

News in brief

US Navy ship on fire
for 12 hours off Japan



the statement said. The 208.4-metre (684-foot), 24,433-ton amphibious transport dock ship is anchored off the White Beach Naval Facility.

A Ukrainian suspect has
been arrested in Italy over the
sabotage of the Nord Stream

underwater gas pipelines from Russia to Europe in 2022, German prosecutors said yesterday. The suspect, identified as Serhii K., is accused of being part of a cell “who placed explosive devices on the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines”, they said. He is “believed to have been one of the coordinators of the operation” in which a group allegedly hired a yacht in the German Baltic Sea port of Rostock to carry out the attacks.

Ukrainian suspect arrested
in Italy over Nord Stream blasts



Hurricane Erin brings coastal
flooding to N. Carolina, Virginia



Though the Mid-Atlantic bore the brunt of the impacts, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) urged beach goers throughout the entire East Coast to refrain from swimming to avoid being caught in potentially life-threatening conditions.

Hurricane Erin
brought coastal flooding
to parts of North Carolina

and Virginia as it made its closest approach to the US mainland early yesterday. High waves washed over Highway 12 that links the Outer Banks island chain, making parts impassable, images posted by local authorities showed -- proving the giant storm's ability to kick up dangerous seas hundreds of miles from its center.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Egypt reveals 2,000-year-old ruins
discovered in Alexandria waters



Egypt's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Sherif Fathi inspects a recovered artifact at Abu Qir bay in Alexandria

AFP | Alexandria

Egypt yesterday unveiled parts of a sunken city submerged beneath waters off the coast of Alexandria, revealing buildings, artefacts and an ancient dock, all dating back over 2,000 years.

Egyptian authorities said the site, located in the waters of Abu Qir Bay, may be an extension of the ancient city of Canopus, a prominent center during the Ptolemaic dynasty, which ruled Egypt for nearly 300 years, and the Roman Empire, which governed for around 600 years.

Over time, a series of earthquakes and rising sea levels submerged the city and the nearby port of Heracleion, leaving behind a treasure trove of historical remains.

Yesterday, cranes slowly hoisted statues from the depths, while divers in wet-suits, who had helped retrieve them, cheered from the shore.

“There’s a lot underwater, but what we’re able to bring up is limited, it’s only specific ma-

terial according to strict criteria,” Egyptian Tourism and Antiquities Minister Sherif Fathi said.

“The rest will remain part of our sunken heritage,” he added.

The underwater ruins revealed by the ministry yesterday include limestone buildings that may have served as places of worship, residential spaces and commercial or industrial structures.

Reservoirs and rock-carved ponds for domestic water storage and fish cultivation were also uncovered.

Other notable finds were statues of royal figures and sphinxes from the pre-Roman era, including a partially preserved sphinx with the cartouche of Ramses II, one of the country’s most famous and longest-ruling ancient pharaohs.

Many of the statues are missing body parts, including a beheaded Ptolemaic figure made of granite, and the lower half of a Roman nobleman’s likeness carved from marble.

Zelensky demands security guarantees before summit

Ukrainian leader wants firm security guarantees before meeting Putin

● Zelensky says meeting depends on security guarantees

● Allies drafting military coalition led by UK and France

● Russia launches heaviest drone and missile barrage in a month

AFP | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he could meet with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, but only after his allies agree security guarantees for Ukraine to deter future Russian attacks once the fighting stops.

In comments released yesterday, he also warned both sides were preparing for further fighting. Russia was building up troops on the southern front line and Ukraine was test-launching a new long-range cruise missile, he said.

Russia said yesterday that Ukraine did not appear to be interested in “long-term” peace, accusing Kyiv of seeking security guarantees completely incompatible with Moscow’s demands.

US President Donald Trump is trying to end Russia’s three-and-a-half year invasion of Ukraine through talks with Zelensky and Putin.

While he has upended a years-long Western policy of isolating the Russian leader, he has made little tangible progress towards a peace deal.

“We want to have an understanding of the security guarantees architecture within seven to 10 days,” Zelensky said, in comments to reporters released for publication yesterday.

“We need to understand which country will be ready to do what at each specific moment,” he added.



smoke rising above a damaged building following a Russian air attack, in Mukachevo, Zakarpattia region

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Ukraine’s newly tested “Flamingo” cruise missile reportedly hits targets up to 3,000km away—potentially reshaping the military balance if mass production starts in early 2026

A group of allies led by Britain and France are putting together a military coalition to support the guarantees.

Fresh Russian barrage

Once an outline of the security guarantees is agreed, Trump would like to see a bilateral meeting between Putin and Zelensky, the Ukrainian leader said.

But any meeting with the Rus-

sian leader should he held in a “neutral” European country, he added, ruling out any summit in Moscow.

He also rejected the idea of China playing a role in guaranteeing Ukraine’s security, citing Beijing’s alleged support for Moscow.

Zelensky’s comments came as Russia launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Ukraine overnight -- the biggest barrage since mid-July -- killing one person in the western city of Lviv and wounding many others.

A later shelling attack on the city of Kherson killed one person and wounded six others, a local official said.

Explosions were reportedly heard throughout the night.

France yesterday condemned the overnight strikes as showing Moscow’s “lack of will to seriously engage in peace talks”, describing the strikes as the “most massive attack in a month”.

Russia claims advances

On the front lines, Russia said it had captured the village of Oleksandro-Shul'tyne in the eastern

“We want to have an understanding of the security guarantees architecture within seven to 10 days. We need to understand which country will be ready to do what at each specific moment

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

Donetsk region, the latest in a long string of territorial gains.

The village lies less than eight kilometres (five miles) from Kostiantynivka, a fortified town in the Donetsk region that Russia has been pressing towards on both sides.

In comments to journalists yesterday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused Ukraine of making unrealistic security demands.

Any deployment of European troops to the country would be “absolutely unacceptable”, he said.

Indian, French leaders agree to strengthen ‘strategic partnership’

AFP | New Delhi

India and France agreed to strengthen their strategic partnership and economic exchanges in a phone call between the two countries’ leaders yesterday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron also coordinated their positions on the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza.

“Had a very good conversation with my friend President Macron,” Modi said in a post on social media, adding that they had agreed to strengthen their “strategic partnership”.

A government statement said Modi and Macron also discussed



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Moscow

bilateral cooperation in areas including trade, defence and energy.

It said Macron also shared his assessment of a summit Trump held with Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders in Washington on Monday, days after the US leader met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

Israel’s war with Gaza was also discussed, the statement said.

Modi said he and Macron had exchanged views on “efforts for the peaceful resolution” of those conflicts.

The telephone call between Modi and Macron came as Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar met Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and then Putin in Moscow.

Jaishankar said after meeting Lavrov that they had “reaffirmed our shared ambition to expand bilateral trade” by increasing India’s exports to Russia.