

# Typhoon Matmo leaves 15 dead in Vietnam

HANOI, Oct 10 (IANS)

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HEAVY rains and floods triggered by Typhoon Matmo have left 15 people dead and eight others injured across northern and north-central Vietnam, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority said on Friday.

More than 225,000 houses were submerged and over 1,500 others severely damaged, while about 24,000 hectares of rice and other crops were inundated, it said. Nearly 587,000 livestock and poultry were killed or swept away.

The typhoon also caused serious disruptions to transportation, with 27 road sections blocked due to flooding and landslides, it added. Power outages affected about 181,000 households, while telecommunications networks in several provinces remained partially disrupted, according to the agency.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on Thursday directed ministries and agencies to actively support local authorities in overcoming the aftermath of Typhoon Matmo, Xinhua news agency reported quoting Vietnam News Agency reported on Friday.

# President Trump suggests expelling Spain from NATO

WASHINGTON, Oct 10 (IANS)

US President Donald Trump suggested on that Spain be expelled from NATO for refusing to increase its defence spending.

"They have no excuse not to do this," Trump told reporters at the White House during a meeting with visiting Finnish President Alexander Stubb. "We had one laggard, it was Spain...Maybe you should throw them out of NATO frankly."

"You people are gonna have to start speaking to Spain," Trump said. "You have to call them and find why are they a laggard." Under pressure from Trump, NATO members in June agreed to raise their military spending to 5 per cent of gross domestic

product by 2035, Xinhua news agency reported.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez rejected the target, calling it "incompatible with our welfare state and our world vision."

Sanchez has insisted Madrid would not need to hit the headline figure. Spain has been one of the lowest-spending NATO countries on defence in relative terms.

In June, the 32-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization committed to a significant increase in defense spending over the next decade, following pressure from Donald Trump, who had warned of trade repercussions for Madrid over its opposition to the newly proposed target of five percent of GDP.

# Hike in MSP assures farmers of Rs 84,263 cr for sale of Rabi crops

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (IANS)

WITH the increase in minimum support prices (MSP) for various crops announced for the Rabi marketing season of 2026-27, farmers are expected to receive Rs 84,263 crore as the Government's procurement is estimated at 297 lakh metric tonnes, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

MSP payouts to farmers for the Government's purchase of foodgrains have more than tripled from Rs 1.06 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 3.33 lakh crore in July 2024-June 2025, while procurement has increased from 761.40 lakh metric tonnes to 1,175 lakh metric tonnes over the same period, benefiting 1.84 crore farmers. MSP is a crucial mechanism through which the Government supports farmers by purchasing their crops at a pre-determined price.

For example, a wheat grower



can be assured of Rs 2,585 per quintal for his crop (MSP for 2026-27), even if open-market prices dip. Similarly, a paddy farmer can sell to Government agencies at Rs 2,369/quintal (MSP for 2025-26) for common paddy. This assured price encourages farmers to invest in quality seeds and technology without fear of distress sales.

Since 2018-19, the Government has been increasing MSPs for all mandated crops in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement for setting up MSP at least 1.5 times the cost of production. This ensures a minimum return of 50 per cent over the all-India weighted average cost of production for all crops.

# Rajnath visits strategic naval facility HMAS Kuttabul in Aus

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (IANS)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh, who is on an official visit to Australia, visited the historic and strategic naval facility HMAS Kuttabul in Sydney on Friday.

Sharing the update in a post on social media platform X, Singh said he was familiarised with the facilities at Sydney Harbour onboard Admiral Hudson.

“Visited the historic and strategic naval facility HMAS Kuttabul in Sydney today. Was familiarised with the impressive facilities at Sydney Harbour onboard Admiral Hudson. Both countries stand to benefit from deepening India-Australia naval collaboration and coordinated maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific region,” the Defence Minister posted.

Singh arrived in Sydney on Wednesday for a two-day official visit to Australia at the invitation of the country’s Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Richard Marles.

On Thursday, he held bilateral meetings with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Defence Minister Richard Marles

to explore new avenues for strengthening cooperation between the two nations.

Following the meetings, Prime Minister Albanese wrote on social

media to meet with Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on his first trip to Australia for the Inaugural Australia-India Defence Ministers’ Dialogue.”



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with others during a visit to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) HMAS Kuttabul, aboard Admiral Hudson, at Sydney Harbour, in Australia. (PTI)

media: “Australia and India’s defence partnership keeps getting stronger — built on trust, shared interests and a commitment to a peaceful, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Great to

Singh described his discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Marles as “productive”, noting that both sides reviewed the full spectrum of India-Australia defence cooperation -- includ-

# Jaishankar, Muttaqi hold talks

## India upgrades tech mission in Kabul to Embassy

■ Afghanistan will not allow any element to use its territory against India's interests, says Afghan Foreign Minister Muttaqi

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (PTI)

**INDIA** on Friday announced the upgrading of its technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy and decided to restart its development projects in Afghanistan with External Affairs



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hands over five ambulances to his Afghani counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi in New Delhi. (PTI)

Minister S Jaishankar appreciating the Taliban set-up for showing sensitivity towards New Delhi's security concerns.

Jaishankar made the twin announcements during his wide-ranging talks with visiting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi for the first time, signalling a new approach in New Delhi's ties with Kabul though it has not yet recognised the Taliban set-up that came to power in August 2021.

Muttaqi, on a six-day trip to  
*(Contd on page 4)*

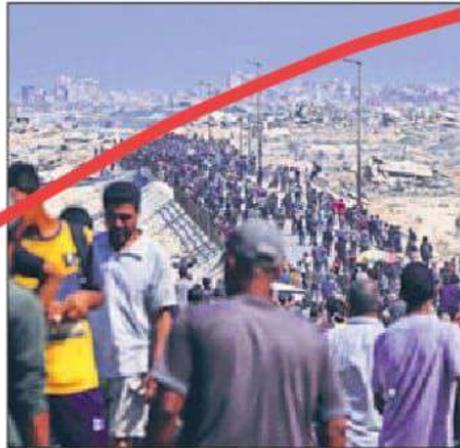
# Gaza peace deal comes into force

TEL AVIV, Oct 10 (AP)

**A CEASEFIRE** agreement between Israel and Hamas for the Gaza Strip came into effect at noon local time, the Israeli military said on Friday, adding that troops were withdrawing to agreed-upon deployment lines.

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**FLICKER OF HOPE**  
on page 8

The announcement came hours after Israel's Cabinet approved President Donald Trump's plan for a ceasefire in



Displaced Palestinians walk along the coastal road near Wadi Gaza in the central Gaza Strip, moving toward northern Gaza on Friday after peace agreement. (AP/PTI)

the Gaza Strip, the release of the remaining hostages and of Palestinian prisoners.

Tens of thousands of people who had gathered in Wadi Gaza in central Gaza in the morning started walking north after the military's announcement at noon local time.

Beforehand, Palestinians reported heavy shelling in parts of Gaza throughout Friday morning.

The Israeli Cabinet's approval of Trump's plan marks a key step toward ending a ruinous two-year war that has destabilised the Middle East.

*(Contd on page 4)*

# Venezuela's Maria Corina Machado wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Oct 10 (AP)

**VENEZUELAN** Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, winning recognition as a woman "who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness."

The former Opposition presidential candidate was lauded for being a "key, unifying figure" in the once deeply divided Opposition to President Nicolas Maduro's Government, said Jorgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel committee. "In the past year, Ms Machado has been forced to live in hiding," Watne Frydnes said. Despite serious threats against her life, she has remained in the country, a



A woman "who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness."  
-- Norwegian Nobel committee

Venezuelan Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado

choice that has inspired millions. When authoritarians seize power, it is crucial to recognise courageous defenders of freedom who rise and resist." He told the AP that the committee was able to reach Machado just before the announcement and "it came as a surprise."

**EXILED OPPOSITION CANDIDATE CELEBRATES:** Machado's ally, Edmundo Gonzalez, who lives in exile in Spain, posted a short video of himself speaking by phone with Machado.

"I am in shock," she said, adding, "I cannot believe it."

Gonzalez celebrated Machado's Nobel win in a post on X, calling it a "very well-deserved recognition for the long fight of a woman and of a

(Contd on page 4)

## It's a recognition of Venezuelans' struggle for freedom: Machado

OSLO, Oct 10 (ANI)

**VENEZUELAN** Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado who was named on Friday as the recipient of the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize said she was "humbled, grateful and honoured", for the honour which she said was a recognition of the Venezuelan people's fight for democracy and peace.

In a conversation with Robin Hardy of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, 58-year-old Machado said she was still coming to terms with the

announcement.

"I'm still processing. I think this is what can I tell you? I mean, this is something that I believe the Venezuelan people deserve. I am just part of a huge movement and I don't know, I'm humbled, I'm grateful and I'm honoured not only by this recognition, but I'm honoured to be part of what's going on in Venezuela today and very grateful. Thank you," she said.

Looking back at her struggle Machado said, "It has been (Contd on page 4)