

## **EFE News Briefs for Monday, Oct. 21 (End of the Day); NEWS BRIEFS**

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### **Body**

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#### Commons speaker Bercow rejects Brexit vote

London, Oct 21 (EFE).- The Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow on Monday rejected the Conservative Party government's bid to hold a meaningful vote on its Brexit deal.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's executive still intends to push necessary legislation for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

On Saturday, he presented a motion calling for MPs in the Commons to support his deal, the UK's lower chamber of Parliament, but shelved it last minute when lawmakers voted in favor of an amendment that required the PM to request a Brexit extension.

"My ruling is that the motion will not be debated today as it would be repetitive and disorderly to do so," Bercow told the Commons.

A Downing Street spokesperson said the PM would in the coming hour publish the legislation he plans to bring before the Commons for a vote on Tuesday.

It will be the first time Parliament will know whether Johnson has enough support in the chamber to pass the deal he agreed with the EU last week.

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#### Chile flashback to Pinochet era with curfew, soldiers in the streets

Santiago, Oct 21 (EFE).- Military helicopters flying over Santiago's deserted streets during the curfew and the armed forces guarding local supermarkets are signs of the times these days in Chile that evoke for many Chileans the darkest years of the 1973-1990 Augusto Pinochet dictatorship.

The militarization of Chile to quell the disturbances and looting that have prevailed in several cities since last Friday, and during which about 10 deaths have been reported, is a flashback to times that seemed to have been forgotten in a country that considered itself an oasis of peace within a sometimes tumultuous Latin America.

## EFE News Briefs for Monday, Oct. 21 (End of the Day); NEWS BRIEFS

It was the government's hike in metro fares in Santiago that lit the fuse resulting in the explosion of violence, with protesters committing arson, looting and clashing with police, actions that led the government to put securing public order into the hands of the military in the country's main cities.

The situation got worse with the imposition of an overnight curfew, an unprecedented measure in Chile since the reestablishment of democracy after the military regime.

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Opposition candidate warns of fraud in Bolivia, while gov't vows transparency

La Paz, Oct 21 (EFE).- Opposition candidate Carlos Mesa called on citizens this Monday to mobilize against possible fraud being committed in the recount of votes in Bolivia's elections, while accusing the national elections agency of following orders from President Evo Morales to avoid a run-off.

"We are not going to permit another 21-F," Mesa said, referring to the Feb. 21, 2016, referendum that denied the president the possibility of running for a fourth term, though the Constitutional Tribunal later supported his right to unlimited reelections.

"What this manipulation is trying to do is completely block a run-off," Mesa said.

Mesa appeared before the media in La Paz surrounded by followers to call on opposition parties and civic movements like the National Committee for the Defense of Democracy to support a "democratic mobilization" by his party, the Civic Community alliance.

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Canada's polling places open for general election

Toronto, Canada, Oct 21 (EFE).- The polling stations have opened in Canada for the general elections being held on Monday in which voters will elect the 338 lawmakers in the lower house of Parliament.

The polling places in the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador on Canada's Atlantic coast were the first to open at 8:30 am local time, and they will remain open for 12 hours.

The polling stations in the Pacific coast province of British Columbia were the last to open their doors. The voting centers allowed voters in to cast their ballots starting at 7 am and will remain open until 7 pm.

Canada, the world's second largest country by land area with 9.98 million square kilometers (3.85 million square miles) and 37.5 million residents, spans six time zones.

Elections Canada, the public entity tasked with organizing elections in the country, estimated that 4.7 million people, some 29 percent more than in the 2015 elections, have already voted during the four days set aside for early voting.

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Russia says ballistic missile launch did not fail, was canceled

Moscow, Oct 21 (EFE).- The launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile did not fail but was canceled, Russia's defense ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The rocket had been scheduled to launch last Thursday as part of the "Thunder-2019" military exercises headed by President Vladimir Putin, according to the ministry.

The government department released a statement shortly after the Vedomosti newspaper reported that the Ryazan nuclear submarine fired one, not two R-29R intercontinental ballistic missiles, as per the plan for the exercises.

## EFE News Briefs for Monday, Oct. 21 (End of the Day); NEWS BRIEFS

A military source cited by the paper said this could have been down to a failure in one of the systems that transmit the launch order.

"The information about an extraordinary situation during the 'Thunder-2019' strategic exercises does not correspond to reality," the Russian Ministry of Defense said.

It did acknowledge that a second R-29R missile had been scheduled to launch.

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#### Czech spy agency dismantles Russian cyber-espionage network

Prague, Oct 21 (EFE).- Czech security services last year dismantled a Russian spy network that would have targeted the Czech Republic and its allies, the country's spy agency said Monday.

"The network was financed from Russia and by the Russian Embassy and its objective, by way of a network of servers, was to attack targets in the Czech Republic and its foreign allies," Michal Koudelka, the head of the Czech spy agency (BIS), said in a statement.

He said the network was composed of Russian pirates, some of whom had Czech nationality.

Koudelka added that those involved were listed as employees of Czech cover companies that sold hardware and software.

He said the web, which was completely dismantled, was preparing to launch cyberattacks in other European countries.

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