

Ukraine launches biggest drone attack on Moscow

Russia downs 34 drones; Kyiv destroys 62 of 145 drones launched by Moscow

REUTERS, Moscow

Ukraine yesterday attacked Moscow with at least 34 drones, the biggest drone strike on the Russian capital since the start of the war in 2022, forcing flights to be diverted from three of the city's major airports and injuring at least one person.

Russian air defences destroyed another 36 drones over other regions of Western Russia in three hours yesterday, the defence ministry said.

"An attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out a terrorist attack using an airplane-type drones on the territory of the Russian Federation was thwarted," the ministry said.

Russia's federal air transport agency said the airports of Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo and Zhukovsky diverted at least 36 flights, but then resumed operations. One person was reported injured in Moscow region.

Moscow and its surrounding region, with a population of at least 21 million people, is one of the biggest metropolitan areas in Europe, alongside Istanbul.

For its part, Russia launched a record 145 drones overnight, Ukraine said. Kyiv said its air defences downed 62 of those. Ukraine also said it attacked an arsenal in the Bryansk region of Russia, which reported 14 drones had been downed in the region.

Unverified video posted on Russian Telegram channels showed drones buzzing across the skyline.

The 2-1/2-year-old war in Ukraine is entering what some officials say could be its final act after Moscow's forces advanced at the fastest pace since the early days of the war and Donald Trump was elected 47th president of the US.

Trump, who takes office in January, said during campaigning that he could bring peace in Ukraine within 24 hours, but has given few details on how he would seek to do this.

When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called Trump to congratulate him on his presidential election victory, Tesla CEO and Trump supporter Elon Musk joined the call, according to media reports. Musk owns SpaceX, which provides Starlink satellite communication services that are vital for Ukraine's defence effort.



Palestinians gather to receive meals cooked by a charity kitchen, amid the ongoing Israeli offensive, in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

20 killed in Israeli strike north of Beirut

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's health ministry said an Israeli strike yesterday killed 20 people including three children in the village of Almat, north of the capital Beirut.

The Shia Muslim majority village of Almat is located in a mostly Christian region. It is outside Hezbollah's traditional strongholds of south Beirut and south and east Lebanon which Israel has heavily bombed since late September in its war against the Iran-backed movement.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Almat in the Jbeil district killed 20 people including three children and injured six, in an updated toll," the health ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also said Israeli strikes killed three Hezbollah-affiliated rescuers in the south.

Earlier, Lebanese official media reported an Israeli strike on a house in the main eastern city of Baalbek, which was not preceded by an Israeli army evacuation warning.

"Enemy aircraft launched a strike on a house in the Al-Laqaes neighbourhood" of the city, the state-run National News Agency said.

Overnight and yesterday morning, Israel conducted a series of air strikes on southern and eastern villages and locations, NNA said.

On Saturday, Israeli strikes killed 20 people in eastern Lebanon and 13 in the south, according to health ministry figures.

Israel intensified its air campaign mainly targeting Hezbollah bastions in Lebanon on September 23 and a week later sent in ground troops.

J&K GUNFIGHTS Indian soldier, suspected rebel killed

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian soldier was killed in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) yesterday, the army said, as troops battled gunmen in the disputed Muslim-majority territory.

The army said an operation had been mounted "based on specific intelligence" about the presence of suspected rebels in Kishtwar where gunmen last week shot dead two village defence guards.

The gunmen were from "the same group" behind the killing of the village defence guards. On Saturday evening the army killed a suspected rebel in a separate gunfight.

China opposes new Philippine maritime law

Vows to protect South China Sea 'sovereignty'

REUTERS, Beijing

China rejected Philippine maritime claims yesterday, saying new legislation "severely infringes on" Beijing's territorial sovereignty and rights in the South China Sea, and vowing to protect its own interests.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr signed two laws on Friday to define the country's maritime entitlements and set designated sea lanes and air routes to reinforce sovereignty.

"China firmly opposes this and will continue to take all necessary measures in accordance with the law to resolutely defend China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," the foreign ministry said.

Beijing claims sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea, including areas claimed by the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Iran says three militants killed in southeast

AFP, Tehran

Iranian security forces yesterday killed at least three people during clashes with jihadists in the country's restive southeast, state media reported, following a deadly attack on police last month.

"Three terrorists of the enemy were killed and nine others were arrested" during operations in Sistan Baluchistan province, the official IRNA news agency said.

Some 15 militants have been reported killed since an October 26 attack claimed by the Pakistan-based Sunni jihadist group Jaish al-Adl (Arabic for Army of Justice). That attack left 10 police officers dead in the province.

Sistan Baluchistan, which borders both Afghanistan and Pakistan, is one of Iran's most impoverished provinces and one of the few mainly Sunni provinces in Shiite-dominated Iran.

It has for years faced unrest involving drug-smuggling gangs, rebels from the Baluchi minority and Sunni Muslim extremists.

US warplanes attack Houthi targets

AFP, Washington

US warplanes staged multiple strikes Saturday night on Iran-backed Houthi advanced weapons storage facilities in Yemen, the Pentagon said.

The facilities contained various weapons used to target military and civilian vessels navigating international waters throughout the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, according to information provided to AFP by the Pentagon.

The Houthi-run Al Masirah

television network reported three American and British raids that targeted the capital Sanaa's southern Al Sabeen district.

"Eyewitnesses said they heard intense flying, along with explosions in different parts of the capital Sanaa," Al Masirah said.

The United States and Britain have repeatedly struck Houthi targets in Yemen since January in response to attacks by the rebels on shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The rebels say the strikes, which

have disrupted maritime traffic in a globally important waterway, target vessels linked to Israel and are intended to signal solidarity with Palestinians during the Gaza offensive.

The attacks have seriously disrupted the Red Sea route which carries 12 percent of global trade.

In more than 100 Houthi attacks over nearly a year, four sailors have been killed and two ships have sunk, while one vessel and its crew remain detained since being hijacked last November.

Advertisement for 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' (People's Republic of Bangladesh Government) regarding a tender for 'উন্মুক্ত নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Open Tender Notice). It details the procurement of refined soybean oil, rice bran oil, palm olein, and whole husked red lentil.

Advertisement for '১৬ ক্যাডালারি, রামু সেনানিবাস' (16 Cadet Quarters, Ramu Cantonment) regarding a tender for 'দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Tender Notice). It lists various construction and maintenance work items.

Advertisement for 'Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)' regarding a tender for 'Commercial Section Invitation For Tender (National) for Purchase of' refined soybean oil, rice bran oil, palm olein, and whole husked red lentil. It includes detailed specifications and terms of reference.