

# 'Russian attack on Ukraine involved over 100 missiles, 100 drones'

KYIV, Aug 26 (AP)

**UKRAINIAN** President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday condemned Russia's overnight and early morning barrage on his country as "vile" and said it involved over 100 missiles of various types and about 100 "Shahed" drones.

Ukraine's leader said there were deaths and dozens of injuries and that the attack caused a lot of damage to Ukraine's energy sector. "Like most previous Russian strikes, this one was just as vile, targeting critical civilian infrastructure. Most of our regions — from the Kharkiv region and Kyiv to Odesa and our western regions," Zelenskyy said. The



A Russian Army Buk-2M self-propelled, medium-range surface-to-air missile system fires at air targets in an undisclosed location in Ukraine.

(AP/PTI)

barrage began around mid-daybreak in what appeared to be Russia's biggest attack

against Ukraine in weeks.

Explosions were heard in the capital, Kyiv.

Power and water supplies in the city have been disrupted by the attack, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

At least three people were killed — one in the western city of Lutsk, one in Dnipropetrovsk region and one in the partially-occupied Zaporizhzhia region in the southeast, according to local officials.

Thirteen others were wounded — one in the Kyiv region that surrounds the Ukrainian capital, five in Lutsk, three in the southern Mykolaiv region and four in the neighbouring Odesa region.

Blackouts and damage to

civilian infrastructure and residential buildings were reported across the country, from the region of Sumy in the east, to the Mykolaiv and Odesa regions in the south, to the region of Rivne in the west.

Russian forces fired drones, cruise missiles and hypersonic ballistic Kinzhal missiles at 15 Ukrainian regions — more than half the country, Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said on Monday morning.

According to Ukraine's air force, there were multiple groups of Russian drones moving toward eastern, northern, southern, and central regions of Ukraine, followed by multiple cruise and ballistic missiles.

# 443-km India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya is fully secure, says BSF

SHILLONG, Aug 26 (PTI)

THE Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday said the 443-km India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya is fully secure and denied claims of illegal entry by Bangladeshi nationals.

The paramilitary force issued a statement after the media in the neighbouring country reported that Awami League leader Ishak Ali Khan Panna died of heart attack while climbing a hill in Meghalaya's Dawki in an attempt to flee his country. Dawki, in Meghalaya East Khasi Hills, is located close to Bangladesh.

A BSF spokesperson told PTI, "There is no illegal entry of Bangladesh nationals in the area of responsibility of the Meghalaya Frontier BSF along the Indo-Bangla border. The story of Panna's death being circulated is entirely fabricated. Any attempt at illegal infiltration or activities that compromise the security of our nation will be dealt with firmly."

The BSF increased vigil along the border following the August 5 violence in Bangladesh, successfully thwarting several illegal entry attempts and arresting those

involved.

The BSF has contacted the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Assam regarding the matter. "The assistant high commission of Bangladesh has confirmed that they have not received any official information concerning Panna's death near the border area as of now," the BSF spokesperson added.

Local sources in Dawki, including villagers, have denied the claims of Panna's death while climbing a hill in Meghalaya.

An elder from Dawki said, "If a Bangladeshi tried to enter India, our relatives from across the border would have informed us, and we would relay the information to the BSF and police. There is no such incident, and several attempts by Bangladeshi nationals to cross the border have been thwarted."

Another source at the border claimed that Panna died around 400 metres away from the international border, well within Bangladeshi territory.

The source added that Panna was travelling with few people he trusted and had come close to the Bangladesh border when he was attacked.

# Ladakh gets 5 new districts

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (PTI)

**UNION** Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

In a post on 'X', Shah said in pursuit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh, the Union Home Ministry has decided to create the five new districts.

"The new districts, namely **Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang**, will take the benefits meant for the people to their doorsteps by bolstering governance in every nook and



cranny," he said.

The Home Minister said the Modi Government is committed to creating abundant opportunities for the people of Ladakh.

Ladakh was made a UT after the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs on August 5, 2019. The other UT is Jammu and Kashmir.

On that day five years ago, the Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile State, was also abrogated.

Being a UT, Ladakh comes under the direct administrative control of the Union Home Ministry.

**Step towards better governance, prosperity, says PM Modi**

NEW DELHI, Aug 26 (PTI)

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hailed the creation of five new districts in Ladakh as a step towards better governance and prosperity.

Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and  
(Contd on page 5)



# Yunus promises interfaith harmony in Bangladesh

AKM Moinuddin

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh interim govt chief adviser Prof **Muhammad Yunus** said Monday he wants to build a Bangladesh where everyone can practice their faith without fear and where no temple needs to be guarded.

"Our responsibility is to establish the rights of every citizen, our job is to ensure justice for every citizen," he told a group of Hindu leaders at Jamuna State Guest House. They had raised the issue of Hindu property being grabbed, including Hindu temple land, said the chief adviser's press wing.

The leaders included Kajal Debnath and Monindra Kumar Nath of Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, Charu Charan Brahmachari of Iskcon, Basudeb Dhar and Santosh Sharma of Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad, and Priti Chakraborty of Universal Medical College and Hospital. Yunus

also exchanged Janmash-tami greetings with leaders of the Hindu community.

"There can't be any division among people in our country. We are equal citizens. The interim govt is determined to protect the rights of every citizen," he said.

The Hindu leaders said they had suspended Janmashtami celebrations in the flood-stricken parts of the country and sent food and relief to the region.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party, meanwhile, said they did not see any roadmap in Yunus' Sunday address to the nation. "We're still in a state of confusion. We thought the chief adviser would present a roadmap but we didn't find that roadmap for a transition to democracy in his speech," BNP secretary-general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said. BNP hoped the interim govt would engage in dialogue with parties on a national election and reforms.





# 'Diaspora living bridge between India, US'

WASHINGTON, Aug 26 (IANS)

ON THE concluding day of his US tour, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, where he interacted with members of the Indian diaspora, describing them as a "living bridge" between India and the United States.

In his post on X, Rajnath Singh said, "Had a wonderful interaction with the Indian community at Memphis. Their contribution to society, science, and the economy has been exemplary."

The Defence Minister



Rajnath Singh

engaged with Indian community members from Memphis, Atlanta, Nashville, and other nearby areas, on Sunday, praising their significant contributions to various sectors, his office said in a statement.

He highlighted the pivotal role of the Indian diaspora in fostering close relations and goodwill between the two nations, further strengthening bilateral ties.

Additionally, Singh commended the community's efforts in establishing an exhibit of Mahatma Gandhi and placing two honourary 'Gandhi Way' street signs near the National Civil Rights Museum during the

150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019. The National Civil Rights Museum, which traces the history of the civil rights movement in the US from the 17th century to the present, is built around the site where Dr Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated in 1968. The museum also features a bust of Mahatma Gandhi, acknowledging his influence on non-violent resistance.

During this final event of his US visit, Singh also emphasised India's remarkable growth over the past decade and its promising future potential. Earlier in the day, the Defence Minister toured the William B Morgan Large Cavitation Channel at the Naval Surface Warfare Centre.



# Indian ISMR delegation calls on Singapore President, PM

SINGAPORE, Aug 26 (PTI)

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday called on Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and discussed ways to further take forward the bilateral strategic partnership.

The four ministers are here for the second India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) to be held on Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation and exchange views on issues of mutual interests.

"Honoured to jointly call on President @Tharman\_S of Singapore. Conveyed the warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister @narendramodi. Value his guidance on ways to further take forward the India-Singapore Strategic Partnership," Jaishankar said in a post on X after the meeting. They also met Prime Minister Wong.

"Delighted to call on Prime Minister @LawrenceWongST of Singapore today morning along with my colleagues @nsitharaman, @PiyushGoyal and @AshwiniVaishnaw. We conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Appreciate PM Wong's continued engagement with the



Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal and Ashwini Vaishnaw and others during a meeting with the President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam, in Singapore. (PTI)

India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable," EAM Jaishankar said.

At the ISMR, the four leaders will be joined by their Singaporean counterparts and will review the progress from the first ISMR held in New Delhi in September 2022.

The ISMR is being held here ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to the city-state next month.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong will lead the Singapore delegation.

The Singaporean delegation will also comprise Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Home Affairs and Law K

Shanmugam, Minister for Digital Development and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng, and Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance Chee Hong Tat.

The ISMR is a unique mechanism established to set a new agenda for India-Singapore bilateral relations.

The meeting will enable both sides to review various aspects of their strategic partnership and identify new avenues to further elevate and broaden it, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi said on Saturday.