

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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-Russia Energy Business Forum.

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.

Pakistan airstrikes kill 10 Afghans: Kabul official

Kabul: Ten Afghan nationals were killed and four others injured as the Pakistani air forces bombarded the eastern region of Afghanistan, said Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Afghan government, on Tuesday.

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

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.



the caretaker Afghan government, took to his social media platform, stressing that a necessary response would be taken at a proper time.

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 (NUWCDIVNPT) to enable the continued operation, maintenance and modernization of the Propulsion Test Facility (PTF), in support of the Undersea Warfare (USW) Weapons, Vehicles and Defensive 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."

UK seeking to disrupt Trump's resolve to broker peace in Ukraine

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.

Bangladesh Interim govt to form national taskforce post 2 subsequent earthquakes

Dhaka (UNI) Bangladesh's Interim government will form a national taskforce on earthquake preparedness following the tremors felt across the country, after two-back-to-back seismic shocks on Nov 21-22, announced Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus announced on Nov 24, emphasising that the destruction in the aftermath of the two quakes, must "never be repeated".

At an emergency meeting in Dhaka, Yunus said the government would move swiftly and scientifically, drawing on expert advice rather than "idle or unscientific steps".

Officials said the taskforce would include representatives from government agencies, the private sector and leading seismic and engineering specialists, reports local media sources.

The decision follows two moderate quakes that exposed structural vulnerabilities in several cities, reviving long-standing concerns about Bangladesh's readiness for a major seismic event.

The country sits atop multiple active fault lines, yet enforcement of building codes and public preparedness has historically been weak, due to non-adherence to building codes, and technological stagnation.

Yunus told experts from Buet, MIST, the University of Dhaka and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology that their written recommendations would be reviewed immediately. "Provide your suggestions in writing promptly; the government is ready to act," he said.

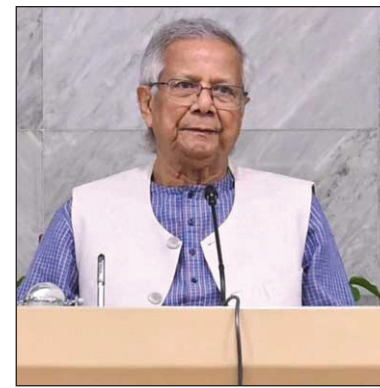
Senior advisors including Planning Advisor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Law Advisor Asif Nazrul, Disaster Management Advisor Faruk E Azam, Energy Advisor Fouzul Kabir Khan, Housing Advisor Adilur Rahman

Erdogan to intensify 'Telephone Diplomacy' on Ukraine

Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan intends to step up "telephone diplomacy" in the coming days to facilitate the settlement of the Ukraine conflict, a Turkish diplomatic source told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Erdogan stated on Monday that following his conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin he planned to discuss the Ukrainian agenda with foreign counterparts, including, if an opportunity arises, with US President Donald Trump.

"The President [Erdogan] indeed intends to hold [Erdogan] series of telephone conversations with his counterparts. The conversation with Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin has already taken place, while the situation in Ukraine will be discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the ruling Justice and Development Party. During upcoming contacts, the Turkish president plans to present his own vision of possible settlement paths and reaffirm Ankara's readiness to act as [Erdogan] mediator," the source said.



Khan, Environment Advisor Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Special Assistant Professor Ali Riaz, attended the panel.

Seismologists at the meeting warned that a surge in social media rumours about imminent earthquakes was fuelling unnecessary anxiety.

"No one can predict the exact day or time of an earthquake," they said, adding that preparedness should instead be guided by scientific assessments of fault-line activity and historical seismic trends.

Experts urged the government to prioritise public awareness, especially among young people, and recommended preparedness plans at four levels: individual, indoor, outdoor and institutional.

Professor Jahangir Alam called for immediate attention to vulnerable sectors such as hospitals, schools and utilities, while stressing the need for nationwide drills.

Public Works Department chief engineer Md Khalequzzaman Chowdhury said software-based assessments of damaged buildings were already under way, with more than 200 structures inspected.

China launches uncrewed spacecraft to Tiangong Space Station

Beijing: China launched the Shenzhou-22 uncrewed spacecraft to the Tiangong orbital station. The launch took place on Tuesday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China at 12:11 p.m. local time (04:11 GMT). China Central Television (CCTV) was broadcasting the launch. On November 14, the Shenzhou-20 crew returned to Earth aboard the Shenzhou-21 spacecraft. Shenzhou-22 was sent as a replacement for the spacecraft that was used out of turn to return the taikonauts. On November 1, the Shenzhou-21 spacecraft carrying three taikonauts arrived at the Tiangong station. A ceremony to hand over control of the orbital station to the new crew took place on November 4, after which the Shenzhou-20 crew was scheduled to return to Earth on November 5.

Taiwan, a key issue in US-China ties, says Chinese President Xi Jinping

Beijing/Washington (UNI) Chinese President Xi Jinping told US President Donald Trump in a phone call on Monday that Taiwan's "return to China" remains a pillar of the post-Second World War international order, as per the Strait Times.

"China and the United States once fought side by side against fascism and militarism, and should now work together to safeguard the outcomes of World War II," Xi told Chinese media outlet Xinhua, in remarks underscoring Beijing's view that Taiwan's status is non-negotiable.

A White House official confirmed the call but provided no further details. Washington maintains a policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether it would defend Taiwan, while the island's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claim and insists its future must be determined



only by its 23 million people. The call comes against a tense regional backdrop, as China is embroiled in its sharpest diplomatic row with Japan in years after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said in November that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could trigger a military response

Romanian military reports two drone incursions, scrambles four fighter jets

Bucharest (UNI/SPUTNIK) The Romanian Defense Ministry reported two instances of unmanned aerial vehicles breaching the country's airspace on Tuesday morning in the Danube sector of the border with Ukraine, and has scrambled four Eurofighter Typhoon and F-16 fighter jets to monitor the situation.

"The defense ministry's radars detected a target heading towards Romanian airspace on the morning of November 25 near the Tulcea county. At 06:28 [04:28 GMT], two Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft were scrambled from the Mihail Kogalniceanu airbase for monitoring," the statement read.

According to the ministry, the drone crossed the border from the direction of the Ukrainian city of Vylkove and passed over the Chilia Veche village in Romania's east. The second intrusion was detected near the Galati county, which is also in

Romania's east. The Romanian military added that monitoring continued and measures had been taken in accordance with airspace protection procedures.

On December 13, 2024, the Romanian government adopted a bill to protect the country's airspace from drones, which was signed by the president in May 2025.

The law defines several situations in which a manned or unmanned aircraft "uses national airspace without permission," such as performing an unauthorized flight, deviating from an established route, interrupting the operation of identification devices, performing a flight in restricted areas, performing aerial photography without the approval of the defense ministry, as well as "if the unmanned aerial vehicle is in flight and, due to its operating mode, seriously and imminently threatens" the missions of the defense or transport ministries.