

# NATION & WORLD

## DIGEST

### Russia fires drones, missiles at Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces attacked Ukraine overnight with 87 Shahed drones and four types of missiles, officials said Sunday.

A 49-year-old man was killed in the Kharkiv region after his car was hit by a drone, said regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. A gas pipeline was also damaged and a warehouse set alight in the city of Odesa, Ukrainian officials reported.

Ukraine's air force said in a statement that air defenses destroyed 56 of the 87 drones and two missiles over 14 Ukrainian regions, including the capital, Kyiv.

### North Korea, China mark 75-year alliance

SEOUL, South Korea — The leaders of North Korea and China marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations on Sunday by exchanging messages that expressed hopes for stronger ties, as outsiders raised questions about their relationship.

The message exchange came as North Korea and Russia have been sharply expanding their cooperation while China apparently keeps its distance. Experts say that the level of exchanges and commemorative programs between North Korea and China in the coming months will provide a clue to the exact status of their ties.

In a message sent to Chinese President Xi Jinping, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his government will "steadily strive to consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations" between the two countries, according to North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency.

#### BRIEFLY

**MARBURG VACCINE:** Rwandan health authorities will begin a vaccine study against Marburg hemorrhagic fever, officials said Sunday, as the East African country tries to stop the spread of an outbreak that has killed 12 people. Rwanda received 700 doses of a vaccine under trial from the U.S.-based Sabin Vaccine Institute on Saturday.

**EX-GOVERNOR ASSAULT:** Two boys, ages 12 and 13, were arrested Saturday in connection with an assault Friday on former New York Gov. David Paterson, 70, and his stepson, Anthony Sliwa, 20, police said. They were treated at a hospital for minor injuries.

**SYNAGOGUE THREAT:** A Minnesota man was arrested after allegedly threatening to "shoot up" Temple Israel, a Minneapolis synagogue, officials said Saturday. A special police detail was notified Thursday of a man outside with a firearm. He fled the area, but officers arrested a 21-year-old man the next day.

**KAZAKHSTAN:** Polls opened in Kazakhstan on Sunday for a referendum on building the country's first nuclear power plant, confronting the country's painful legacy as a testing ground for Soviet nuclear weapons. The proposal is backed by the government and President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

**GREAT BRITAIN:** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's chief of staff, Sue Gray, quit on Sunday, citing concerns that growing news reports about tensions between her and Starmer's chief adviser Morgan McSweeney "risked becoming a distraction to the government."

**TUNISIA:** Voter apathy dominated Tunisia's presidential election Sunday, with a turnout of under 30% in the country's third presidential ballot since last decade's Arab Spring. Results had yet to be officially announced but President Kais Saied was expected to win easily.

— Associated Press



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## TROPICAL WEATHER | HURRICANE MILTON

# Tampa girds for storm

### FEMA leader decries Trump's 'demoralizing' conspiracy theories

**FREIDA FRISARO**  
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Hurricane Milton quickly intensified Sunday and is on track to become a major hurricane with the Tampa Bay area in its sights, putting Florida on edge and triggering evacuation orders along a coast still reeling from Helene's devastation.

While forecast models vary, the most likely path suggests Milton could make landfall Wednesday in the Tampa Bay area and remain a hurricane as it moves across central Florida into the Atlantic Ocean, forecasters said. That would largely spare other southeastern states ravaged by

Hurricane Helene, which caused catastrophic damage from Florida into the Appalachian Mountains, with a death toll that rose Sunday to at least 130 people.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Sunday that it's clear that Florida is going to be hit hard by Milton — "I don't think there's any scenario where we don't have major impacts at this point."

Also on Sunday, the U.S. government's top disaster relief official said that false claims and conspiracy theories about the federal response to Hurricane Helene — spread most prominently by Donald Trump — are "demoralizing" aid workers and creating fear in people who need recovery assistance.

"It's frankly ridiculous, and just plain false. This kind of rhetoric is not helpful to people," said Deanne Criswell, who leads the Federal Emergency Management

Agency. "It's really a shame that we're putting politics ahead of helping people, and that's what we're here to do. We have had the complete support of the state," she said, referring to North Carolina.

Republicans, led by the former president, have helped foster a frenzy of misinformation over the past week among the communities most devastated by Helene, promoting a number of false claims, including that Washington is intentionally withholding aid to people in Republican areas.

Trump accused FEMA of spending all its money to help immigrants who are in the United States illegally, while other critics assert that the government spends too much on Israel, Ukraine and other foreign countries.

Hurricane Milton was centered about 815 miles west-southwest

of Tampa on Sunday afternoon, with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph, the National Hurricane Center said.

"You have time to prepare — all day today, all day Monday, probably all day Tuesday to be sure your hurricane preparedness plan is in place," the governor said. "If you're on that west coast of Florida, barrier islands, just assume you'll be asked to leave."

In Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, officials issued voluntary evacuation orders for people along the barrier island beaches and mobile home parks. Mandatory evacuations are likely to follow.

With Milton achieving hurricane status, this is the first time the Atlantic has had three simultaneous hurricanes after September, said Colorado State University hurricane scientist Phil Klotzbach.

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



ARMIN DURGUT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents survey the catastrophic damage Sunday following a major storm in Buturovic Polje, Bosnia.

# ‘This is EU solidarity in action’

### Rescue teams rush to help area devastated by floods, landslides

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Rescue teams from Bosnia's neighbors and European Union countries on Sunday joined efforts to clear the rubble and find people still missing from floods and landslides that devastated parts of the Balkan country.

Bosnia sought EU help after a heavy rainstorm overnight on Friday left entire areas under water and debris destroyed roads and bridges, killing at least 18 people and wounding dozens.

"Our hearts and thoughts are

with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, hit by devastating floods," EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on X. "We have activated our EU Civil Protection Mechanism and are sending rescue teams on the ground. This is EU solidarity in action."

Officials said that at least 10 people were unaccounted for, many of them in the village of Donja Jablanica, in southern Bosnia, which was almost completely buried in rocks and rubble from a quarry on a hill above.

Residents there have said they heard a thundering rumble and saw houses disappear before their eyes.

"We heard water and rock coming down from the hill. I told my

son, Let's go up to the attic, we don't know what's going to happen," recalled Munevera Dautbegovic. "In the morning when we got out, we saw a large amount of sand around."

Regional Gov. Nermin Niksic visited the village on Sunday, promising help to rebuild. "All material damage can be compensated somehow but human lives cannot. Grief will stay on."

Earlier on Sunday, Luigi Soreca, who heads the EU mission in Bosnia, said on X that teams were arriving to help. Bosnia is a candidate country for membership in the 27-nation bloc.

Authorities said Croatian rescuers have already arrived while a team from Serbia is expected later, followed by a Slovenian

team with dogs. Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Czechia and Turkey have also offered help, a government statement said.

Sunday was the date of a local election in Bosnia. Election authorities have postponed voting in the flood-hit regions, but the flooding has overshadowed the vote across the country.

Ismeta Bucalovic, a resident of Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, said "we are all overwhelmed by these flooding events. We all think only about that."

Impoverished and ethnically divided, Bosnia has struggled to recover after the brutal war in 1992-95. The country is plagued by political bickering and corruption, stalling its EU bid.

## Advocacy groups suspend use of ‘suicide capsule’

**JAMEY KEATEN**  
Associated Press

Advocacy groups behind a so-called suicide capsule said Sunday they suspended the process of taking applications to use it — which numbered over 370 last month — as a criminal investigation into its first use in Switzerland is completed.

The president of Switzerland-based The Last Resort, Florian Willet, is being held in pretrial detention, said the group and Exit International, an affiliate founded

in Australia over a quarter century ago.

Swiss police arrested Willet and several other people following the death of an unidentified 64-year-old woman from the U.S. Midwest who on Sept. 23 became the first person to use the device, known as the "Sarco," in a forest in the northern Schaffhausen region near the German border.

Others initially detained were released from custody, authorities said.

Switzerland has some of the

most permissive laws in the world when it comes to assisted suicide, though the first use of the Sarco prompted a debate among lawmakers.

Laws in the rich Alpine country permit assisted suicide so long as the person takes his or her life with no "external assistance" and those who help the person die do not do so for "any self-serving motive."

The advocacy groups said in a statement Sunday that 371 people were "in the process of applying" to use the Sarco in Switzerland as

of Sept. 23 and applications were suspended after its first use.

Exit International, whose founder Dr. Philip Nitschke is based in the Netherlands, is behind the 3D-printed device that cost over \$1 million to develop.

The Sarco capsule is designed to allow a person sitting in a reclining seat inside to push a button that injects nitrogen gas from a tank underneath into the sealed chamber, allowing the person to fall asleep and then die by suffocation in a few minutes.