





FOUR

migrants died on Monday when their boat capsized off the Greek island of Lesbos



GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing 31 18 SNY Los Angeles 35 20 LC
Colombo 32 26 LC Melbourne 18 9 HR
Dhaka 34 27 SNY Moscow 21 9 HR
Dubai 41 31 SNY New York 24 20 LC
Houston 37 27 SNY Singapore 30 27 SNY
Istanbul 31 22 SNY Toronto 21 14 LC
London 21 12 LC Washington 26 21 SNY

Kyiv says it captured key village, eyes breakthrough

Russia intensifies pressure on frontlines in Ukraine's northeast

KYIV

UKRAINE announced Monday it had recaptured a village on the southern frontline where its forces are hoping for a breakthrough in their grinding offensive against entrenched Russian positions.

Kyiv launched its pushback in June after stockpiling Western-supplied weapons, building up assault battalions and attacking Russian positions.

But officials in Kyiv have acknowledged that progress has been slow and Moscow says Ukrainian forces are running out of resources.

"Robotyne has been liberated. Our forces are advancing southeast of Robotyne and south of Mala Tokmachka," Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malyar said on television.

Both settlements are in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia, one of four that the Kremlin claimed to have annexed last year despite not having control over any of them.

Ukraine's limited advances on the southern front have spurred a political debate in Western capitals over political and military support for Kyiv.

BELARUS TOLD TO EXPEL WAGNER FIGHTERS

Poland and Baltic nations on Monday asked Belarus to expel the Russian mercenary group Wagner, whose fighters are sheltering there after a failed rebellion against Moscow.

Compared to previous offensives in the Kherson and Kharkiv regions, Ukrainian forces are crashing into Russian defensive lines of trenches and minefields that are kilometres deep.

The US-based Institute for the Study of War said Russia had "committed a considerable amount of materiel, effort, and manpower to hold the series of defensive positions that Ukrainian forces are currently penetrating".

Apart from clawing back several hamlets in the south,

Ukrainian forces have pressured the flanks of Bakhmut, a war-scarred eastern town captured by Russia in May.

Malyar said on Monday that Ukrainian troops were advancing south of Bakhmut and that they had recaptured one square kilometre there over the last week of fighting.

Ukrainian officials have estimated that Russia has committed around 1,00,000 additional troops to frontlines in the northeast to pressure defensive lines.

TRIPOLI

LIBYA'S internationally recognised prime minister has suspended his top diplomat after she met her Israeli counterpart, with news of the encounter triggering demonstrations in a country that does not recognise Israel.

Oil-rich Libya, which plunged into chaos after dictator Moamer Kadhafi was toppled and killed in 2011, has been divided since 2014 between the UN-supported government of Prime Minister Abdelhamid Dbeibah in Tripoli and a rival administration based in the country's east.



People burn tyres in Tripoli as they protest an informal meeting between Libyan foreign minister Najla al-Mangoush (inset) and her Israeli counterpart | AFP

met with her Israeli counterpart in Rome last week.

Mangoush was "provisionally suspended and subject to an administrative investigation", Dbeibah's government

said, hours after Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said the "unprecedented" meeting had taken place.

On Monday, Libya's Internal Security Agency (ISA) said

Mangoush had not been authorised to leave the North African country after reports on social media that she had flown to Turkey overnight as the protests flared.

Internet users had posted the tracking details from the Flight-Radar website of a flight said to be carrying Mangoush from Mitiga airport in Tripoli to Istanbul. "Surveillance cameras will prove this" is false, the ISA said in a statement.

Mangoush "is on the travel ban list until she submits to the investigation", said the security agency.

Turkey's Anadolu news agency, citing security sources, said Mangoush had already left for Istanbul following the diplomatic furore.

There was no official confirmation of the flight from Ankara or Tripoli, however. AFP

UK weighs attaching GPS trackers on illegal migrants

LONDON

ELECTRONICALLY tagging illegal migrants into the UK as part of the government's expanded detention plans is among a range of options being considered by the government.

The Indian-origin minister was reacting to a report in The Times that claimed that GPS trackers will be deployed to tag migrants under new Illegal Migration Act requirements.

The report said Home Office officials are looking at it as a way to stop the absconding of migrants who cannot be housed in detention centres because they are full to capacity.

"We've just enacted a landmark piece of legislation in the form of our Illegal Migration Act that empowers us to detain those who arrive here illegally and thereafter swiftly remove them to a safe country like Rwanda," Braverman told Sky News. "That will require a power to detain and ultimately control those people 'we need to exercise a level of control if we are to remove them from the United Kingdom. We are considering a range of options. We have a couple of thousand detention places in our existing removal capacity."

Ramaswamy wants Musk as his advisor

WASHINGTON

VIVEK Ramaswamy, an Indian-American Republican presidential candidate, has indicated that he would like Elon Musk to be an advisor in his administration if he gets elected as the US president in 2024.

Ramaswamy, 38, made these remarks on Friday at a town hall in Iowa when he was asked about whom he would want as advisers for his potential presidency, NBC News reported. Ramaswamy admires the mass layoffs Musk conducted after taking over Twitter. Ramaswamy has complimented Musk's management of X. PTI

All flights grounded in UK over technical snag

LONDON

THOUSANDS of passengers were stuck on the tarmac all over the UK and abroad on Monday after planes leaving and flying to Britain were grounded following a "technical issue" that hit British air traffic control (ATC), officials said.

The UK's National Air Traffic Services (NATS) said it had "applied traffic flow restrictions to maintain safety" across its airports. They did not provide any further information about what caused it or how long it would take to fix.

The disruption comes on one of the busiest travel days of the

year - with many people returning from holidays on the last Bank Holiday weekend of the summer. NATS said a technical issue was affecting its "ability to automatically process flight plans" and they were working to solve the issue "as quickly as possible".

"Until our engineers have resolved this, flight plans are being input manually which means we cannot process them at the same volume, hence we have applied traffic flow restrictions.

Our technical experts are looking at all possible solutions to rectify this as quickly as possible," it said. AFP

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