

MILITARY MESSAGE

## Trump urges jail time for Democrats

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said late Saturday that six Democrats involved in a video calling on military officers to refuse illegal commands “should be in jail.”

The Republican leader’s remarks came after he accused the Democrat lawmakers on Friday of “seditious behaviour, punishable by death.”

Democrats slammed Trump’s comments as “absolutely vile” threats against the six senators and representatives, all of whom have served in the military or intelligence community. Trump took to social media on Saturday night, writing: “the traitors that told the military to disobey my orders should be in jail right now, not roaming the fake news networks trying to explain that what they said was ok.”

## Iran warns of attempts to target Khamenei

AFP, Tehran

Iran’s intelligence ministry has warned of attempts by foreign adversaries, including the United States and Israel, to target Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and destabilise the Islamic republic.

The country’s ISNA news agency reported on Saturday that intelligence minister Esmail Khatib cautioned “the enemy seeks to target the Supreme Leader, sometimes with assassination attempts, sometimes with hostile attacks”.

While it was not immediately clear if the minister was referring to a specific incident, and Iranian officials often allege foreign plots, statements on threats against Khamenei’s life had been rare prior to a 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June.

“Those who act in this direction, knowingly or unknowingly, are the infiltrating agents of the enemy,” Khatib added, referring directly to Israel and the United States.

During the conflict earlier this year, Israel targeted senior Iranian military officials, nuclear scientists and sites as well as residential areas, with the US later joining with strikes on key nuclear facilities.



People hold placards during a protest against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in solidarity with the people of Kashmir, on the second day of the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Ukraine’s drones hit Russian power station

Fire sparks, heating cut off in Moscow region; US signals room for talks on peace plan

AGENCIES

Ukraine struck a heat and power station in the Moscow region yesterday with drones, triggering a major fire and cutting off heating for thousands in one of Kyiv’s biggest attacks to date on a power station deep inside Russia.

In the fourth year of the deadliest European conflict since World War Two, Russia has been pummelling Ukraine’s electricity and heat infrastructure while Kyiv has up until now mostly focused on trying to knock out Russia’s oil refineries, crude terminals and pipelines.

But early yesterday, Ukrainian

- **Russia’s Vnukovo airport halted flights**
- **Backup power, heating units being deployed**
- **Rubio lands in Geneva; Trump says Ukraine ungrateful**

drones struck the Shatura Power Station, about 120 km (75 miles) east of the Kremlin, Moscow region governor Andrei Vorobyov said.

Unverified video footage on Telegram showed loud bangs, several balls of flames and black smoke rising into the night sky



while an unidentified observer cursed in Russian, reports Reuters.

Russia’s defence ministry said it had downed 75 Ukrainian drones, including 36 over the Black Sea and several over the Moscow region. Russia’s Vnukovo airport halted flights yesterday.

“Some of the drones were destroyed by air defence forces. Several fell on the territory of the station. A fire broke out at the facility,” Vorobyov said.

Vorobyov said that backup power had been switched on and that mobile heating systems were being deployed to the area where the temperature was around freezing point.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Geneva yesterday morning for

discussions on a US plan to end the Ukraine war, after Washington signalled room for negotiation on the controversial proposal, reports AFP.

Ukrainian, European and Canadian officials were also gathering in the Swiss city, although the format for the talks remained unclear.

Trump has given Ukraine until November 27 to approve the plan to end the nearly four-year conflict, but Kyiv is seeking changes to a draft that accepts some of Russia’s headline demands.

Trump said yesterday that Ukraine has not been grateful for American efforts related to the war with Russia even as US weapons continue to flow and Europe keeps buying Russian oil.

## POST-UPRISING Over 8 lakh new voters register for Nepal polls

AFP, Kathmandu

Hundreds of thousands of new voters have registered to cast their ballot in Nepal’s first polls since a mass uprising in September ousted the government, election officials said yesterday.

Election Commission spokesman Narayan Prasad Bhattarai told AFP there was “a total of 837,094 registered names” of first-time voters.

Bhattarai said that by Friday, 123 established parties had registered to take part in the March 5 parliamentary polls, while another 40 new slates await further verification to be allowed to run.

Interest in participating in the elections has surged, especially among young people who see it as a critical test of whether the demands of protesters who took to the streets against economic hardships and government corruption can translate into meaningful change.

Dikshya Poudel, a student, said the uprising had encouraged her to register her name last week.

“I am excited to cast my vote for the first time in the upcoming election. I will be voting for a new changemaker,” she said.

# What did nations agree to at COP30?

AFP, Belem

The COP30 climate summit has drawn to a close after two weeks in the Amazonian city of Belem where protests, street marches and even a fire caused unexpected moments of drama.

But beneath enormous tents erected over a former airport at the edge of the rainforest, nations also adopted some decisions on how to battle climate change.

Here are the main negotiated outcomes, and the voluntary commitments, made during the summit attended by nearly 200 nations:

**FOSSIL FUELS**

The thorniest issues were bundled into a “mutirao” pact -- the summit’s slogan, drawn from the Tupi-Guarani word for “collective effort.”

The agreement included an initiative for countries to collaborate on a voluntary basis to reduce carbon emissions and strive to limit global warming to 1.5C relative to pre-industrial levels.

It also noted a commitment made by all nations at COP28 in Dubai to “transition away from fossil fuels” -- but this exact phrase, which has become politically sensitive, was not included.



**FINANCE**

The world’s poorest nations have long complained they lack the finance for “adaptation” -- measures to protect their economies from rising seas, such as building sea walls, and other impacts of climate change.

In a win for developing countries at COP30, the final agreement “calls for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by

2035.”

In 2024, rich countries agreed to provide \$300 billion a year by 2035 in climate finance to developing nations, with no specific amount earmarked for adaptation.

Most of that goes to projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as renewable energy, and not to adaptation -- something developing nations have long complained puts them at a disadvantage.

**TRADE**

For the first time, trade has been included as a pillar of the final text, with a three-year dialogue to take place under the climate framework.

This reflected concerns from countries including China that trade measures -- like taxes on carbon-intensive goods -- could erode export revenues or throw up barriers to green technology sales.

**FORESTS**

At COP30, Brazil launched a new global investment vehicle that proposes paying out a share of profits to forest-rich countries for every hectare of trees they leave standing.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced during a leaders’ summit in Belem last week -- even before COP30 officially started -- the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility.

The TFFF attracted \$5.5 billion in pledges from Norway, Germany, Indonesia, France and Brazil -- the biggest contributors.

Ultimately, Brazil is seeking to raise \$125 billion in public and private investment, but said the fund could start working even without the full \$25 billion in startup capital from governments.

**METHANE PLEDGES**

Slashing methane emissions -- the second-largest contributor to climate change after carbon dioxide -- is considered one of the fastest ways to curb global warming.

Although it remains in the atmosphere for about 12 years, the “super pollutant” is roughly 80 times more potent than CO2 over a 20-year period.

At COP30, seven countries -- Britain, France, Canada, Germany, Norway, Japan and Kazakhstan -- signed a statement vowing to achieve “near zero” methane emissions across the fossil fuel sector.

# G20 grapples with splintering world order

AFP, Johannesburg

G20 leaders gathered in South Africa yesterday hailed multilateralism -- even as they struggled to adapt to a changing world order beset by go-it-alone US policies, wars and deepening geopolitical rivalries.

The final day of their weekend summit -- boycotted by the United States -- kicked off with a searching discussion on how the G20 can survive in a fragmenting world.

“We are not experiencing a transition, but a rupture,” acknowledged Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to journalists just before the summit session.

“Too many countries are retreating into geopolitical blocs or the battlegrounds of protectionism,” he said, but added: “In every rupture resides the responsibility to build -- nostalgia is not a strategy.”

Dozens of leaders from key economies around the world -- including Europe, China, India, Japan, Turkey, Brazil and Australia -- attended the summit, the first to be held in Africa. US President Donald Trump’s government snubbed the event, saying South Africa’s priorities -- including cooperation on trade and climate -- ran counter to its policies.

The US is retreating from multilateral forums as it stokes trade volatility with sweeping tariffs and reverses commitments to fight global warming. In a joint G20 statement issued Saturday, the leaders present said they were meeting “against the backdrop of rising geopolitical and geo-economic competition and instability, heightened conflicts and wars, deepening inequality, increasing global economic uncertainty and fragmentation”.



People attend a protest against asylum seekers being housed at an army training camp in Crowborough, Britain, yesterday. Britain on Monday said it would make refugee status temporary and speed up the deportation of those who arrive illegally, in a major overhaul aimed at stemming the rise of the populist Reform UK party and tackling abuse of the current system.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Vietnam rain, flooding kill 90 last week

AFP, Hanoi

Heavy rain, severe flooding and landslides in Vietnam have killed at least 90 people in the last week, authorities said yesterday, leaving others stranded on rooftops and mountain roads blocked.

Relentless rain has lashed south-central Vietnam since late October and popular holiday destinations have been hit by several rounds of flooding, with economic losses estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Whole sections of coastal Nha Trang city were inundated last week, while deadly landslides struck highland passes around the Da Lat tourist hub.

In the hard-hit mountainous province of Dak Lak, 61-year-old farmer Mach Van Si said the floodwaters left him and his wife stranded on their sheet-metal rooftop for two nights.