



“If the United States discards its delusional obsession with denuclearisation and, based on recognising reality, truly wishes for peaceful coexistence with us, then there is no reason we cannot meet it. I still personally hold fond memories of the current US president, Trump.”

Kim Jong Un
North Korean leader



GAZA CARNAGE

(From left, clockwise) Palestinians search for victims at a residential building after it was hit by an Israeli strike in Gaza City yesterday; a rescuer carries a wounded Palestinian girl as her mother tries to help her following the strike; and the father of the girl, who later died, cries during the rescue operation.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia offers US to extend key nuke treaty

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday offered to keep abiding by nuclear warhead limits agreed with the United States once a key treaty expires, but only for one year and if Washington did the same.

The New START treaty, signed in 2010, limits the number of nuclear warheads each side can deploy and is the last major arms proliferation agreement between the two nuclear powers.

It is set to expire on February 5, 2026.

“Russia is prepared to continue adhering to the central quantitative limitations of the New START Treaty for one year after February 5, 2026,” Vladimir Putin said.

He said the measure was needed to prevent “a strategic arms race” with Washington. Russia froze its participation in New START in 2023 but has continued to follow the treaty rules. The deal restricts both sides to a maximum of 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads each.

French town halls defy govt, fly Palestinian flags

AFP, Paris

Over 50 town halls in France were flying the Palestinian flag yesterday in defiance of an interior ministry warning not to do so ahead of the recognition of a Palestinian state by President Emmanuel Macron.

Macron is due to recognise a Palestinian state on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, following up on a pledge he made in the summer that angered Israel.

But hardline Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau, who is also leader of the right-wing Republicans Party, issued a circular last week ordering prefects – the top local state-appointed officials – to oppose the flying of the flags.

“The principle of neutrality in public service prohibits such displays,” the interior ministry said, adding that any decisions by mayors to fly the Palestinian flag should be referred to courts.

The standoff has underlined the social and political tension in France in the wake of Israel’s war on the Palestinians. France is home to western Europe’s largest Jewish population, at around half a million people, as well as a

significant Muslim community sensitive to the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The Socialist Party (PS) mayors of Nantes and Rennes, big cities in western and northwestern France, flew the flags outside their city halls to mark the occasion.

“Our responsibility is to reject silence and to do everything in our power, here and now, to put an end to the horror,” Rennes Mayor Nathalie Appere said in a statement.

In total 52 town halls out of 34,875 across the country were flying the flag, the interior ministry said.

The northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis also raised the Palestinian flag at a ceremony attended by PS leader Olivier Faure, who opposed Retailleau’s order.

“This flag is not the flag of Hamas, it is the flag of women and men who also have the right to freedom and self-determination,” he said.

Foreign Minster Jean-Noel Barrot appeared wary of being drawn into the debate on what he described a “historic day for peace”.

“I do not want... it to be used for political polemics, to divide us at a time when, more than ever, we need to be united to be strong,” he told TF1 television.

KSA will have Pakistan’s nuclear cover Says KSA source

AFP, Riyadh

Pakistan’s nuclear umbrella will cover Saudi Arabia, a source close to the kingdom’s government told AFP on Sunday, days after the two allies signed a surprise mutual defence treaty.

The source told AFP that the deal had been in the works for years and that Saudi Arabia expected Pakistan’s arch-rival India to understand the kingdom’s security needs.

When asked if the deal meant Pakistan’s nuclear weapons could be used to defend Saudi Arabia, Ali Shihabi, an analyst close to the royal court, told AFP: “Yes, it does”.

“Nuclear is integral to this deal and Pakistan remembers that the kingdom effectively financed their nuclear programme and supported them when they were sanctioned,” he added.

“India will understand the security needs of Saudi Arabia. Saudi maintains excellent ties with India.”

Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif reportedly also told a local broadcaster that the country’s nuclear programme would be made available to Saudi Arabia if needed, following the signing of the agreement.

The mutual defence agreement was signed in Riyadh just days after an Israeli strike targeted Hamas leaders in neighbouring Qatar that sent shock waves through the Gulf states.

The new pact also comes mere months after Pakistan and India engaged in an intense four-day conflict in May that killed more than 70 people on both sides.

‘GENERATION Z’ Anti-govt protests rage on in Peru

AFP, Lima

Hundreds of anti government demonstrators in Peru’s capital Lima took to the streets again on Sunday following clashes that injured at least 18 people, including police officers and journalists.

The youth-led “Generation Z” collective led another march toward the seat of President Dina Boluarte’s administration in downtown Lima, where police were deployed in force.

Unrest has been brewing for months in Peru, fuelled by a wave of organised crime and extortion



cases. Several opinion polls have shown that many view the government and conservative majority Congress as corrupt. Protests intensified this week after a law was passed requiring young adults to join a private pension fund, despite many facing a precarious working environment.

As night fell on Sunday, groups of protesters threw stones and Molotov cocktails at police, with officers firing tear gas in response.

ANTI-GRAFT PROTESTS Arrest tally grows in Philippines

AFP, Manila

Police in the Philippine capital arrested more than 200 people during clashes with masked protesters that erupted on a day of largely peaceful anti-corruption demonstrations, a spokesperson said yesterday.

At least 88 minors were among the initial count of 216 taken into custody Sunday as police deployed water cannons and deafening sirens against crowds of mostly young, rock-throwing protesters.

The protest was held over a ballooning scandal involving bogus flood-control projects believed to have cost taxpayers billions of dollars.



A man stands near debris on a waterfront road amid heavy rain caused by Super Typhoon Ragasa in Aparri town in the Philippines yesterday. The Chinese city of Shenzhen began preparing to evacuate 400,000 people while the typhoon made landfall in the northern Philippines, causing damage and casualties.

PHOTO: AFP

Air raid kills 23 in Pak border region

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan police and security sources said aerial bombing in a remote border region killed at least 23 civilians yesterday in an area where militancy has been rising.

Opposition MPs accused the military of carrying out the night raid as part of a counter-terrorism operation, but no official statement has been released by the government.

Pakistani Taliban militants have in recent months stepped up attacks against security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkwa province that border Afghanistan.

‘AI dreams’ putting media in peril: top economists

AFP, Paris

A group of leading economists, including Nobel winners Joseph Stiglitz and Daron Acemoglu, yesterday warned about the “collapse” of the public interest media sector and called on governments to help quality journalism survive.

The group of 11 economists in leading American and European universities published a joint statement via the “Forum on Information and Democracy”, a body formed by the Reporters Without Borders media freedom group and the French state.

After detailing the problems stemming from job losses, falling revenues and the AI threat to journalism, the economists urged governments to play a larger role in “investing in and shaping the media ecosystem.”

“Governments around the world are chasing the AI dream, pinning their

hopes on these technologies to drive economic prosperity,” they wrote. “Yet they are not investing sufficiently in a foundational resource that underpins our 21st century economies – independent, verifiable information.”

Media companies have seen their traditional model of selling advertising decimated since the advent of the internet. Online platforms such as Meta and Google captured the bulk of online advertising revenues, while new AI chatbots such as ChatGPT or Google’s Gemini have dramatically reduced the number of people accessing media company websites for information.

Government action was needed to “save us from continuing on a path where public interest journalism looks set to collapse, with enormous consequences for our economy, our society, and our democracies”, they concluded.

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Invitation for Open Tendering Method (OTM)

Invitation Tender No. 2025/21

Ref. No. HO/Procurement/Printing/OTM/2025/1766

Date: 22.09.2025

Name of work	Tender selling date and time		Tender price (non-refundable)	Last date & time for tender & security submission (refundable)	Tender / proposal opening time
	Start	Closed			
Printing work for Publication of 7 (Seven) Manuals / Policies in book to use by Rupali Bank PLC.	24.09.2025 (Only for working hours)	07.10.2025 (Only for working hours)	Tk.1000/- (one thousand only) non-refundable and to be furnished through Pay Order favoring "Rupali Bank PLC" issued from any branches of Rupali Bank PLC. The purchased original tender document must be submitted with the offer.	08.10.2025 Time: 3.00pm Tender security amount: Tk. =15,300/- (Taka fifteen thousand three hundred only)	08.10.2025 Time: 3.15pm (In form of the bidder, if any)

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Signed/-

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