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## International News

### Diplomacy and Geopolitics

**China-Russia Relations:** Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping met, with Putin stating that their countries' ties are at an "unprecedented level."

**India's Role at SCO:** At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for members to reject a "Cold War mentality." Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the summit to showcase India's strategic independence, sending distinct signals to the United States (under the Trump administration), Pakistan, and China. He also reiterated India's call for a lasting peace in Ukraine during his bilateral meeting with Putin, a stance that was praised by the Russian president.

**Ukraine Conflict:** German Chancellor Friedrich Merz stated that peace in Ukraine cannot come at the country's expense, suggesting the conflict could last for a long time.

**Indonesia Protests:** A human rights group reported that at least 20 people are missing following violent protests in Indonesia, which were sparked by lavish perks for lawmakers.

**Israel-Palestine:** Belgium announced it will recognize the State of Palestine at the UN General Assembly and confirmed sanctions against Israel. Egypt also condemned Israel's continued military expansion in the Gaza Strip.

### Other Major Events

**Afghanistan Earthquake:** A strong earthquake and multiple aftershocks in Afghanistan have killed over 800 people and injured 2,500. The UK has set out support for the victims, while Afghans in Delhi are awaiting news from their quake-hit homeland.

**Sudan Landslide:** A devastating landslide in Sudan's Darfur region has killed more than 1,000 people.

**North Korea-China:** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took a train to China for a military parade.

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### MCQS

1. Which of the following statements best describes the current state of China-Russia relations, as indicated by Russian President Vladimir Putin?

- a) Their ties are at an all-time low.
- b) Their relationship is strained due to international sanctions.
- c) Their countries' ties are at an "unprecedented level."
- d) They have a relationship based solely on economic cooperation.

**Answer: c)**

The provided text explicitly states that Russian President Vladimir Putin described China-Russia ties as being at an "unprecedented level." This indicates a strong and deepening relationship between the two nations.

2. At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, what did Chinese President Xi Jinping urge member nations to reject?

- a) The concept of multilateral trade agreements.
- b) A "Cold War mentality."
- c) Economic sanctions against other nations.
- d) The use of military force.

**Answer: b)**

According to the provided information, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on the members of the SCO to reject a "Cold War mentality," suggesting a preference for cooperation over confrontation.

3. What stance did Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi take on the Ukraine conflict during his bilateral meeting with President Putin?

- a) He urged a quick end to the conflict, even if it meant territorial concessions.
- b) He supported Russia's military actions.
- c) He reiterated India's call for a lasting peace in Ukraine.
- d) He announced new economic sanctions against Russia.

**Answer: c)**

The text notes that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used his meeting with Putin to reiterate India's call for a "lasting peace in Ukraine," a position that was praised by the Russian president. This demonstrates India's independent diplomatic position.

4. According to German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, what condition is essential for achieving peace in Ukraine?

- a) It must come at the expense of Ukraine's territory.
- b) It must be achieved through immediate and unconditional ceasefire.
- c) Peace cannot come at Ukraine's expense.







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d) A peaceful resolution is only possible with a change in government in Ukraine.

**Answer: c)**

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz stated that peace in Ukraine "cannot come at the country's expense," suggesting a long-term conflict and a commitment to maintaining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

**5. What was the cause of the violent protests and subsequent disappearances in Indonesia?**

- a) A recent increase in taxes on consumer goods.
- b) The signing of a new trade agreement with China.
- c) Lavish perks for lawmakers.
- d) Protests against the government's foreign policy.

**Answer: c)**

The information provided states that the violent protests in Indonesia were sparked by "lavish perks for lawmakers," which a human rights group reported has resulted in at least 20 people going missing.

**6. In the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, which two countries took recent diplomatic actions?**

- a) The United States and Russia.
- b) Belgium and Egypt.
- c) The United Kingdom and France.
- d) Germany and China.

**Answer: b)**

The text indicates that Belgium announced its recognition of the State of Palestine and confirmed sanctions against Israel, while Egypt condemned Israel's continued military expansion in the Gaza Strip.

**7. What major natural disaster and its subsequent effects are mentioned in Afghanistan?**

- a) A series of tsunamis that caused widespread flooding.
- b) A volcanic eruption that led to mass evacuations.
- c) A strong earthquake and multiple aftershocks that killed and injured thousands.
- d) A devastating hurricane that destroyed infrastructure.

**Answer: c)**

The text reports that a "strong earthquake and multiple aftershocks" in Afghanistan have killed over 800 people and injured 2,500, with the UK setting out support for the victims.

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