Spain reaffirms Nato commitment after Trump threat

AFP, *Madrid*

Spain hit back at Donald Trump yesterday after the US President suggested expelling the country from Nato for failing to meet his ramped-up defence spending target.

In June, the Nato agreed to massively boost defence spending to five percent of annual economic output over the next decade under pressure from Trump.

But Spain, which was Nato's lowest defence spender in relative terms last year, insisted it would not need to hit the headline figure.

"We had one laggard, it was Spain," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday.

"They have no excuse not to do this, but that's all right. Maybe you should throw them out of Nato, frankly."

Government sources said on Friday that "Spain is a committed and full member of Nato. And it meets its capacity targets as much as the United States."

The Spanish opposition pounced on the stir caused by Trump's remarks to criticise Sanchez late on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Fireworks light up the sky as spectators react during the "Long Live the Workers' Party of Korea" performance to celebrate the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang on October 9, 2025.

Tempers flare as US shutdown puts troops pay at risk

AFP, *Washington*

US senators began a long weekend yesterday that guarantees the government shutdown lasting at least 14 days, with both sides more entrenched than ever and the military facing an unprecedented threat to its pay.

Republicans and Democrats have been getting into angry confrontations in the corridors of Congress, with frustration mounting as the crisis over funding the government hits public services harder each day.

Pressure is mounting on Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson to bring the shuttered lower chamber of Congress back in session to hold an emergency vote on at least providing military pay.

But the Republican leader is sticking to his guns, telling reporters Thursday that he was "committed to keeping the House out of session as long as it takes to pressure Senate Democrats."

With the Senate out until Tuesday next week, there's little hope for federal workers left wondering when their pay will be unfrozen. Now, 1.3 million active-duty service military personnel are also set to miss their pay due next Wednesday -- something that has not happened in any of the funding shutdowns through modern history.

GAZA REBUILDIN

Germany wants to organise conference

AFP, *Berlin*

Germany wants to organise an international conference with Egypt for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, Chancellor Friedrich Merz said yesterday, as Israel and Hamas edged closer to ending hostilities.

The main goal of this conference "should be to address the most urgent needs, such as rebuilding water and energy supplies and medical care", Merz said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for the German development ministry said Friday that Berlin could quickly provide 850

temporary accommodation units for Gaza.

"Fifty of them are in Ramallah and can quickly be brought to Gaza so that people can be provided with urgently needed shelter," she said, adding that 90 to 92 percent of Gaza's buildings have been badly damaged or destroyed.

On Friday Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the government had "approved the framework" of a hostage release deal with Hamas.

Merz said the deal must be "implemented swiftly" and that "the hostages, including German nationals, must finally return to their families."

"Humanitarian aid must quickly reach the people in Gaza," he added.

Merz said Germany would provide an additional 29 million euros ($33.6 million) in humanitarian aid and would also help in "supporting the medical and psychological care of the released hostages".

Netanyahu said on Friday that 48 hostages were still in Gaza, 20 of them still alive and 28 dead.

One of the dead is understood to be an Israeli soldier killed in 2014 whose remains are being held by Hamas.

Four of those still alive are reported to be German nationals.

Japan in political crisis as coalition collapses

AFP, *Tokyo*

Japan's ruling coalition collapsed yesterday as junior partner Komeito quit the alliance, putting in peril Sanae Takaichi's bid to become the country's first woman prime minister.

Takaichi became head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) less than a week ago and had been expected to be approved by parliament as premier this month.

But Komeito's decision to end the alliance that has governed Japan almost uninterrupted for 25 years sank Japan into a new political crisis.

"We want the LDP-Komeito coalition to go back to the drawing board for now and bring an end to our relationship," Komeito party chief Tetsuo Saito told reporters after talks with the LDP.

"Given that we have not received clear and concrete cooperation from the LDP regarding our demands, and if these reforms prove impossible to achieve, I said (in the meeting) that it would be utterly impossible for us to write Sanae Takaichi's name in the nomination," he said.

In particular, Saito told Takaichi that her answers on the LDP's recent slush fund scandal were unsatisfactory, media

reports said.

Saito said however that Komeito would still support budget plans and other legislation that the two parties have prepared.

Takaichi said the coalition's collapse was "extremely regrettable" and that their decision to exit the alliance was "unilateral".

She was due to replace Shigeru Ishiba, who took the reins last year, but saw his coalition lose its majority in both houses of parliament, driven in part by voter anger at inflation and the LDP slush fund scandal.

Tomoaki Iwai, professor emeritus of Nihon University, told AFP that she would likely still be elected prime minister "if the opposition fails to unite in electing their own candidate".

But "the running of the government will be extremely unstable", he warned, "with everything decided in a form of cooperation from outside the government".

Komeito was reportedly also unhappy about Takaichi's more conservative politics.

This includes her previous regular visits to the Yasukuni shrine honouring Japan's war dead, including war criminals.

The last visit to Yasukuni by a serving prime minister in 2013, by the late Shinzo Abe -- Takaichi's mentor -- prompted fury from China and South Korea and disquiet from Washington.

Media reports this week said that Takaichi might skip going to the shrine during the upcoming autumn festival, which will be held from October 17 to 19.

Takaichi, 64, whose hero is Margaret Thatcher, had hailed a "new era" Saturday after becoming head of the LDP.

She had won a runoff leadership contest against the telegenic and more socially progressive Shinjiro Koizumi.

ICC rejects release bid by Duterte

AFP, *The Hague*

Former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte, charged with crimes against humanity, will remain in custody after the International Criminal Court yesterday rejected a request from his defence team for release on medical grounds.

ICC judges ruled that Duterte posed a flight risk and could influence witnesses if freed, arguing that this outweighed any medical problems suffered by the 80-year-old.

"The Chamber finds that Mr Duterte's detention continues to remain necessary," the ICC said in a heavily redacted ruling dated October 10.

ICC prosecutors have charged Duterte with three counts of crimes against humanity, alleging his involvement in at least 76 murders as part of his "war on drugs".

The first count concerns his alleged involvement as a co-perpetrator in 19 murders carried out between 2013 and 2016 while Duterte was mayor of Davao City.

The second count relates to 14 murders of so-called "High Value Targets" in 2016 and 2017 when Duterte was president.

And the third charge is about 43 murders committed during "clearance" operations of lower-level alleged drug users or pushers.

State and local law enforcement officers detain a protester during a demonstration near an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility in Broadview, Illinois, yesterday. A federal judge on October 9 ordered a temporary halt to President Donald Trump's deployment of hundreds of National Guard troops in the Chicago area as part of his sweeping crime and immigration crackdown. PHOTO: AFP

Taliban points to Pakistan as double blast hits Kabul

AFP, *Kabul*

The Taliban government yesterday accused Pakistan of "violating Kabul's sovereign territory", a day after two explosions were heard in the capital.

The Taliban have previously accused Islamabad of border strikes, but this is the first time it has alleged an incursion deep into its territory, describing it as an "unprecedented act".

"Pakistan violated Afghanistan's airspace, bombing a civilian market in the Marghi area of Paktika near the Durand Line and also violating Kabul's sovereign territory," the Defence Ministry said in a post on social media.

"This is an unprecedented, violent, and heinous act in the history of Afghanistan and Pakistan," it added.

The statement did not specify how Kabul's territory had been violated, but AFP journalists heard two loud blasts in the capital late Thursday.

Residents in Marghi reported that a market selling second-hand weapons had been bombed.

The statement did not say in what way Pakistan had violated Kabul's territory, but AFP journalists heard two powerful blasts on Thursday night.

The same evening, residents in the border town of Marghi reported that a market selling second-hand weapons had been bombed.

আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিক্ষাবর্ষ: ২০২৪-২০২৫

বিদেশি ভাষার নাম	আরবি, চীনা, ইংরেজী, ফরাসি, জার্মান, হিন্দি, ইতালিয়ান, জাপানি, কোরিয়ান, ফার্সি, রাশিয়ান, স্প্যানিশ, তুর্কি এবং বাংলা (শুধুমাত্র বিদেশি শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য)।
কোর্সের মেয়াদ	১৫০ ঘণ্টা (০১ বছরে সমাপ্য)
শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমসমূহের নাম	এলিমেন্টারি সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স (ইংরেজী ব্যতীত সকল ভাষা) ইংরেজী লি-ইন্টারমিডিয়েট সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স
ক্লাশের ব্যাস্তিকাল	প্রতি ক্লাস ২ ঘন্টা করে, সপ্তাহে ২/৩ দিন।
ভর্তির ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা	এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/বি গ্রেড/জিপিএ ২.৫ থাকতে হবে। ইংরেজী ভাষা কোর্সটি শুধুমাত্র ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অধ্যয়নরত নিয়মিত শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য।
আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ (অনলাইন ও অফলাইন)	ক) জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি. (ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়) শাখা থেকে নগদ টাকার বিনিময়েও ভর্তির আবেদন সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। খ) আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের নির্ধারিত ওয়েবসাইট https://portal.iml.du.ac.bd/Other-registration এর মাধ্যমে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরম অনলাইনে পাওয়া যাবে, যা যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে (i) ১ কপি ছবি ও (ii) নিজ স্বাক্ষর (৮০×৮০ কেবির নিচে) এর স্ক্যানড কপি আপলোড করতে হবে।
আবেদন বাবদ ফিস জমা (অনলাইন ও অফলাইন)	ক) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অধ্যয়নরত নিয়মিত শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (খ) ভূতপূর্ব ও অন্যান্য শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ৭০০/- (সাতশত) টাকা
আবেদনপত্র জমা (শুধু অফলাইন)	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অধ্যয়নরত নিয়মিত শিক্ষার্থীদের স্ব-স্ব বিভাগের চেয়ারম্যান / ইনস্টিটিউট পরিচালকের স্বাক্ষরকৃত (অফলাইন আবেদনপত্র সমূহ) আবেদনপত্র এবং ভূতপূর্ব ও অন্যান্য শিক্ষার্থীদের আবেদনপত্রের সাথে এস.এস.সি. ও এইচ.এস.সি. / সমমান পরীক্ষা পাশের সনদপত্র অথবা মার্কশীটের ফটোকপিসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংকে (*জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি., ঢা. বি. শাখায়*) আগামী ১২ই অক্টোবর ২০২৫ তারিখ থেকে ১২ই নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে জমা দিয়ে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।

ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে যাবতীয় তথ্য ইনস্টিটিউটের ওয়েবসাইট এবং নোটিশ বোর্ডে প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে।

অধ্যাপক মোহাম্মদ আবদুর কামাল
পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

GD-2168

India to upgrade Afghan mission to full embassy

AFP, *New Delhi*

India will upgrade its technical mission in Afghanistan to a full embassy, Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said yesterday, as he met his counterpart from Kabul in New Delhi.

Russia is the only country to officially recognise the Afghan Taliban government since they seized control of the country in August 2021, although several nations do have embassies in Kabul.

India had a large embassy in the Afghan capital until the Taliban takeover, when they withdraw most diplomats and downgraded the facility to a technical mission.

"I am pleased to announce today the upgrading of India's Technical Mission in Kabul to the status of Embassy of India," Jaishankar told Amir Khan Muttaqi.

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