Brazil and the United States because Brazil is a sovereign country, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said.

Bolsonaro was taken into preventive custody by police Saturday morning in Brasilia under an order issued by the Federal Supreme Court. Referring to Trump's comment on Bolsonaro's arrest, Lula said, "Trump needs to know that we are a sovereign country and that our justice system decides."

Bolsonaro, he said, will serve the sentence handed down by the courts for his deeds.



Mass school kidnappings in Nigeria in recent years

Agencies, Lagos

The kidnapping of more than 300 Catholic school students is the latest such mass abduction in Nigeria.

Here are some of the worst of recent years:

November 2025 - Gunmen took 303 pupils and 12 staff members from a school in Niger state, according to the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN). At least 50 children have escaped.

February 2021 - At least 279 girls were kidnapped by gunmen from a government school in Zamfara state and force-marched into a forest. They were released after a few days, during which they were beaten and threatened with shooting.

December 2020 - Armed men abducted 344 boys from a boarding school in northern Katsina state. Islamist insurgent group Boko Haram claimed responsibility before the students were freed by Nigerian security forces a week later.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the kidnappings of priests, faithful, and students in Nigeria and Cameroon.

Kaduna state. The students were released in batches after ransom payments.

May 2021 - Gunmen abducted 136 students from an Islamic school in Niger state. Six of the pupils died in captivity, 15 escaped and the rest were released after three months.

November 2025 - Gunmen attacked a government girls' boarding school in Kebbi state, killing the vice principal and taking 25 students. All but one of the girls are still missing.

March 2024 - Gunmen seized more than 200 students and staff in Kaduna state. The students were rescued after two weeks. The government denied paying a ransom.

July 2021 - About 150 students were kidnapped when armed men raided a Baptist school in

Suicide bombers kill 3 at Pakistan paramilitary HQ

Agencies, Peshawar

Three suicide bombers targeted the headquarters of a Pakistani paramilitary force on Monday, killing three personnel and wounding at least five, authorities said.

The attackers opened fire as they forced themselves into the headquarters of the frontier constabulary in Peshawar city before blowing themselves up inside the complex, police said.

Three paramilitary personnel were killed, said Javed Iqbal, the deputy commandant of the force.

"The first suicide bomber carried

out an attack on the main entrance of the constabulary and the others entered the compound," a senior official told Reuters on condition of anonymity as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

"Law enforcement personnel, including the army and police, have cordoned off the area and are carefully handling the situation as we suspect there are some terrorists inside the headquarters," the official added.

The headquarters of the force is located in a densely populated area of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Lula stresses Brazil's sovereignty against Trump's comment

Sao Paulo: The arrest of ex-president Jair Bolsonaro should not affect bilateral ties between Brazil and the United States because Brazil is a sovereign country, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said.

Bolsonaro was taken into preventive custody by police Saturday morning in Brasilia under an order issued by the Federal Supreme Court. Referring to Trump's comment on Bolsonaro's arrest, Lula said, "Trump needs to know that we are a sovereign country and that our justice system decides."

Bolsonaro, he said, will serve the sentence handed down by the courts for his deeds.

out building in the Haret Hreik suburb, a Hezbollah stronghold.

Hezbollah's leadership would decide on whether and how the group would respond, he added.

Lebanon's health ministry said the strike killed five people and

Israel kills Hezbollah military leader



wounded 28 more. It hit a multi-storey building, sending debris crashing into cars on the main road below.

People rushed out of their apartment buildings, fearing further bombardment, a Reuters reporter said.

The United States imposed sanctions on Tabatabai in 2016, identifying him as a key Hezbollah leader and offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information on him.

The Israeli military statement said Tabatabai "commanded most of Hezbollah's units and worked hard to restore them to readiness for war with Israel". In a short televised statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would not allow Hezbollah to rebuild its forces and that he expected the Lebanese government "to fulfill its obligation to disarm Hezbollah."

Slovenians oppose assisted-dying law in referendum

Ljubljana: A majority of Slovenian voters rejected a law that legalizes assisted dying, the State Electoral Commission said.

According to preliminary results of the national referendum, 53.4 percent voted against the law, while 46.6 percent supported it. Voter turnout reached almost 41 percent.

The legislation, adopted by the center-left government coalition in July, would have allowed adults of sound mind suffering from incurable diseases to request medically assisted death under regulated conditions.

Supporters argued it offered dignity and relief to terminally ill patients, while opponents warned of possible misuse and insufficient safeguards.

Attack on Bedouin couple triggers unrest, curfew in central Syria

Damascus (UNI)

A deadly attack on a Sunni Bedouin couple in central Syria's Homs province triggered widespread unrest on Sunday, prompting authorities to deploy security forces, impose a curfew, and urge residents to avoid retaliatory violence amid fears of sectarian escalation.

The unrest followed the early Sunday discovery of a man and his wife from the Bani Khalid Bedouin tribe, killed inside their home in the town of Zaidal, with the woman's body partially burned.

Sectarian-charged graffiti was found at the scene, according to interior authorities.

Murhaf al-Naasan, head of the Internal Security Forces in Homs, condemned the attack as a "heinous crime" aimed at igniting communal discord.

Security units launched an immediate investigation, he said, calling on residents to remain calm and allow authorities to identify and detain the perpetrators.

Within hours, armed tribesmen from the victims' community carried

out retaliatory assaults in the predominantly Alawite al-Muhajirin neighborhood of Homs city, burning houses, damaging vehicles, and firing shots randomly, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.



Moscow (UNI/SPUTNIK)

The Ukrainian military continues to deploy various types of banned antipersonnel mines and booby traps in large quantities, completely disregarding international conventions, the commander of the assault company of the separate Rus assault detachment of Russia's Yug (South) group of armed forces, known by the call sign Missioner, told Sputnik.

"Antipersonnel mines of many different modifications have become more widely used. Compared to last year, the threat of remote-detected mines tuned to magnetic resonance has grown significantly. Many different types of minesweeper traps have been devised. Therefore, the danger posed by these particular mines and barrages has markedly increased in comparison with last year," Missioner said.

Ukrainian forces have nearly stopped using cluster munitions in this sector of the front, unlike last

year when heavy fighting took place around the city of Chasov Yar (also known as Chasiv Yar) and nearby areas, the commander said.

The Ukrainian military shows no regard for international conventions banning certain munitions and methods of warfare, Missioner said.

In 2005, Ukraine ratified the Ottawa Convention, which prohibits the use, stockpiling and production of anti-personnel mines.

