

THE GLOBAL CITIZEN PLUS

"The news, connected to what you learn."

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TOP STORY • YEMEN AND SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh's Airport Stays Shut as Washington Weighs Joining the Fight

A Saturday strike killed at least 12 people, Saudi Arabia says, and new attacks followed.

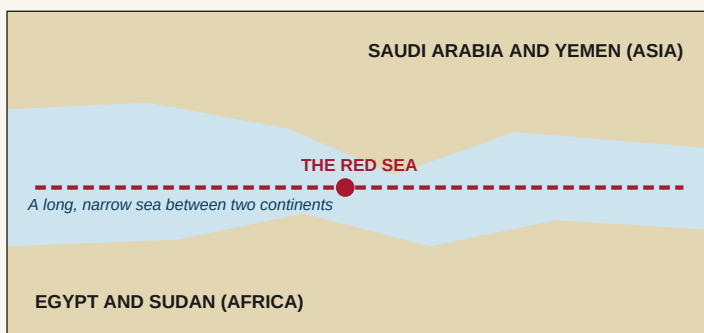
Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

Yemen's internationally recognised government is fighting the Houthis, a movement backed by Iran, for control of the country. Saudi Arabia backs the government with an air campaign that has reportedly included hundreds of strikes on Houthi-held areas, including the capital Sanaa. The Houthis answered by declaring Saudi airspace a zone of military operations.

On Saturday 10 October the Houthis struck King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation said at least 12 people were killed and at least 309 wounded. The dead included four Saudis, two Bangladeshis, and one person each from the US, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Sudan and Egypt. It was the third Houthi attack on the airport that week, and the Saudi-led coalition called it a war crime.

The attacks have not stopped. Saudi Arabia reported a new barrage of drones and missiles on 12 October, and Riyadh airport remains shut. Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia stopped issuing public warnings of imminent attacks days before the weekend strikes and has not explained why. Iran says it is ready to help facilitate dialogue between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia.

The war may widen. President Trump says he is considering joining the Saudi-led offensive, which aims to push the Houthis from Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. A Houthi leader warned that the United States would face a swift and painful response if it does. The UN says more than 217,000 people have been displaced since fighting escalated on Yemen's west coast.



Yemen's Red Sea coast faces Africa across the water.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Airports link many countries, and a US entry would turn a regional war into a wider one around a major sea route.

WORLD • UKRAINE AND THE BLACK SEA

Both Sides Deny Trump's Energy Pause, and Drones Sink a Ship Off Bulgaria

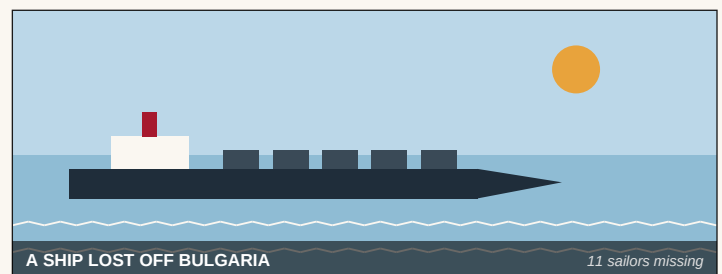
Eleven sailors are missing in the Black Sea.

On Sunday 11 October President Trump said Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an energy ceasefire, a promise to stop hitting each other's energy sites, effective immediately. By Monday both sides had denied it. Ukraine's President Zelenskyy said Ukraine had refrained from attacking Russian energy sites since the announcement, while Russia kept attacking Ukraine's.

A Russian strike on a residential high-rise in a Kyiv suburb killed at least two people on Monday evening, and other Russian attacks killed six more. US envoys told Ukrainian officials that a deal allowing Russian diesel exports is meant to draw Russia back to talks, though they said Mr Putin was not ready to negotiate an end to the war.

The war also reached the Black Sea. Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev said drones struck two ships off Bulgaria's coast, and one sank. Rescuers evacuated 15 crew (seven Ukrainian, eight Azerbaijani) and rescued one sailor from the sunken ship, while 11 sailors are missing. Bulgaria summoned Russia's ambassador without formally accusing Russia. Mr Radev said there is no solid evidence against a specific party but that the outcome favours Russia.

Other warnings came from Europe. Czech intelligence chief Michal Koudelka said Russia could pursue riskier operations in NATO states that support Ukraine within months, and NATO's top commander, Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, said the alliance would be ready to fight tonight if attacked.



Bulgaria is an EU and NATO member on the Black Sea.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Geography: Ukraine, Russia and Bulgaria all have Black Sea coasts, so a war between two of them can put ships from other countries at risk.

INDIA • ELECTIONS

Youth Leaders Detained as the Voter-List Fight Goes to the Supreme Court

Protesters want India's chief election official to resign.

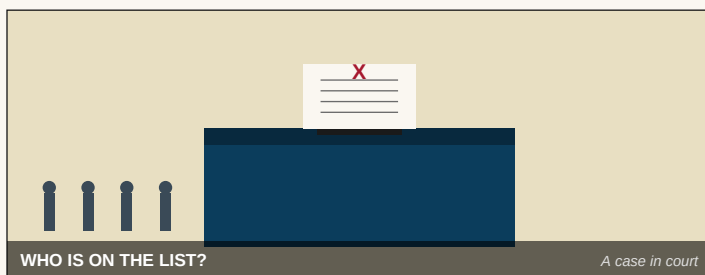
A voter list is the official list of people allowed to vote. India's Election Commission has been revising its lists in a process called the Special Intensive Revision. Critics say it has led to the deletion of more than 130 million people from voter lists since 2025, and that it wrongly removed genuine voters. The Commission and the government reject the allegations. The Commission says the revision aims to identify fraudulent voters and prevent foreign illegal immigrants from voting.

On 5 October a three-judge Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant issued notices to the government, the Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The court said that if it finds the law was not followed, it can undo the revision.

The protests are led by the Cockroach Janta Party, student unions and opposition parties. Before the 10 October protest, tens of thousands of police were deployed in Delhi and the Metro closed 57 stations. The Supreme Court asked the Centre not to halt trains and the metro fully, saying restrictions must be proportionate. Three Cockroach leaders were released after about 24 hours in detention, on condition of no breach of peace for one year.

The current wave of protests began on 2 October, and about 700 protesters were detained at Jantar Mantar that day. Critics also say the revision disproportionately affected marginalised and minority communities, especially Muslims. The Supreme Court bench said newspaper reports may be 100 percent correct, partially correct or incorrect, so it could not rule on them yet, and it urged the Centre to designate an alternate protest venue instead of Jantar Mantar.

On Monday, leaders of the movement were detained again after entering the grounds of Jantar Mantar, demanding that Mr Kumar resign. Delhi Police said Jantar Mantar is no longer an official protest site.



Jantar Mantar is a Delhi site long used for protests.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Voter lists decide who can vote, so disputes over them test how courts protect the right to vote.

UNITED STATES • FUEL

Senators From Both Parties Push Back on Trump's Russian Diesel Deal

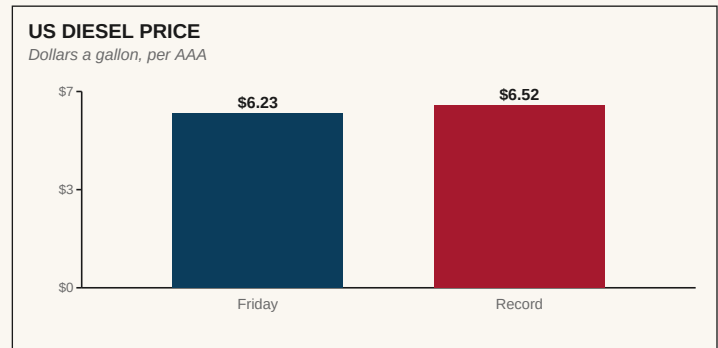
Diesel was \$6.23 a gallon on Friday.

Diesel is the fuel that powers trucks, trains and farm machines. According to AAA, the US national average was \$6.23 a gallon on Friday, after hitting a record \$6.52 on 22 September. Trump has blamed record diesel prices on Ukraine, while PBS notes that the US-led war in Iran has raised world energy prices.

Last week Mr Trump announced a deal with Russian President Putin: Russia would supply over 300,000 tons of diesel immediately, then 500,000 tons in November, 1 million tons after that, and 3 million tons more within a short period. The Treasury issued a temporary licence allowing the sales.

Six senators, four Republicans and two Democrats, say the administration did not consult Congress or explain its decision as a statute requires. They argue it runs directly counter to the 2022 law that banned Russian energy imports. Republican Senator Thom Tillis said on NBC that there is a legitimate case that the president would not be following the law. On Monday Mr Trump defended a Treasury waiver allowing Russian fuel imports through April and said he made the right choice.

Not everyone in his party objects. Senator John Barrasso said the president is focused on energy costs and has to make tough decisions. An energy expert quoted by AP said the deal is unlikely to make a dent in high prices at the pump.



Friday's price is below the 22 September record.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Diesel moves goods, so its price touches almost everything in a shop, and the argument shows how Congress limits a president.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

Does a deal for 300,000 tons change a national price much? Why might senators from both parties object to a plan meant to lower prices? What evidence would show whether the deal worked?

SCIENCE & TECH • ASTRONOMY

Webb Finds an Ancient Galaxy Cluster With Unexpectedly Dense Dark Matter

The finding challenges current understanding of the universe.

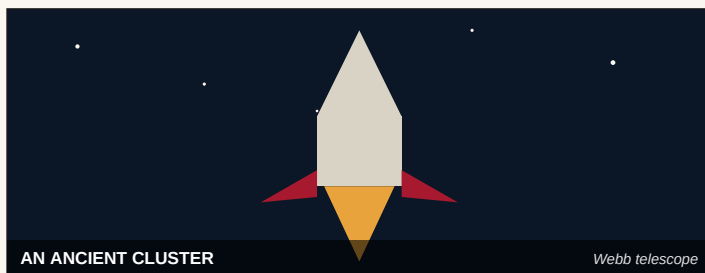
NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has found an ancient galaxy cluster with an unexpectedly dense concentration of dark matter, ScienceDaily reported on 13 October. The result challenges current understanding of the universe. The report is a short summary, so the full study should be read for detail.

Dark matter is a form of matter that astronomers infer from its gravity but cannot see. A galaxy cluster is a huge group of galaxies held together by gravity, so a cluster denser than expected tells scientists something about how structure formed early on.

On 10 October, MIT astronomers reported a system about 300 light-years away where a small star is slowly consuming a nearby brown dwarf, an object too massive to be a planet but too small to be a star. The process could last billions of years.

Earlier in the week, ScienceDaily reported on 8 October that NASA's SpaceX Crew-12 astronauts returned to Earth after 237 days in space, and on 7 October that Webb found signs of Mars-sized worlds colliding and detected an atmosphere on the lava world HD 3167 b.

Two other items: on 12 October Europe's Sentinel-3C satellite, two weeks after launch, returned images of the snowy Alps, frozen Arctic islands and turquoise Caribbean waters. On 11 October an astronaut aboard the International Space Station photographed a formation in Madagascar that closely resembles the Moon's bright highlands, made of a rock called anorthosite.



Dark matter is inferred from gravity, not seen.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Surprising results force scientists to test the models behind our picture of the early universe.

ECONOMY • INFLATION

Energy Costs Keep Europe's Inflation Fight Going Into 2027

Diesel in the EU is up by as much as 40% since February, a report says.

Inflation means prices rising across an economy. A report by Oilprice says the ECB's chief economist, Philip Lane, expects energy-driven inflation to persist before easing toward the 2% target from mid-2027. The ECB is the central bank for the countries that use the euro.

The same report says retail diesel in the EU is up by as much as 40% on a weighted average since February. That matters because trucks, trains and farm machines run on diesel, so higher fuel costs can show up in the price of food and goods.

In the US, diesel was \$6.23 a gallon on Friday, after a record \$6.52 on 22 September, according to AAA. Trump has blamed record US diesel prices on Ukraine, while the US-led war in Iran has raised world energy prices, PBS notes.

Fuel costs spread through an economy in a simple way. Trucks and trains carry food and goods, and farm machines run on diesel, so when diesel costs more, businesses pay more to move and grow things. Some of that cost is usually passed on to customers, which is why fuel is watched so closely as a driver of inflation.

Governments are trying to bring prices down. Russia has promised more than 300,000 tons of diesel immediately, then 500,000 tons in November, 1 million tons after that, and 3 million tons more within a short period. An energy expert quoted by AP said the deal is unlikely to make a dent in high prices at the pump.



Energy costs reach shop prices.

WHY THIS MATTERS

When energy costs rise, almost every business pays more, and families can feel it in shop prices.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

- Iran: An oil tanker was struck by a projectile leaving the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, and Iran's Revolutionary Guard claimed the attack.
- United Kingdom: Prime Minister Andy Burnham told Parliament that Iran's Revolutionary Guard was almost certainly behind a suspected plot to attack RAF Fairford; Iran's ambassador rejects the claim.
- France: Macron said the French Navy boarded the tanker DF Peak south of Reunion on suspicion that it was tied to Russia's shadow fleet.
- United States: Federal agents searched the Washington home of Rep. Ilhan Omar on Monday under a warrant that lists possible immigration crimes.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Words that unlock today's news

Waiver

An official permission to set aside a rule in a particular case. Today: the Treasury issued a waiver allowing Russian fuel imports through April.

Dark matter

Matter that cannot be seen but is detected through its gravity. Today: Webb found a galaxy cluster with unexpectedly dense dark matter.

Shadow fleet

Ships that carry cargo while hiding who owns or controls them. Today: France boarded a tanker it suspects of belonging to Russia's shadow fleet.

Inflation

A general rise in prices over time. Today: the ECB's chief economist expects energy-driven inflation to persist before easing from mid-2027.

DID YOU KNOW?

Big fuel deals like Russia's offer of 300,000 tons of diesel are counted in tons, a unit of weight, while pump prices in the US are counted in dollars per gallon, a unit of volume.

EXPLAINER

What is a strait, and why do wars gather there?

A strait is a narrow stretch of water that joins two larger bodies of water. Because ships have to pass through it, whoever controls its shores can threaten the traffic.

Two straits are in today's news. The Saudi-led offensive aims to push the Houthis from Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. And at least 18 attacks on ships in or near the Strait of Hormuz have occurred since the start of October. Sixty countries, including EU members, Australia and the UK, backed a declaration opposing tolls on straits used for international navigation.

QUIZ

Five questions on this issue

1. How many people did Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority say were killed in Saturday's attack on Riyadh's airport?

- (a) At least 3 (b) At least 12 (c) At least 30 (d) At least 309

2. Who is Bulgaria's prime minister?

- (a) Rumen Radev (b) Andy Burnham (c) Gyanesh Kumar (d) Michal Koudelka

3. What was the US average diesel price on Friday, per AAA?

- (a) \$4.23 (b) \$5.23 (c) \$6.23 (d) \$6.52

4. How many Delhi Metro stations were closed before the 10 October protest?

- (a) 7 (b) 27 (c) 57 (d) 157

5. What did the Webb telescope find?

- (a) A galaxy cluster with unexpectedly dense dark matter (b) A new planet around Sirius (c) A comet (d) A new moon of Mars

Answers. 1 (b): at least 12. 2 (a): Rumen Radev. 3 (c): \$6.23. 4 (c): 57. 5 (a): a galaxy cluster with unexpectedly dense dark matter.

DISCUSS

Discuss it

If a ship is attacked and no one is sure who did it, how should a country decide what to do?

Should a president need Congress's approval to buy fuel from a country under restrictions? Why or why not?

Why might a court take the side of protesters in some ways and the government in others?

"Asking who, how and why is the start of thinking."

You are not just reading the news — you are learning to think about it. See you in two days.