


 FROM THE
WORLD

USA

 Trooper, suspect
killed in shooting

After a gunman shot a Delaware State trooper inside a DMV office near Wilmington, the wounded trooper pushed a nearby employee to safety before the gunman shot him again, killing him, authorities said. A police officer then confronted, shot and killed the gunman. The trooper, who has not yet been named, was working an overtime assignment at the reception desk when the gunman walked in, approached the trooper and fired, state police said at a news conference Tuesday night. The gunman and the state trooper were transported to a hospital, where they died. "We lost a brother, a son, a best friend, a coach, a husband and a father," Col William D. Crotty of the state police said at the news conference. "His last actions were that of a hero, a hero who saved lives today while sacrificing his own." The threat was over before 3 p.m., according to state police. A woman and a second state trooper had minor injuries, not from gunshots.

US, Ukraine reach consensus on key issues aimed at ending war

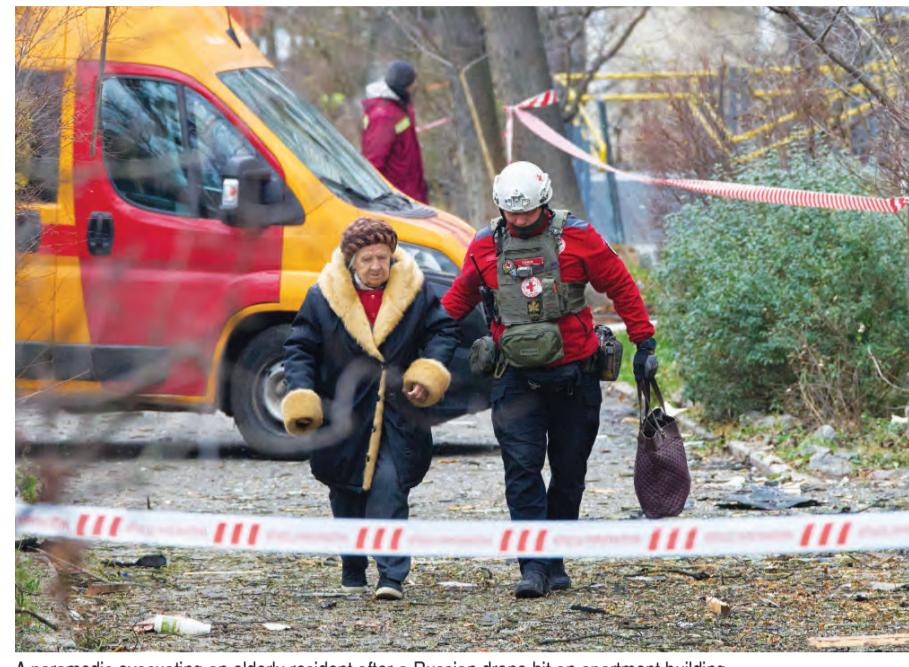
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv

The United States and Ukraine have reached a consensus on several critical issues aimed at bringing an end to the nearly four-year conflict, but sensitive issues around territorial control in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, along with the management of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, remain unresolved, Ukraine's president said.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke as the US showed the 20-point plan, hammered out after marathon talks in Florida in recent days, to Russian negotiators. A response is expected from Moscow on Wednesday, Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian president briefed journalists on each point of the plan on Tuesday. His comments were embargoed until Wednesday morning. The draft proposal, which reflects Ukraine's wishes, intertwines political and commercial interests to safeguard security while boosting economic potential. At the heart of the negotiations lies the contentious territorial dispute concerning the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, known as the Donbas. This is "the most difficult point," Zelenskyy said. He said these matters



A paramedic evacuating an elderly resident after a Russian drone hit an apartment building

AP

will be discussed at the leaders' level.

Russia continues to assert maximalist demands, insisting that Ukraine relinquish the remaining territory in Donbas that it has not captured — an ultimatum that Ukraine has rejected. Russia has captured most of Luhansk and about 70 per cent of Donetsk. In a bid to facilitate a compromise, the United States has proposed transforming these areas into free economic zones.

Ukraine insists that any arrangement must be contingent upon a referendum, allowing the Ukrainian people to determine their own fate. Ukraine is demanding the demilitarisation of the area and the presence of an international force to ensure stability, Zelenskyy said.

How the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the largest plant in Europe, which is under Russian occupation, will be managed is another contentious issue. The US is proposing a consortium with Ukraine and Russia, with each party having an equal stake in the enterprise.

But Zelenskyy countered with a joint venture proposal between the US and Ukraine, in which the Americans are able to decide how to distribute their share, presuming it would go to Russia. "We did not reach a consensus with the American side on the territory of the Donets region and on the ZNPP," Zelenskyy said, referring to the power plant in Zaporizhzhia. "But we

have significantly brought most of the positions closer together. In principle, all other consents in this agreement have been found between them and us."

A free economic zone compromise

Point 14, which covers territories that cut across the eastern front line, and Point 12, which discusses management of the Zaporizhzhia plant, will likely be major sticking points in the talks.

Zelenskyy said: "We are in a situation where the Russians want us to leave the Donetsk region, and the Americans are trying to find a way so that it is not a way out — because we are against leaving — they want to find a demilitarized zone or a free economic zone in this, that is, a format that can provide for the views of both sides."

The draft states that the contact line, which cuts across five Ukrainian regions, should be frozen once the agreement is signed.

Ukraine's stance is that any attempt to create a free economic zone must be ratified by a referendum, affirming that the Ukrainian people ultimately hold the decision-making power, Zelenskyy said. This process will require 60 days, he added, during which time hostilities should stop to allow the process to happen. More difficult discussions would require hammering out how far troops would be required to move back, per Ukraine's proposal, and where international forces would be stationed.

Zelenskyy said, referring to the power plant in Zaporizhzhia. "But we

"Since there is no faith in the Russians, and they have repeatedly broken their promises, today's contact line is turning into a line of a de facto free economic zone, and international forces should be there to guarantee that no one will enter there under any guise — neither little green men nor Russian military disguised as civilians," Zelenskyy said.

Managing Zaporizhzhia power plant

Ukraine is also proposing that the occupied city of Enerhodar, which is connected to the Zaporizhzhia power plant, be a demilitarised free economic zone, Zelenskyy said. This point required 15 hours of discussions with the US, he said.

For now, the US proposes that the plant be jointly operated by Ukraine, the US and Russia, with each side receiving dividends from the enterprise. The USA is offering 33 per cent for 33 per cent for 33 per cent, and the Americans are the main manager of this joint venture," he said. "It is clear that for Ukraine, this sounds very unsuccessful and not entirely realistic.

How can you have joint commerce with the Russians after everything?"

Ukraine offered an alternative proposal, that the plant be operated by a joint venture with the US, in which the Americans can determine independently how to distribute their 50 per cent share. Zelenskyy said billions in investments are needed to make the plant run again, including restoring the adjacent dam. "There were about 15 hours of conversations about the plant.

Explosion in Russia, kills three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ Moscow

Three people, including two police officers, were killed in a bomb blast in Russia on Wednesday near to the spot where a high-ranking general was killed days before. The blast happened after two police officers spotted a suspicious individual near a police car on the city's Yeletskaya Street, and when they approached the suspect to detain him, an explosive device was detonated, according to RIA Novosti agency.

The two police officers died from their injuries, along with another individual who was standing nearby. The blast

took place close to the location where a senior Russian general was killed in a car bombing in the capital on Monday. Lt Gen Fanil Sarvarov died after an explosive device — which had been planted under a car — was detonated, Interfax agency reported quoting Investigative Committee sources.

The Moscow State Traffic Inspectorate has identified the deceased officers as police lieutenants Ilya Klimanov, 24, and Maxim Gorbunov, 25, who joined the force in October 2023 and February 2022, respectively. Gorbunov is survived by his wife and nine-month-old daughter. Their families have been promised all nec-

essary assistance.

The third person — the suspected bomber and his identity — is being established through DNA tests by the forensic experts as police are examining footage of surveillance cameras, NTV channel said adding that he could be linked to the Ukrainian secret service. Meanwhile, several Russian regions including Moscow have come under Ukrainian drone attacks overnight, according to a Defence Ministry statement air defence systems destroyed 172 Ukrainian fixed-wing drones over Russian regions overnight, the Defence Ministry, TASS reported.

US lawmakers express concern over total ban of Bangladesh's Awami League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ New York/Dhaka



House Foreign Affairs Committee Representative Gregory Meeks

Crimes Tribunal," they said.

They pointed out that the Department of State and many other international observers have noted that the 2018 and 2024 General Elections in Bangladesh were not free or fair.

In a February fact-finding report, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights estimated that security services killed 1,400 people during the protests in July and August last year. "Genuine accountability for these acts and others should model the values of Bangladesh's democracy, rather than continue a cycle of retaliation," the lawmakers said.

The letter's cosigners include Representative Tom Suozzi. The lawmakers said that it is vital that the interim Government work with parties across the political spectrum to create the conditions for free and fair elections that allow the voice of the Bangladeshi people to be expressed peacefully through the ballot box, as well as reforms that restore confidence in the integrity and nonpartisanship of State institutions. "We are concerned that this cannot happen if the Government suspends activities of political parties or again restarts the flawed International

the decision to suspend the activity of any one political party. "Ultimately, the Bangladeshi people deserve to be able to choose an elected Government in a free and fair election in which all political parties can participate so that their voices are represented," they said. Bangladesh has banned all activities of deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party under an overnight revised anti-terorism law.

Aami League and its affiliated organisations were banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act 2025 until Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) completed the trial of its leaders and activists.

Violent student-led street protest dubbed 'July Uprising' toppled Hasina's Awami League regime on August 5, 2024 and Yunus' subsequent interim administration disbanded the party under an executive order disqualifying it from contesting the polls, slated for February 12, 2026.

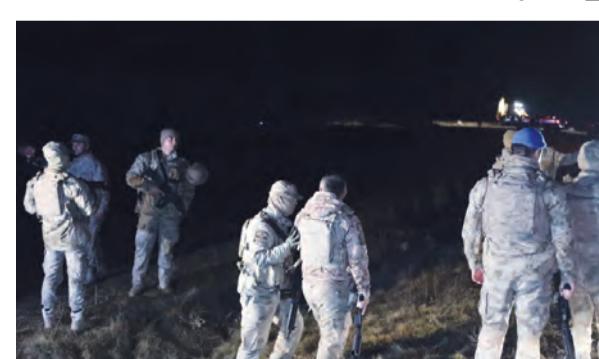
Bangladesh's domestic International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) last month sentenced Hasina to death trying her in absentia for committing crimes against humanity to tame the protesters. But the US foreign relations committee letter expressed concerns over the restart of "flawed International Crimes Tribunal" after suspending activities of political parties.

Critically-ill former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) emerged as the forerunner amid apparent disappearance of Awami League from the political landscape with its once key-partner in 2001-2006 Jamaat-e-Islami being its main rival.

Search teams probe wreckage after Libyan army chief, 7 others are killed in Turkiye plane crash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ Ankara



Soldiers and rescue teams searching for the remains of a private jet

Search and recovery teams on Wednesday intensified their operations at the site of a plane crash that killed Libya's military chief and other high-level officers, working to secure the area and locate the aircraft's flight recorders after a night of heavy rain and fog, Turkey's state-run news agency said.

The private jet carrying General Muhammad Ali Ahmad al-Haddad, four other officers and three crew members crashed in Turkiye on Tuesday after taking off

from the capital, Ankara, killing everyone on board. Libyan officials said the cause of the crash was a technical malfunction on the plane. The Libyan delega-

tion was on its way back to Tripoli after holding high-level defence talks in Ankara aimed at boosting military cooperation between the two countries.

Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah confirmed the deaths, describing the incident on Facebook as a "tragic accident" and a "great loss" for Libya.

Al-Haddad was the top military commander in western Libya and played a crucial role in the ongoing, UN-brokered efforts to unify Libya's military, which has split, much like Libya's other institutions.

BNP's acting chief set to return to Bangladesh after 17 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka



Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, who has been living in self-exile in London for nearly 17 years, is set to return home on Thursday, local media reported. Rahman, the 60-year-old son of ailing former premier Khaleda Zia, has emerged as a leading contender for prime minister in the upcoming February general elections. He will depart London's Heathrow Airport on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight with his wife, Dr Zubaida Rahman, and daughter Zaima Rahman, according to the Dhaka Tribune newspaper. He is expected to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport here on Thursday at 11:55 am local time. Rahman will travel by road from the airport. According to reports, party leaders and activists will line both sides of the road to greet him.

