



‘Heinous’ Russian attack on Ukraine capital kills six

Drone and missile strikes pound Ukrainian capital, causing heavy civilian casualties

● Drone hit market, killing two

● Azerbaijan embassy compound damaged

● Officials reported 30 wounded

AFP | Kyiv

Russia struck residential parts of Ukraine's capital Kyiv yesterday, Ukraine said, killing six people in a single apartment block in attacks President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced as "heinous" and aimed at civilians.

Kyiv also said a Russian drone attack on a market in southern Ukraine hours later killed two more people.

It was one of the largest attacks on Kyiv since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, hitting buildings in most of the capital's districts.

The attack also damaged Azerbaijan's embassy.

Baku said an Iskander-type missile had destroyed part of its compound and summoned Moscow's envoy.

In the east of the city, where rescue workers were clearing



Destroyed cars are seen at the site of an air-attack, in Chornomorsk, Odessa region

debris, AFP reporters saw multi-storey buildings with dozens of windows and balconies blown out, their facades charred.

"My hair caught fire and I started putting it out," said local resident Maria Kalchenko, outside one of the buildings.

She turned to look for her dog before a wall near her collapsed.

"The doors were blown out, flames everywhere, the fire

spreading, the neighbours screaming," she told AFP.

Zelensky said the attack was specifically aimed to cause "terror".

"This was a deliberately calculated attack aimed at causing maximum harm to people and civilian infrastructure," he added.

A hospital, shops and offices were also damaged, and around 30 people were wounded, offi-

cials said.

'Contempt for humanity'

Moscow has fired record missile and drone barrages at Ukraine in recent months, hitting energy and rail infrastructure.

It has also targeted residential areas, knocking out power for tens of thousands across the country as temperatures plunge.

Germany said yesterday's at-

The attack damaged the embassy of Azerbaijan, prompting the country to summon Russia's ambassador after an Iskander-type missile destroyed part of its diplomatic compound

tack showed a "contempt for humanity" from Moscow.

"It is very evident and clear that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin aims to make winter as unbearable as possible for Ukraine, to destroy morale and break the resistance of the Ukrainian people," German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said.

Overnight, AFP journalists saw Ukraine using tracer bullets and missile defence systems, and incandescent debris falling over large areas above the capital.

The explosions lit up the night sky in flashes of bright orange.

India's Modi celebrates as party set for big win in state vote



Supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) holding a photograph of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrate vote counting results of the party's victory in the Bihar assembly elections

AFP | Patna

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday hailed a "resounding" victory for his party and its allies in a key local election in the state of Bihar.

The eastern state of 130 million people was widely seen as a bellwether and a test of Modi's ability to translate New Delhi's booming economy into gains for its citizens.

Counting is still ongoing and the final tally may not be out until Saturday, but the election commission said partial results and projections suggested a solid majority for Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) and its allies in the state assembly.

Modi called the win a "victory of good governance".

"This resounding public mandate will empower us to serve the people and work with new resolve for Bihar," he said in a post on social media.

Together with smaller allies, BJP are on course to securing at least three quarters of the state legislature's 243 seats, according to figures from the election commission.

The election outcome can boost Modi and his party ahead of other key regional polls next year, analysts say.

US announces new military operation in Latin America



A Venezuelan navy patrol boat escorts Panamanian flagged crude oil tanker Yoselin near the El Palito refinery in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela

AFP | London

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Thursday a military operation to "remove narco-terrorists," amid growing concerns that a US naval build-up in Latin American waters could presage land strikes and a wider conflict.

"Today, I'm announcing Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR," Hegseth posted on X. "This mission defends our Homeland, removes narco-terrorists from our Hemisphere, and secures our Homeland from the drugs that are killing our people."

The post gave no details of

what the operation would entail or how it might differ from military actions already being undertaken.

President Donald Trump's administration is conducting a military campaign in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, deploying naval and air forces for what it calls an anti-drugs offensive.

US forces have carried out strikes on about 20 vessels in international waters in the region since early September, killing at least 76 people, according to US figures.

Asked for clarification on the precise nature of Opera-

tion Southern Spear, a Pentagon spokesperson simply referred inquiries back to Hegseth's post on X.

CBS News on Wednesday cited multiple sources as saying senior military officials had presented Trump with updated options for potential operations in Venezuela, including strikes on land.

Venezuela announced Tuesday what it called a major, nationwide military deployment to counter the growing US naval presence off its coast -- including a newly arrived US aircraft carrier strike group in the region.



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TWEETS

01



Wishing King Charles a very Happy Birthday, and sharing my appreciation for his leadership on promoting healthy lifestyles, advancing #HealthForAll and addressing the threats posed by #climatechange. @RoyalFamily

@DrTedros

02



If the last 40 days tell us anything about the radical-left Democrats, it's that they're willing to burn the country down just to get President Trump. Troops' salaries, SNAP benefits, Air Traffic controllers – they don't care about the cost so long as it hurts Trump.

@VP

03



Warmest birthday wishes to His Majesty The King. Grateful for your continued leadership and service to our country.

@RishiSunak

04



Wishing His Majesty The King a very happy birthday.

@Keir_Starmer

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