

MUSTREAD

Cross-border settlement system creation in BRICS proceeds slowly

Moscow: The creation of a cross-border settlement system in BRICS is proceeding rather slowly because many are satisfied with dollar-based settlements, Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said on Tuesday. "One of our current topics is the creation of a cross-border settlement system within the BRICS organization. This issue is moving rather slowly because not everyone is ready to participate; many are satisfied with settlements in dollars," Siluanov said at the 10th International Financial University Forum.

Putin has no plans to speak with Xi Jinping anytime soon, Kremlin

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin is not planning to hold a conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the near future, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday. "Right now, for now, there are no plans [for a conversation with the Chinese president]," Peskov told reporters.

Atmosphere of Xi-Trump phone call "positive, friendly, constructive": Chinese Foreign Ministry

Beijing: The atmosphere of the phone call between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday was "positive, friendly and constructive," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning on Tuesday. Mao told a regular press briefing that this phone call was initiated by the U.S. side. She said that since President Trump's second term, the Chinese and U.S. heads of state have maintained frequent interactions. Communication between the two heads of state on issues of mutual interest plays a vital role in the stable development of China-U.S. relations, Mao added.

Death toll from drone attack in Rostov region rises to 3

Moscow: Two more people died from their wounds after drone attacks in the Rostov Region, bringing the total death toll this night to three, Governor Yuri Slyusar said. Slyusar previously said that the number of wounded in Ukrainian Armed Forces attacks in the Rostov Region had risen to 10, with one person killed in Taganrog. "Unfortunately, doctors were unable to save two more people; they died from their wounds in the hospital," the governor said on Telegram.

Rubio declines bilateral talks with EU's Kallas on Ukraine settlement

Moscow: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has declined to hold bilateral meetings on Ukraine with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas amid tensions between her and the administration of US President Donald Trump, the Politico newspaper reported on Tuesday, citing officials. One source was cited as saying that Kallas is seen as playing the role of a "bad cop" behind the scenes for EU member states, and even Rubio, despite his pro-European stances, declines bilateral meetings with the Estonian diplomat.

China ready to strengthen Energy Partnership with Russia

Beijing: Beijing is ready to strengthen the comprehensive energy partnership with Moscow, Chinese President Xi Jinping said. On Tuesday, the Chinese leader sent a telegram to participants of the seventh China-Russian Energy Business Forum, currently underway in Beijing. "China is ready to work with Russia to further strengthen the comprehensive energy partnership and jointly maintain the stability and smooth operation of the global energy production and supply chain," China Central Television (CCTV) quoted the telegram as saying.

Kremlin says it has not received updated US-Ukraine peace plan

Moscow: Russia has not yet been given the official text of the revised US proposal for a settlement in Ukraine, despite indications that Washington and Kyiv made substantial adjustments during their consultations in Geneva last week, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

Pakistan airstrikes kill 10 Afghans: Kabul official

Will give appropriate response: Kabul condemns Pakistan's attack on Afghan territory

Kabul: Ten Afghan nationals were killed and four others injured as the Pakistani air forces bombarded the eastern region of Afghanistan, said Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Afghan government, on Tuesday. Pakistan bombarded Gurbuz district of Khost province at midnight last night, and nine children, including five boys and four girls, and a woman, were killed, Mujahid said on social media. The Pakistani air forces also conducted air raids on Kunar and Paktika provinces on Monday night, injuring four civilians, Mujahid said. Recently, Pakistani and Afghan forces clashed along the border.

Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Afghan government, on Tuesday: "The airstrikes carried out last night by Pakistani forces in Afghanistan's Paktika, Khost, and Kunar provinces constitute a direct assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a clear breach of internationally recognised norms and principles by the Pakistani authorities," Mujahid posted on X.

Kabul: Kabul on Tuesday strongly condemned the Pakistani air strikes in the Afghan provinces of Paktika, Khost and Kunar, describing them as an infringement of the country's sovereignty and a violation of all internationally recognised norms.

According to the Afghan government: at least 10 civilians, including nine children, were killed after Pakistani forces struck a residential area in Khost, while separate air strikes in Kunar and Paktika injured four civilians.

Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Afghan government, on Tuesday: "The caretaker Afghan government, took to his social media platform, stressing that a necessary response would be taken at a proper time.



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"The airstrikes carried out last night by Pakistani forces in Afghanistan's Paktika, Khost, and Kunar provinces constitute a direct assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a clear breach of internationally recognised norms and principles by the Pakistani authorities," Mujahid posted on X.

"These hostile actions by Pakistani forces achieve nothing; they only prove that operations driven by flawed intelligence inflame tensions and expose the ongoing failures of Pakistan's military regime," he added.

Russia says EU's Ukraine peace plan "unconstructive"

Moscow (UNI)

Russia is aware of the European peace plan for the Ukraine crisis, but its provisions are considered "unconstructive," a senior Russian official said Monday.

There is much speculation about the peace plan, and Russia only trusts information received directly from the United States, said Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov.

Many provisions of the plan discussed in Alaska are acceptable for Moscow, said Ushakov.

According to Russian media, the "European Plan" proposes several major revisions to the 28-point peace plan proposed by the United



States, including not imposing any restrictions on the size of the Ukrainian armed forces or defense industry, whereas the 28-point plan requires limiting the size of the Ukrainian armed forces to 600,000 personnel.

Following consultations between representatives of the United States, Ukraine and the EU held in Geneva on Sunday, the initial draft plan was reduced from 28 to 19 points, according to media reports.

Ushakov also said that the United States will soon contact Russia to discuss the details of the peace plan, but specific arrangements have yet to be determined.

US Defense contractor SAIC wins USD 242 million contract to support Navy Torpedo Testing

Washington (UNI/SPUTNIK)

US defense contractor Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) has announced securing a USD 242 million contract from the US navy to continue the operation, maintenance and modernization of its primary undersea weapons testing site.

"Science Applications International Corp. has been awarded a USD 242 million contract by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport (NUWCINPNT) to enable the continued operation, maintenance and modernization of the Propulsion Test Facility (PTF), in support of the Undersea Warfare (USW) Weapons, Vehicles and Defense Systems Department," the

company said in a statement on Monday.

The "5-year, follow-on contract" from the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport ensures SAIC will provide engineering, technical and logistics support for the Propulsion Test Facility (PTF) complex.

The PTF consists of multiple specialized testing facilities for torpedo components, submarine systems and propulsion technologies. The contract highlights the importance of the Deep Depth Test Facility, which the statement identifies as "the Navy's only land-based testing system capable of evaluating an Mk 48 torpedo afterbody throughout its entire operational envelope."

Moscow: The United Kingdom may try to disrupt US President Donald Trump's determination to broker peace for Ukraine by discrediting him over alleged ties with Soviet and Russian special services, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) said on Tuesday.

"London seeks, in particular, to disrupt Trump's desire to resolve the conflict by discrediting him. They [UK] intend to revive the fake dossiers of former UK intelligence officer Christopher Steele and accuse the head of the White House and members of his family of ties with Soviet and Russian special services,"

the SVR said in a statement. The UK is profiting massively from the Ukraine conflict, and fearing that Trump's intervention may put an end to it, it came up with a "backup plan," the SVR said, adding that in order to save its economy from collapse, London will insist that Ukraine must continue fighting.

Number of evacuees rises to over 18,000 in Malaysia floods

Kuala Lumpur: The number of evacuees rose to over 18,000 in Malaysia on Tuesday, with 10 states affected across the country due to the current northeast monsoon season, according to authorities.

Kelantan, which has seen continuous heavy rains over several days, recorded over 9,700 flood evacuees who were being housed in 40 flood relief centers as of 12 p.m. local time.

Other badly affected areas include Selangor state, with 2,718 evacuees, and Perak state, with 2,881, with the remainder spread across the country.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary to the Government Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar said the government has deployed more than 100,000 personnel and assets from multiple agencies to states affected by severe flooding during the monsoon.

Karachi in Pakistan facing massive uptick in severe water crisis

Karachi (UNI)

Pakistan's financial capital Karachi is facing an uptick in its ongoing water crisis, as the metropolis' long-running water shortages deepened greatly by the start of November, with the Sindh capital reporting prolonged electricity outages, disrupting key pumping stations and leaving the city short of nearly 884 million gallons in just the first 23 days of the month, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) said.

A KWSC spokesperson said on Sunday that repeated and extended power cuts by K-Electric had halted pumping operations across the network, severely affecting distribution in the country's largest city and economic hub.

The biggest hit was at the Dhabaji pumping station — Karachi's main water source — which faced more than 132 hours of outages, triggering

a shortfall of 424 million gallons, reports The News International.

The Dumloti station remained without power for 146 hours, causing another 111 million gallons of losses. At North East Karachi, shortages reached 335 million gallons, while stations at Hub and Pipri each reported deficits of 6 million gallons, and Gharo recorded 2 million gallons.

Officials said the interruptions frequently brought pumping to a standstill for hours, disrupting supply to several neighbourhoods already grappling with chronic shortages. Karachi routinely struggles to meet its daily water demand — a long-standing problem blamed on infrastructure breakdowns, rapid population growth and administrative mismanagement.

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