

NATION & WORLD

DIGEST

Ukrainian troops claim they downed Russian jet

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian forces said they shot down a Russian fighter plane Saturday.

The Russian bomber was shot down near the city of Kostiantynivka in the Donetsk province, head of the Kostiantynivka Military Administration Serhiy Horbunov was quoted as saying by Ukraine's public broadcaster, Suspilne. Photos showed charred remains of an aircraft.

Also in the partially occupied Donetsk province, Russia's Defense Ministry claimed it took control of the village of Zhelanne Druhe. If confirmed, the capture would come three days after Ukrainian forces said they would withdraw from the town of Vuhledar, about 21 miles from Zhelanne Druhe.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that he will present his "victory plan" at the Oct. 12 meeting of the Ramstein group of nations that supplies arms to Ukraine.

Congo begins mpox vaccination campaign

GOMA, Congo — Congolese authorities Saturday began vaccinations against mpox, nearly two months after the World Health Organization declared a global emergency over the disease outbreak that spread from Congo to several African countries and beyond.

The 265,000 doses donated to Congo by the European Union and the U.S. were rolled out in the eastern city of Goma in North Kivu province, where hospitals and health workers were overstretched, struggling to contain the new and possibly more infectious strain of mpox.

Congo, with about 30,000 suspected mpox cases and 859 deaths, accounts for over 80% of all the cases and 99% of all the deaths reported in Africa this year. All of the Central African nation's 26 provinces recorded mpox cases. Most infections and deaths recorded in Congo were in children, but the doses being administered are meant for adults and will be given to at-risk populations and frontline workers. At least 3 million doses of a vaccine approved for children are expected from Japan in coming days, Health Minister Roger Kamba said.

BRIEFLY

MORMONS: As both presidential campaigns stepped up efforts to win over voters in western swing states who belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a top church official urged members Saturday to "avoid what is harsh and hateful" in the heat of election season.

MERCENARY: Russian prosecutors asked for a seven-year sentence in the trial of Stephen Hubbard, 72, a U.S. citizen accused of fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine against Russia, Russian news agencies reported Saturday.

HUNGARY: Thousands of protesters gathered Saturday outside the headquarters of Hungary's public media corporation to demonstrate against what they say is an entrenched propaganda network operated by the nationalist government at taxpayer expense.

INDIA: At least 31 suspected Maoist rebels were killed in a battle with counterinsurgency troops in central India, police said Saturday.

CROATIA: A van packed with migrants slid off the road and overturned in central Croatia early Saturday, killing two people and injuring 25, including some seriously, police and doctors said.

PAKISTAN: Militants killed six Pakistani soldiers in a shootout, the army said Saturday, amid unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

— Associated Press



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SEVERE WEATHER

Milton threatens Florida

Kirk expected to bring dangerous conditions, areas reel after Helene

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — A storm system that was brewing in the Gulf of Mexico strengthened into Tropical Storm Milton on Saturday, and forecasters warned it could intensify into a hurricane and slam into the west coast of Florida this week.

Tropical Storm Milton was about 220 miles north-northeast of Veracruz, Mexico, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said in an afternoon advisory. It had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in 35 counties ahead of the storm's potential landfall. Since many of those counties are still recovering

from Hurricane Helene, he asked the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Transportation to coordinate all available resources and personnel to supplement local communities as they expedite debris removal.

Though no coastal watches or warnings were in effect, the hurricane center said the Florida Peninsula, the Florida Keys, Mexico's Yucatan peninsula and the northwestern Bahamas should monitor the system's progress.

The storm is forecast to strengthen and bring the risk of life-threatening impacts to parts of Florida, with hurricane and storm-surge watches likely in effect from Sunday. Parts of the state were expected to have heavy rainfall beginning that day, threatening flooding.

"There is an increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and

wind impacts for portions of the west coast of the Florida Peninsula beginning late Tuesday or Wednesday. Residents in these areas should ensure they have their hurricane plan in place, follow any advice given by local officials, and check back for updates to the forecast," the center said.

Looking further east, Leslie strengthened into a hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean but isn't threatening land, forecasters said. The storm was located Saturday about 725 miles west-southwest of the southernmost Cabo Verde Islands and had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Kirk remained a Category 4 storm, and waves from the system were affecting the Leeward Islands, Bermuda, and the Greater Antilles, forecasters said. The storm's

swells were expected to spread to the East Coast of the United States, the Atlantic Coast of Canada and the Bahamas on Saturday night and Sunday.

Forecasters warned the waves could cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

Kirk was expected to weaken starting Saturday, the center said.

Though there were no coastal warnings or watches in effect for Kirk, the center said those in the Azores, where swells could hit Monday, should monitor the storm's progress. Kirk was about 975 miles east-northeast of the northern Leeward Islands with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph.

The storms churned as rescuers in the U.S. Southeast searched for people unaccounted for more than a week after Hurricane Helene. The death toll from that storm inched up to 227 on Saturday.

ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS



GERARD CARREON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police block activists from marching Saturday near the U.S. Embassy in Manila during a protest to observe the first-year anniversary of the war in Gaza.

Protesters rally around globe

Events held before first anniversary of Hamas militant attack on Israel

GIADA ZAMPANO AND SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

ROME — Police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse violent demonstrators in Rome as tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters took to the streets around the globe Saturday to call for a cease-fire as the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel approached.

Massive rallies were planned in several major cities, with the largest gatherings expected from Saturday to Monday, the date of the anniversary, when protests were expected to peak.

In Rome, several thousands demonstrated peacefully Saturday afternoon until a smaller group tried to push the rally toward the

center of the city, in spite of a ban by local authorities who refused to authorize protests, citing security concerns.

Some protesters, dressed in black and with their faces covered, threw bottles and paper bombs at the police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons, eventually dispersing the crowd.

In London, thousands gathered in Russell Square amid a significant police presence. Some of the march's organizers said they planned to target companies and institutions they claimed were "complicit in Israel's crimes," including Barclays Bank and the British Museum.

Tensions were high as pro-Palestine protesters and counter-demonstrators, some holding Israeli flags, passed one another. Scuffles broke out as police pushed back activists trying to get past a cordon. London's Metropolitan Police said 17 people were

arrested on suspicion of public order offenses and assault.

In the German city of Hamburg, about 950 people staged a peaceful demonstration with many waving Palestinian and Lebanese flags or chanting "Stop the Genocide," the DPA news agency reported, citing a count by police. Two smaller pro-Israeli counter-demonstrations took place without incident, it said.

Several thousands protesters gathered peacefully in Paris in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people. Many waved Palestinian flags while holding posters reading "stop the genocide," "free Palestine," and "hands off Lebanon."

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators also gathered at New York's Times Square to call for a cease-fire, chanting "Gaza!" to a drumbeat. Rallies also were planned in several other cities in the U.S. as well as other parts of the world,

including Denmark, Switzerland, South Africa and India. In the Philippines, dozens of left-wing activists protested near the U.S. Embassy in Manila, where police prevented them from getting closer to the compound.

Pro-Israeli demonstrations were expected to be held Sunday because Jews across the world are still observing Rosh Hashana, or the Jewish new year.

This year, the midpoint of the 10 days spanning Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is Oct. 7 — the one-year anniversary of the Hamas attack that killed 1,200 Israelis and triggered the war in Gaza. More than 41,000 Palestinians were killed since then in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Security forces in several countries warned of heightened levels of alert in major cities, amid concerns the Middle East conflicts could inspire terror attacks or that the protests could turn violent.

Trump, Vance case referred to county prosecutors

Haitian group brings charges over claims about immigrants

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — An Ohio court referred to county prosecutors a criminal case brought by a citizens' group against the

Republican presidential and vice presidential candidates over their comments about Haitian immi-

grants but rejected the group's call to issue arrest warrants or misdemeanor summons.

Springfield officials said Saturday that the Clark County municipal court found no probable cause to issue warrants or summons on misdemeanor charges against former president Donald Trump and running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance.

The Springfield News-Sun reported that the judicial panel said particular consideration should be given to "the strong constitutional

protections afforded to speech, and political speech in particular" with the election so close and the "contentious" nature of the issue of immigration.

The Haitian Bridge Alliance, a nonprofit group representing the Haitian community, last month invoked a private-citizen right to file charges over the chaos and threats experienced since Trump first spread false claims about legal immigrants there.

"Their persistence and relent-

lessness, even in the face of the governor and the mayor saying this is false, that shows intent," said the group's attorney, Subodh Chandra of the Cleveland-based Chandra Law Firm. "It's knowing, willful flouting of criminal law."

The 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian immigrants who arrived in Springfield over the past several years — in many cases after being recruited to local jobs — were granted "temporary protected status" to be in the U.S. legally.