

Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan activate Mecca defense pact; Democrats predict House majority; 17 killed in Ethiopia fighting

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Yemen

- **Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia activate Mecca defense pact, will deploy forces to Gulf kingdom against Houthis:** Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia [agreed](#) Monday to activate “collective deterrence measures: under the Mecca Alliance for Defence after an emergency meeting of their defense and foreign ministers in Riyadh, the first time the pact, agreed to on August 7, has been invoked.

- Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman said the alliance was responding to “the heinous attacks against the Kingdom and holy sites.”

- A separate joint statement published by the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said the three would “provide the agreed military forces and capabilities and ensure their rapid deployment” to Saudi Arabia under approved arrangements.

- **Ansarallah strikes Saudi airport, Aramco refinery:** Ansarallah [said](#) it struck King Khalid Airport in Riyadh, disrupting air traffic, and an Aramco refinery in Rabigh, claiming to have set it on fire. It says it also hit Abha Airport, the Khamis Mushait airbase and other sites in Asir, Najran, and Jizan.

- The group warned all airlines to stop flying through Saudi airspace, calling it “a theater for our operations,” with the exception of the airspace over the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

- It said the attacks were retaliation for 60 Saudi airstrikes and a missile on Sanaa, Al-Jawf, Taiz, Hodeidah, Saada, and Marib over 24 hours, which it said killed civilians. It says 1,576 Saudi strikes have hit Yemen since the escalation began.

- Three people were lightly injured and infrastructure damaged in attacks on King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Jazan and Najran International Airport on Monday evening, Saudi Arabia’s civil aviation authority said.

- Ansarallah military spokesperson Yahya Saree claimed Tuesday the group struck Abha International Airport in Saudi Arabia's Asir province with a ballistic missile, disrupting air traffic, though Saudi authorities have not confirmed the attack.

- **Saudi-backed Yemeni forces claim capture of Mocha as coalition expands attacks on Ansarallah:** Yemen's Saudi-backed government forces said Tuesday they had retaken the strategic Red Sea port city of Mocha from Ansarallah following fighting south of the Bab al-Mandab strait, while the Saudi-led coalition announced a naval operation against Ansarallah in Hodeidah.

- The coalition separately said it destroyed a ballistic missile launch platform in Sanaa and a storage facility containing 20 ballistic missiles in Saada.

- Control of Mocha could provide government forces with a staging point for further operations along Yemen's Red Sea coast, though the situation on the ground remains fluid and competing territorial claims have emerged during recent fighting.

- Saudi-backed forces also claim to control Bab al-Mandab, an airport in Dhubab district and much of southwestern Taiz's Red Sea coastline, while Ansarallah officials say they repelled some advances and recaptured territory.

Iran

- **Bessent celebrates collective economic punishment of Iranians:** Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [celebrated](#) the collapse of Iran's economy, boasting that "Operation Economic Outcast is delivering results": the rial at record lows, and zero Iranian crude loaded onto tankers last month.

- "The Iranian regime allows its own people to suffer," Bessent claimed, as U.S. policies punish ordinary Iranian civilians.

- Nurses and teachers are quitting in large numbers because their salaries no longer cover the cost of living, the New York Times reported Monday.

- And the U.S. blockade and sanctions have cut imports of medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, pushing prices up and leaving pharmacies short of drugs for serious illnesses, the FT reported. Some medicines have tripled in price.

- **Pezeshkian calls U.S. negotiations "futile":** Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Monday that negotiations with the U.S. had become "futile," accusing Washington of repeatedly attacking Iran following talks and seeking to bring down the Islamic Republic.

- “Every time we come to the negotiating table, war is immediately imposed upon us,” Pezeshkian said, according to IRNA, adding that the U.S. had attacked Iran three times following negotiations. “This demonstrates that they do not seek dialogue. On the contrary, their goal is to bring down the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

- **Trump defends removal of U.S. bombers from UK base as seventh suspect arrested:**

President Donald Trump on Monday defended the Pentagon’s decision to remove B-1 bombers from RAF Fairford in the UK following what he described as “some threats,” after previously linking Iran to a security incident near the base.

- “Rather than tempting the enemy ... why should we leave them there? So, we moved them around a little bit. Not very far,” Trump said, adding that Washington knows who made the threat and that “they’ve gotten themselves into big problems,” without elaborating.

- UK counterterrorism police separately arrested a 22-year-old British national in Westminster on suspicion of preparing terrorist acts in connection with activity near Fairford, bringing the number of arrests linked to the investigation over the past two weeks to seven.

- **Trump calls higher gas prices a “small price to pay” for war with Iran:** Trump said higher gasoline prices for U.S. consumers were a “small price to pay” for what he described as keeping the U.S. and the world safe, as the war with Iran continues to disrupt energy markets.

- Speaking at a Republican midterm campaign rally in Grand Island, Nebraska, Trump said the price increase caused by the war was “just artificial” and “essentially almost over with,” while repeating that the U.S. would not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon.

- “They can take out a city. Let them take out Los Angeles or San Diego. This is a very small price to pay,” Trump said.

- He claimed gasoline prices would fall below \$1.85 a gallon in “a very short period of time,” potentially before or shortly after the November 3 midterm elections.

- **Twelve sailors injured in attack on commercial vessel in Strait of Hormuz:** Twelve sailors, including 11 Indian nationals, were injured in an attack on the Panama-flagged commercial vessel MT On Peace off Oman in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, India’s Foreign Ministry said.

- The vessel was carrying 19 crew members, including 17 Indians. The injured sailors were evacuated with assistance from Omani authorities and are receiving treatment in Khasab.

Palestine

- **Killed and wounded in Gaza:** Over the past 24 hours, two Palestinians were killed—one in a new Israeli attack and one due to wounds sustained in an earlier attack—and 35 injured across Gaza, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

- The total recorded death toll since October 7, 2023 is now 74,245 killed, with 175,267 injured. Since October 11, 2025, the first full day of the so-called ceasefire, Israel has killed at least 1,462 Palestinians in Gaza and wounded 5,151, while 836 bodies have been recovered.

- **Israeli attacks kill three, wound several across Gaza:** An Israeli drone [strike](#) near the municipal park in central Gaza City killed one Palestinian and wounded another on Tuesday, while several Palestinians were injured in a strike on Al-Wehda Street in the west of the city, WAFA reported. In Khan Younis, an Israeli attack killed two Palestinians, according to Al Jazeera

- Israeli forces also shot and wounded one person in the Karama neighborhood of northwest Gaza City and another near Bir 19, south of the Mawasi area of Khan Younis.

- **Ben-Gvir joins demolition of Jerusalem apartment building as settlers torch Palestinian home, vehicles across the occupied West Bank:**

- **East Jerusalem:** Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir [joined](#) Israeli forces during the demolition of a five-story residential building in Al-Tur containing 10 apartments and housing about 70 Palestinians, mostly women and children, on Tuesday, according to WAFA.

- **Nablus:** Israeli bulldozers [razed](#) agricultural land and uprooted olive trees in Iraq Burin, while blocking several village roads with earth mounds. In Aqraba, settlers torched four Palestinian vehicles and spray-painted racist slogans.

- **Ramallah:** Settlers [set fire](#) to a home housing a family of five in Burqa, causing extensive damage. The same homeowner, a U.S. citizen, had his vehicle damaged and dozens of his olive trees cut down by settlers about a month earlier.

- **Salfit:** Settlers attempted to set fire to a poultry structure and spray-painted racist slogans on a livestock farm in Farkha. Israeli forces separately raided Salfit city and [detained](#) Nihad Al-Naoura, secretary of Fatah's Salfit branch.
- **Hebron:** Israeli forces [raided](#) Bani Naim, declared the town a closed military zone, searched several homes and converted three into military posts.
- **UK threatens to expel up to 27 Israeli diplomats over planned closure of East Jerusalem consulate:** The UK [threatened](#) to expel one Israeli diplomat for every British diplomat forced out of Israel over Israel's plan to close the UK consulate in occupied East Jerusalem on Thursday, which could mean as many as 27 expulsions, Ynet reported. The Foreign Office declined to comment on "speculation" rather than denying the report.
 - Israel threatened to close the consulate this week, as part of its response to the UK's ban on trade in goods from illegal West Bank settlements and sanctions on British firms aiding settlement construction.
 - The British Foreign Office was reportedly advised by former UK attorney general Dominic Grieve that such an action would be illegal, given that the United Nations and most of its members recognize East Jerusalem as Palestinian territory.
- **111 Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza in September:** Israeli forces [killed](#) 111 Palestinians in Gaza in September, including 23 children, ten women and four elderly people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry's monthly report. Israel has killed Palestinians in Gaza every month since the ceasefire began. The deadliest month was July, with 152 killed.

Lebanon

- **Israeli airstrikes, artillery and gunfire target southern Lebanon amid "ceasefire":** Israeli warplanes [carried out](#) strikes on Wadi Al-Salouqi and an area between Bra'shit and Aitaroun in the Bint Jbeil district overnight, Lebanon's National News Agency reported.
 - Israeli artillery [shelled](#) the outskirts of Hadatha and Bra'shit, while Israeli forces opened machine-gun fire toward Bayt Al-Sayyad and the outskirts of Mansouri.

U.S. News

- **DCCC adds six deep-red districts to "Red to Blue" list, predicts House majority of up to 240 seats:** The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee [added](#) six candidates to its "Red to Blue" list Monday, in districts Trump won by an average of 16 points or more in

2024, signalling that the Democratic Party will allocate extra resources, and perhaps fundraising dollars, to these races.

- The six include:
 - Arkansas's 2nd, where Democrat **Chris Jones** faces incumbent Rep. **French Hill**;
 - Colorado's 3rd, where Democrat **Dwayne Romero** faces incumbent Rep. **Jeff Hurd**;
 - Florida's 27th, where Elliott Rodriguez faces incumbent Rep. **Maria Elvira Salazar**;
 - New York's 21st, where Democrat **Blake Gendebien** faces Republican **Anthony Constantino**;
 - Nevada's 2nd, where Democrat **Teresa Benitez-Thompson** faces Republican **David Flippo**;
 - and Tennessee's 9th, where Democrat **Justin J. Pearson** faces Republican **Brent Taylor**.
- DCCC political director **Brooke Butler** told Politico that "anywhere between 218 and 240 feels very viable" for Democrats' potential House majority and that more seats could be added, "if gas keeps going and diesel kicks back up."
- **Obama to campaign in Detroit with El-Sayed, Benson on Oct. 24:** Former President **Barack Obama** will [campaign](#) in Detroit on Saturday, Oct. 24, with Democratic Senate nominee **Abdul El-Sayed**, gubernatorial nominee **Jocelyn Benson** and other candidates, the Michigan Democratic Party announced Monday.
 - El-Sayed faces Republican former Rep. **Mike Rogers** in the race to succeed retiring Sen. **Gary Peters**, while Benson, the secretary of state, faces Republican Rep. **John James** in the open governor's race.
 - Obama has made few public stops on the trail this year but previously campaigned in Texas with Senate nominee **James Talarico** and gubernatorial nominee **Gina Hinojosa** and appeared in a campaign ad with Iowa Senate nominee **Josh Turek**. He is also set to headline a Washington-area fundraiser Wednesday for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.
- **Soldiers wounded in March Iranian drone strike describe medical failures, red tape, AP reports:** Nine U.S. service members [wounded](#) in the March 1 Iranian drone strike at Port

Shuaiba, Kuwait, which killed six troops on the second day of the Iran war, spoke on the record to the Associated Press about what they describe as a medical system that left them fighting for treatment on their own.

- Lt. Col. **Arturo Lincón**, who suffered shrapnel wounds to his jaw, neck, and spine, including a severed vertebral artery, was sent to barracks and told to seek outpatient appointments after Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany did not admit him. Chief Warrant Officer 4 **Rodney Bearman** said he and others injured in the attacks were not properly registered as “wounded in combat” due to a coding error. Maj. **Stephen Ramsbottom** said he waited over four months for MRI results and has “had to build my own case for everything.”

- Lincón, who still has shrapnel near his spinal cord and struggles with dizziness, told the AP that, following the attacks, in which his passport was destroyed, he was issued a temporary substitute and asked to prove his citizenship in the process (he was born in Texas to Mexican parents and graduated from West Point). He was also denied a Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance injury claim.

- **Supreme Court opens new term with Boulder climate case against Exxon, Suncor:**

The Supreme Court’s new term [began](#) Monday with arguments in Boulder’s lawsuit accusing Exxon Mobil and Suncor Energy of deceiving the public about the harms of fossil fuels. Boulder says it is seeking to recover past and future costs of repairs, emergency services and property damage, not to regulate emissions.

- The companies argue that only the federal government has the power to address something as large as climate change. The Trump administration has sided with them in the case.

- Justice **Samuel Alito** stepped aside a week before argument, after calls for recusal over his stock in Phillips 66 and ConocoPhillips. A 4-4 tie would leave the Colorado Supreme Court’s ruling allowing the suit to proceed in place.

- **Trump signs order allowing the use of untaxed off-road diesel on highways:** President Donald Trump [signed](#) an executive order on Monday temporarily allowing red-dyed diesel, normally reserved for farm and industrial vehicles, to be used on highways while deferring the 24.4-cent-per-gallon federal excise tax for the rest of the year, according to a fact sheet released by the White House.

- Diesel prices have surged from \$3.76 a gallon before the war in Iran to a record \$6.53 on September 22, according to AAA.

- The change could potentially save truckers roughly \$150 per fill-up, according to CNN, though experts noted it does nothing to improve the principal cause of rising fuel prices, a global shortage of working refineries.

- **Trump approves firing squad execution for Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan:** Pentagon spokesperson **Sean Parnell** [announced](#) Monday on X that War Secretary **Pete Hegseth** “recommended” and President Trump “approved” death by firing squad for **Nidal Malik Hasan**, the convicted terrorist who killed 13 people and wounded 32 in the 2009 Fort Hood attack.

- Parnell said the Secretary of the Army will set the time and place of the execution.
- At least 144 civilian prisoners have been executed by shooting since 1608, according to the AP, the most recent being South Carolina’s **Brad Sigmon** last year, who chose the method over the electric chair and lethal injection.

- **DOJ seeks to revoke citizenship of 40 naturalized Americans in largest denaturalization push in recent history:** The Justice Department is [moving](#) to revoke the citizenship of 40 foreign-born Americans it accuses of lying about or omitting criminal histories on their naturalization applications, Attorney General **Todd Blanche** announced in a press release Monday.

- The government accuses the applicants of having committed crimes including espionage, transporting child pornography, sexual misconduct against a minor, and voluntary manslaughter.
- The cases far exceed the average of 15 a year under previous administrations. DOJ announced that it would target as many as 300 people for possible denaturalization in April.

- **Border agents raid Arizona protest camp, fell centuries-old cottonwood for Trump’s border wall:** More than 50 Customs and Border Protection agents [raided](#) an activist camp in Lochiel, Arizona, on Monday, ending a 70-day protest of a potential tree demolition. Following the raid, an excavator knocked down the tree, a 150-to-250-year-old cottonwood, known as the “grandmother tree,” that stood in the path of President Donald Trump’s \$46.5 billion border wall expansion.

- Activists told the Washington Post that agents dragged, kicked, and knelt on protesters during a sunrise prayer ceremony, with about 10 arrested and another 10 cited.

- **Chicago woman shot five times by Border Patrol agent sues federal government:** **Marimar Martinez**, a Chicago woman shot five times by Border Patrol agent **Charles Exum**, [sued](#) the federal government Monday for false arrest and imprisonment, malicious prosecution, emotional distress, and negligence, with her attorneys saying an independent crime scene analysis shows the agent shot her as she turned her car away from him.

- Shortly after the shooting, DHS called Martinez a “domestic terrorist” and charged her, but the charges were later dropped. Exum was later placed on “administrative leave,” the department noted, “consistent with policy.”

- Martinez said she was prepared to let the matter go after charges against her were dropped, until federal agents killed two people in Minneapolis. “What’s happening is not normal,” she added.

- **Trump says New York Times, other outlets should be “arrested” over coverage of Ohio rally:** President Trump [wrote](#) on Truth Social Monday that the New York Times and “many other Artificial Media Outlets, should be arrested for their dishonesty and disservice to our Country,” after Times correspondent **Katie Rogers** reported that “several areas of an upper deck were empty” by the end of his Saturday rally at Butler High School in Vandalia, Ohio. Trump disputed the paper’s claims about attendance, saying that the arena was “totally MAXED OUT” and claiming thousands were turned away at the doors.

- **Texas pediatricians face Paxton investigations over childhood vaccinations:** Texas Attorney General **Ken Paxton**, the Republican U.S. Senate nominee, [launched](#) a statewide investigation accusing doctors, drug companies and insurers of conspiring to push parents into vaccinating children, with a New York Times report on Monday highlighting the case of “**Dr. Rachel**,” a central Texas pediatrician of 20 years who says responding to that investigation has cost her nearly \$15,000 in legal fees and prompted her to reconsider her career.

- A December letter from the AG’s office demanded 10 years of vaccine purchase records and her practice’s vaccine policy, and said citing the CDC schedule would not suffice. In August, Paxton opened a separate probe of the American Academy of Pediatrics for “deceptively promoting childhood vaccines for financial gain.” Pediatricians reject the profit motive as ludicrous, noting they pay for vaccines upfront and that nearly half of children’s vaccines are covered by the federal Vaccines for Children program.

- Texas kindergarten measles and polio vaccine coverage has fallen to about 93 percent from nearly 97 percent in 2019.

 Have a tip on Capitol Hill? Email DC Correspondent Julian Andreone at Julian@dropsitenews.com

Other International News

- **Airstrikes, artillery hit northern Ethiopia as fighting continues after fall of Mekelle:** Airstrikes [killed](#) at least 17 people overnight into Monday in Tigray, nine in Adwa, and eight in Sheraro, according to a humanitarian bulletin cited by Reuters, which could not confirm the reports or who launched the strikes. Government forces and fighters loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front also exchanged heavy artillery fire near the Tekeze River close to Mai Tsebri on Monday.
 - In Mekelle, which Tigrayan forces left without a fight, residents said that shops were reopening and that phone and internet access was returning after a week-long disruption.
- **Abiy, sworn in for a new term, insists Ethiopia must have Red Sea access:** Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed [told](#) Parliament Monday, as he was sworn in for another five-year term, that Ethiopia will work to secure a Red Sea port, saying "based on the principle of give and take, we will work diligently to ensure that Ethiopia has an outlet to the sea" and calling access critical to the country's "civilization."
 - His remarks came a day after Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, and Somalia met in New Alamein and declared that governance of the Red Sea is the "exclusive responsibility" of the region's coastal states. Eritrea has accused Ethiopia of seeking to reassert control over its coast, which it lost when Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993.
- **ISIS attack kills Iraqi federal policeman near Kirkuk, first since U.S. withdrawal:** At least one Iraqi federal policeman was [killed](#) and four wounded Monday when Islamic State militants attacked a federal police regiment near Hawija, about 70 km southwest of Kirkuk, using semi-automatic machine guns and sniper fire, two security sources told Reuters. No group has claimed responsibility, but security and army sources said ISIS militants, who retain sleeper cells in the area, were involved.
 - It is the first reported ISIS assault on Iraqi security forces since the U.S. completed its military withdrawal from Iraq on Sept. 30.
- **Russian bombs kill seven, injure over 60 in Kharkiv, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia:** Three Russian bombs [struck](#) different areas of the northeastern Ukrainian city Kharkiv on

Monday, killing six people and injuring 59, according to regional governor Oleh Syniehubov. Three of those injured in Monday's attacks on Kharkiv were children.

- Elsewhere on Monday, a Russian drone hit an apartment building in Zaporizhzhia, injuring three people who were trapped on the ninth floor, according to that region's governor.

- Russian airstrikes also killed one person in Sloviansk in the Donetsk region.

- **Russia says Ukrainian drones struck Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, killing one:**

Ukrainian drones [struck](#) a laboratory building and a radioactive waste processing facility at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant overnight on Monday, killing a driver delivering food to plant workers, according to Alexei Likhachev, head of Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom, who said there was no threat to nuclear safety.

- **Ukraine blames Russian drones for sinking of grain ship in Romanian waters; two dead:** Romania's Interior Ministry [said](#) two people were killed and 11 rescued after a grain ship caught fire and sank Monday in Romania's exclusive economic zone in the Black Sea; the ministry did not identify the cause of the fire. Azerbaijani and Indian nationals were reportedly aboard.

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy blamed Russia for the fire, condemning in a Monday post on X the "horrific strike by two Russian drones on a civilian vessel in neutral waters carrying corn and owned by Turkiye."

- **Kuwait revokes citizenship of 415 more people, including billionaire Mahmoud**

Haider: Kuwait [issued](#) six decrees published in its official gazette stripping 415 people of citizenship, including billionaire businessman Mahmoud Haider, along with dependents who obtained nationality through those whose citizenship was revoked.

- The Gulf state announced a citizenship review campaign in 2024, targeting fraudulent claims, including those involving individuals reporting dual nationality or those who acquired it through marriage. It has expanded this year to politicians, footballers, and musicians, including 1982 World Cup goalkeeper Ahmed al-Tarabulsi and singer Abdulmohsen Al Muhanna. Rights groups estimate at least 50,000 people have lost citizenship since 2024.

- **Former German intelligence chief arrested on suspicion of buying classified**

documents for foreign spy agency: Former Federal Intelligence Service chief August Hanning was [arrested](#) on Tuesday on suspicion of paying a former office manager at the agency for roughly 2,000 documents, including classified material and senior intelligence

briefings prepared for the chancellery, and using them to draft an analysis for an officer of an unnamed foreign intelligence service, according to German federal prosecutors.

- Prosecutors allege the arrangement began in 2010, five years after Hanning left the agency, and that he also shared political information with a representative of a second foreign intelligence service. The office manager, identified only as Manfred D., was also arrested.
- The case does not involve Russia, according to the German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

· **Police clash with Kosovo protesters over bid to curb Hague war crimes court:** Police used tear gas and water cannons Monday evening against several hundred protesters, including veterans and supporters of the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army, outside Parliament in Pristina after lawmakers adjourned without passing amendments limiting the powers of the controversial Kosovo Specialist Chambers court. Twelve people were injured, including 11 civilians, according to a Pristina hospital emergency director.

- The amendments, which passed a first reading earlier Monday, would cap the court's sentences at 15 years, allow these to be served in Kosovo and permit appeals to Kosovo's Supreme Court. They were forwarded by the opposition Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) and halted by Prime Minister Albin Kurti's governing Vetevendosje party.
- The court remains controversial in Kosovo, where the KLA, which the court was created to prosecute, is held in high esteem by many in the country's Albanian population after its fight against the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav government during Kosovo's 1998-1999 war.

· **Hundreds flee RSF assaults in Sudan's Blue Nile region:** Hundreds of residents have fled the localities of Jabal Al-Nimr and Minza in Sudan's southeastern Blue Nile region after recent Rapid Support Forces attacks, the region's Humanitarian Aid Commission said on Monday. Most are heading toward the town of Al-Azaza and a settlement known as Village 6, raising concerns over civilian protection and shortages of essential supplies.

· **Cuba says it has "channels of communication" with the U.S. but no negotiations, and is preparing to defend itself:** Cuba's chargé d'affaires in Washington, Lianys Torres Rivera, told Reuters on Monday that Havana and Washington maintain "channels of communication"—including meetings, phone calls, and WhatsApp messages—but are not in formal negotiations and have made no progress toward restarting official talks.

- Rivera's remarks contradict President Donald Trump's claim last month at the UN that Secretary of State Marco Rubio was "deep into negotiations" with Havana.
- Torres Rivera said Cuba remains open to "respectful" dialogue with the U.S. but is "not naive" about Trump's threats and is expanding its defense preparations, saying "we are increasing our capabilities now more than ever before."
- She also noted that Cuba's "red line" remains changes to its political system.

· **Mexico asks U.S. for evidence of alleged cross-border gunfire at Coast Guard**

personnel: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum [said](#) Monday her government has requested evidence from U.S. authorities about allegations that shots were fired from the Mexican side of the border at U.S. personnel, saying "we asked for all the evidence because we have no evidence" and that no National Guard, Army, or Navy personnel detected shots fired from Mexican territory toward the U.S.

- The comments came a day after U.S. Ambassador Ronald Johnson said on X that "shots were fired at U.S. Coast Guard personnel" in an area where Tamaulipas meets Texas.
- The incident follows Mexico's announcement of "Operation Mirror" on Sunday evening, a joint border security effort deploying 500 troops, helicopters, drones and anti-drone equipment along the frontier. Despite deepening security collaboration, Sheinbaum has repeatedly denied that her government would allow a U.S. military intervention on Mexican soil.

· **Parti Québécois wins Quebec election, complicating Carney's unity push against**

Trump: The separatist party Parti Québécois, [led](#) by Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, won Quebec's election Monday, according to early projections from public broadcaster Radio-Canada, though it remains too early to say whether the party secured a majority in the province's legislature.

- The result, widely expected before the vote, will jettison the center-right Coalition Avenir Québec government, which has been in office since 2018.
- St-Pierre Plamondon has promised a referendum on leaving Canada, but only once Trump is out of the White House. Previous independence referendums failed in 1980 and 1995, and current polling puts support for a separation at around 30 percent.
- St-Pierre Plamondon pledged to work with Carney when it suits the province's interests; his party notably diverges from Ottawa in its calls to reduce immigration, cut

Quebec's ties to the British monarchy, and efforts to block a proposed Quebec-Ontario high-speed rail line.

- **French teen loses hand in grenade blast as school protest clashes enter third week:** A 15-year-old boy lost a hand Monday near a high school in Lens after an explosion that unverified police reports said involved a stun grenade. He is hospitalized in Lille, and his life is not in danger, according to Pas-de-Calais's regional prefect.

- Police internal affairs is now handling six investigations into serious injuries during the protests; the country's Education Minister, Edouard Geffray, said Monday that 190 students have been injured since the unrest began. His ministry also noted that 589 schools were disrupted Monday, down from 735 Friday, and about 5,000 people, mostly teenagers, have been arrested since Sept. 28.

- Amnesty International France criticized the government's use of "disproportionate force" against minors during the weeks-long protests.

- **Spain's Sánchez calls snap election for Nov. 29 after Parliament rejects housing relief measures:** Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez [announced](#) in a televised address on Monday that Spain will hold a general election on Nov. 29, after Parliament rejected housing relief measures proposed by his minority government.

- The announcement follows weeks of nationwide housing protests, including a Saturday demonstration in Madrid that the government said drew more than 70,000 people, motivated in part by the televised eviction of an 87-year-old woman in Madrid. Average rents in Spain have nearly doubled over the past decade, according to data from the Spanish real estate firm Idealista.

- The conservative People's Party, led by Alberto Núñez Feijóo and backed by the far-right Vox party, appears poised to win in November, according to early polling. If it does, it would become the first far-right party to control the country's central government since the death of fascist dictator Francisco Franco in 1975. Sánchez has never won an outright majority but has held power for eight years across three terms.