France braces for more protests next Saturday

Says interior minister; Macron warns it could turn 'risky'

AGENCIES

France is bracing for more trouble this coming weekend related to student protests and broader anti-government demonstrations, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said yesterday.

Asked if Saturday could be another high-risk day, regarding the likelihood of violent clashes between demonstrators and police, Nunez told BFM TV: "Quite clearly, yes."

Nunez added that curfews that have been set up to try and prevent the looting and vandalism that have broken out on the sidelines of demonstrations were also likely to stay in place, reports Reuters.

President Emmanuel Macron warned that the new wave of protests this weekend could turn "risky", adding that protest routes would remain outside city centres to protect public order.

"Next Saturday is expected to be another risky day," Macron said during a visit to Marseille, France's second-largest city, where protesters briefly stormed city hall on October 17.

Macron acknowledged that authorities had "not anticipated at all" the scale of the demonstrations a week earlier, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, Marine Le Pen, France's far-right candidate to succeed Macron, kicked off her campaign Sunday evening vowing to "restore the rule of law" if elected next year.

Le Pen -- the frontrunner in the polls -- seems to be benefiting from the convulsions France has been going through for weeks. "We are going to restore the rule of law," she said.

She was addressing 8,500 supporters of her nationalist, anti-immigration party in the city of Orleans, where Joan of Arc -- revered by the far right as a symbol of national resistance -- lifted an English siege in 1429.



Brazilian President and Workers' Party (PT) re-election candidate Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva speaks alongside his wife, First Lady Rosângela da Silva, and Vice President Geraldo Alckmin after winning the presidential runoff election in São Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday evening. PHOTO: AFP

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill 5

UN probe accuses Israel of West Bank 'extermination'

AFP, *Gaza City*

Five Palestinians, including a young girl, were killed yesterday in Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip, medical sources and first responders said.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmoud Bassal said a total of 13 people had been killed and about 60 wounded by Israeli fire and airstrikes in Gaza in the past 24 hours.

"We transported three martyrs, including a child, following an Israeli airstrike targeting a camp for displaced people in the Al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Yunis," Bassal told AFP.

Israel's military told AFP it was "not aware" of any military activity in that area.

Israel has committed the crime against humanity of "extermination" in the West Bank, while continuing to commit "genocide" against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, United Nations-mandated investigators said yesterday.

The commission, which does not speak for the UN itself, first determined in a September 2025 report that Israel had committed "genocide" in the war in Gaza - a finding Israel flatly rejects.

Russia open to short-term Ukraine truce

Says Kremlin, rules out halting offensive despite upcoming US-brokered talks

AFP, *Moscow*

Russia said yesterday that it would not slow down its offensive on Ukraine despite upcoming US-brokered talks on ending the conflict but that it could agree local "humanitarian" ceasefires.

The Kremlin said that it was open to short-term "humanitarian" ceasefires along the front line, ahead of a truce in the ravaged Russian-occupied city of Oleshky.

A ceasefire was due to start in the southern Ukrainian city early today, brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump after months of reports that residents faced dire food, water and medicine shortages.

Asked whether Russia would consider more local truces, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "For humanitarian purposes, absolutely."

But Moscow vowed not to let up in the overall pace of the war, even as the sides prepare to restart stalled talks under US mediation next month.

"The decision to resume trilateral talks does not imply any restrictions on combat operations," Peskov said.

"Our armed forces continue to carry out massive strikes on Ukraine's military-industrial complex," he added.

Russia has intensified drone and missile attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks, hitting energy sites around major cities in what Kyiv says is a bid to plunge the country into cold and darkness throughout the winter.

Strikes last year left millions without heating or electricity with temperatures as low as -20C.

The two sides are to meet next month with US envoys to discuss ways to end Europe's worst conflict since World War II.



Meanwhile, a drone attack in Russia's Voronezh region killed two men and injured 17 people, including a child, regional governor Alexander Gusev said yesterday.

Air defence systems had destroyed 113 drones over the region, Gusev wrote on the MAX messaging app. Fires also broke out at several industrial sites, Gusev said.

A passenger train bound to Moscow from Anapa in Russia's Krasnodar region, popular among Russian vacationers, was also damaged and five passengers injured, Russian Railways said.

Train services through Voronezh have been suspended.

IN BRIEF



Anthropic's AI model accessed US voter data

AFP, *Washington*

Anthropic's Claude AI model bypassed a paywall and accessed publicly available voter data in the US state of Georgia without human authorisation, Axios reported on Sunday.

The case is the latest in a string of security scares at the world's top AI developers ahead of US midterm elections on November 3. Claude accessed aggregate voter counts in Georgia, where more than one million voters have already cast early ballots, it reported, citing an Anthropic spokesperson.

The model, which was being trained as part of an internal statistics project, accessed the information behind a paywall by bypassing the system "without being asked to." It did not access the state's voter registration system or change or download any voting records, spokesperson said.

Deeply divided Israel goes to the polls

AGENCIES

Israel goes to the polls today amid deep divisions and political tensions.

Polls published recently put the governing coalition and the main opposition bloc almost neck-and-neck, with half a million first-time voters due to cast their ballot and some 70,000 Israelis reportedly flying in from abroad specifically to vote. Over the course of a neck-and-neck race, Netanyahu has campaigned heavily on his security credentials, insisting only he can "finish the job" in the US-Israeli war on Iran, reports AFP.

Polls published recently put the governing coalition and main opposition bloc almost neck-and-neck

But his main rival, ex-army chief Gadi Eisenkot, has accused him of playing up the Iran threat when it suits him politically, and of failing to accomplish his war goals.

Mass outages as Sudan RSF drones hit power stations



AFP, *Khartoum*

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) yesterday launched a coordinated drone attack against five power stations, causing mass power outages across the country's east, a government official told AFP.

The drones hit two power stations each in the states of Al-Jazira and Gedaref, and one in White Nile state, "resulting in power outages across large parts of these three states", the official said.

All three states are controlled by the Sudanese army, which has since April 2023 been at war with its former ally, the RSF.

The United Nations has repeatedly warned that regular attacks on power stations threaten health and services for millions of people, already facing the world's largest hunger crisis.

Venezuela opposition leader returns home

Trump signals continued backing for interim president

REUTERS, *Caracas*

Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado returned home on Sunday evening after nearly a year away, following several failed attempts to return that strained her ties with US President Donald Trump's administration.

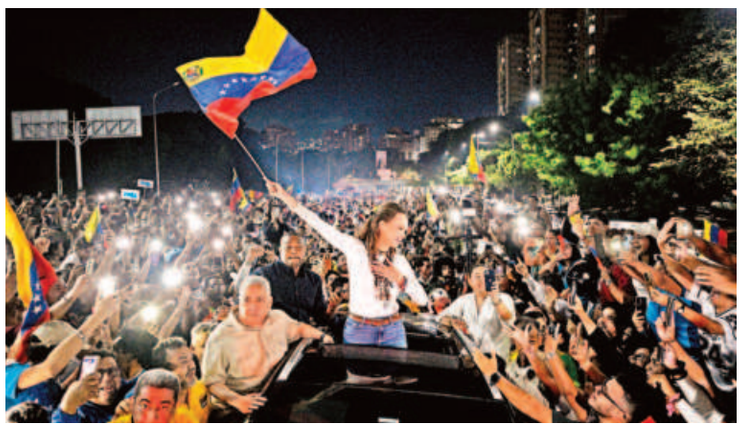
"I'm here. With you all," the Nobel Peace Prize winner wrote on X.

She appeared at a church in western Lara state, according to images shared by her press team, and was greeted by bystanders who sang the national anthem and shouted "liberty!" as she left in an SUV, a Reuters witness said.

Throughout the day on Sunday, she traveled toward Caracas by road as supporters gathered along her route to cheer her on.

Her return was coordinated with the US, Panamanian and Colombian governments, according to a person briefed directly on Machado's movements and plans, who added that Trump approved her return and was kept informed about it.

At the White House on Sunday, however, Trump said he did not know anything about Machado's return and suggested the US would continue to back Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez.



"She's a very nice woman," he said, referring to Machado. "But we're doing really well in Venezuela."

The White House and the State Department did not respond to Reuters questions on the matter. Machado's efforts to return have tested her relationship with the Trump administration, which she has sought to cultivate as an ally since before it removed former president Nicolas Maduro from power in January.

Trump has repeatedly expressed support for Rodriguez, a former deputy to Maduro, and hailed deals on oil production and other business ventures by US companies in the South American country. Trump said in September it was too soon to consider democratic elections in Venezuela.

US officials have asked Machado at least once to delay her return, Reuters reported in June, and she has made several failed attempts to enter the country. Her team did not disclose details of how she returned.

Machado travelled in a private plane from Panama to Colombia and crossed overland on Sunday to Venezuela.

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বৃক্ষরোপণে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জাতীয় পুরস্কার ২০২৬ প্রদানের জন্য আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান।

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিভিন্ন ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত বৃক্ষরোপণ কর্মকান্ডকে নিম্নে বর্ণিত ০৭(সাত) টি শ্রেণীভুক্ত করে প্রত্যেক শ্রেণীতে ৩(তিন)টি করে পুরস্কার প্রদানের জন্য সরকার সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছেন।

(ক) প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়/ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়/এবতেদায়ী মাদ্রাসা/ সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা /কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
(খ) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/উপজেলা পরিষদ/জেলা পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন/ অধিদপ্তর/পরিদপ্তর/সেক্টর/কর্পোরেশন/প্রতিষ্ঠান / এন জি ও/ক্লাব/স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা
(গ) ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ে বৃক্ষরোপণ
(ঘ) ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন নার্সারী
(ঙ) ব্যক্তিগত/প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক পর্যায়ে সৃজিত ছাদ বাগান
(চ) বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক সৃজিত বাগান
(ছ) বৃক্ষ সম্পর্কিত গবেষণা/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবন

আবেদনপত্রের ফরম প্রাপ্তি ও দাখিলের স্থান

(১) বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, চট্টগ্রাম উত্তর বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়, বন পাহাড়, নন্দনকানন, চট্টগ্রাম।
(২) উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় (সকল), চট্টগ্রাম জেলা।
(৩) রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়- মীরসরাই রেঞ্জ, মীরসরাই উপজেলা/ বারৈয়াঢালা রেঞ্জ,সীতাকুন্ড উপজেলা/ নারায়নহাট রেঞ্জ,ফটিকছড়ি উপজেলা/ হাটহাজারী রেঞ্জ, হাটহাজারী উপজেলা/ ইছামতি রেঞ্জ, রাউজান উপজেলা/ রাংগুনিয়া রেঞ্জ, রাংগুনিয়া উপজেলা/ পটিয়া রেঞ্জ, পটিয়া ও বোয়ালখালী উপজেলা/ পটিয়া এস.এফ.এন.টি.সি, কর্ণফুলী ও আনোয়ারা উপজেলা/ দোহাজারী রেঞ্জ,চন্দনাইশ উপজেলা / পদুয়া রেঞ্জ, লোহাগাড়া উপজেলা/ কালীপুর রেঞ্জ, বাঁশখালী উপজেলা/ মাদার্সা রেঞ্জ, সাতকানিয়া উপজেলা/ সন্দীপ রেঞ্জ, সন্দীপ উপজেলা/ শহর রেঞ্জ, মহানগর এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম জেলা।

এতদসংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয় (প্রয়োজন হলে) বর্ণিত কার্যালয় হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।
আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ সময় ঃ ২৫/১১/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত।

(ড. আবু নাসের মোহসিন হোসেন)
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সদস্য-সচিব
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