News Roundup (B1)

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Sections follow the student handout. Delete a section here when you delete it from the handout. The handout uses the short (quick) version of the reading.

Vocabulary: Fill in the Blank

1. courage
2. survivors
3. overcrowded / over-crowded
4. shortages
5. substitute
6. missile
7. wounded
8. suspended
9. quarantine
10. confirmed
11. rumors / rumours
12. ban
13. reliable
14. double-check / double check / doublecheck

Word Partners

Part A. 1 f 2 e 3 d 4 g 5 b 6 h 7 c 8 a

Phrases: show great courage; an overcrowded classroom; a reliable source; hand in your homework; suspend all flights; a travel ban; spread a rumor; go into quarantine.

Part B. 1 courageous 2 confirmation 3 unreliable 4 survive 5 wound 6 suspension

Comprehension Questions: Model Answers

1. *Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in this roundup, and what is her background?*
Navi Pillay won it. She is a South African lawyer and judge.

2. *What did Navi Pillay say she would do with the prize?*
She said she would dedicate the prize to the survivors of international crimes.

3. *Why are students in France protesting, and what did the government do?*
They say their schools are overcrowded and have shortages of teachers. The government sent 3,000 substitute teachers to the worst schools.

4. *What happened at the airport in Riyadh on October 10? Give two facts.*
A missile hit the airport in Riyadh. At least 12 people died and more than 300 were wounded, and operations stopped for a time.

5. *Who said they carried out the attack in Riyadh?*
The Houthis, an Iran-backed group in Yemen, said they carried out the attack.

6. *What do we know, and what do we not know, about the death of the technician in Russia?*
A 28-year-old technician died of pneumonia of unknown origin, and about 200 people were reportedly put under quarantine. Nobody has confirmed an accident at the laboratory, so the cause is still unclear.

7. *What did the World Health Organization say about the risk to the public?*
It said the risk to the public is low, but it asked for more information.

8. *What is the new rule about fireworks in the Netherlands, and why do supporters want it?*
The Netherlands has a new ban on fireworks for ordinary people. Supporters say that fireworks injure people and frighten animals.

9. *What advice does the writer give about breaking news? Do you agree? Give one reason.*
Open answer. A strong answer says the writer advises readers to double-check the main fact in a reliable second source before sharing, because early facts and numbers can change. Accept a reasoned agreement or a reasoned disagreement.

10. *True, False, or Not Given: "The unions accepted the government's offer and ended the protests." Explain your answer using the reading.*
    False. The unions still called for another day of action on October 13.
11. *Yes, No, or Not Given: "The writer believes that the first numbers in a news story are always correct." Explain your answer using the reading.*
    No. The writer says to be careful with early facts and gives a number that changed as an example.
12. *Author's purpose: Why does the writer say that the count in Riyadh changed from 12 to 13? Is it (a) to show that early numbers can change, (b) to prove that the attack was small, or (c) to say that officials always lie?*
    (a) To show that early numbers can change. The first count in Riyadh was 12 dead, and later reports said 13.

True or False

1. **T.** The Nobel Peace Prize went to Navi Pillay on October 9.
2. **T.** The reading says she worked as a lawyer in South Africa before she became a judge.
3. **F.** She is 85 years old.
4. **T.** They say their schools are overcrowded and have shortages of teachers.
5. **F.** The unions still called for another day of action.
6. **T.** A missile hit the airport in Riyadh on October 10.
7. **F.** It hit the airport in Riyadh, in Saudi Arabia.
8. **T.** The reading says about 200 people were reportedly put under quarantine.
9. **F.** Nobody has confirmed an accident at the laboratory.
10. **F.** The government invited people to hand in fireworks with no fine.

Language Focus: Time Clauses

Model answers. Accept any answer that uses the form correctly and makes sense.

1. Before I go to sleep, I usually read for ten minutes.
2. When I read a surprising headline, I look for a second source.
3. As soon as I wake up, I check the weather.
4. After I finish this class, I will have lunch with a friend.
5. I will keep studying English until I can talk to anyone easily.
6. After I wake up, I drink a glass of water.
7. When this lesson ends, I will go to the library.
8. While I wait for the bus, I listen to music.
9. Before I came to class today, I had breakfast.
10. After I get home tonight, I will cook dinner.

Accept any sensible time clause. For future meaning, the verb after the time word must be in the present simple (After I finish, I will…).

Notes on the Evidence

This is a news roundup written on the morning of October 12, 2026 (Korea time). Every figure is a snapshot and may have changed. All five stories were checked against several reports. Navi Pillay: the Nobel announcement of October 9, 2026 and its citation (for her efforts to promote peace and international law) appear in NPR, AFP, Al Jazeera, and UNRIC coverage. Her age (85) is from NPR and AFP. Birth year differs by source: 1940 (Al Jazeera) and 1941 (UNRIC); the reading gives only the age. Career details (defense of anti-apartheid activists, judge at the Rwanda tribunal and the International Criminal Court, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) are from UNRIC and Al Jazeera. A machine summary of one Al Jazeera page called her a current judge of the International Court of Justice; no other source says this and it was not used. She said she would dedicate the prize to survivors of international crimes (Al Jazeera).

France: protests began in September in the Paris suburbs. Euronews gives September 17; other outlets say "late September", so the reading says only September. The figure of 71,500 marchers on October 8 is from the Interior Ministry (Euronews, Brussels Signal). The 3,000 substitute teachers, sent from October 9 to schools rated red or orange, were announced by the education minister on October 8. Unions called new action for October 13 and October 17. Arrest and injury totals differ by source and are not used. The reading says many students are under 18 (Euronews).

Saudi Arabia: Saudi civil aviation officials reported at least 12 dead and 309 wounded after a missile hit King Khalid International Airport on Saturday, October 10 (Al Jazeera, Washington Post). NBC and Washington Post coverage later gave 13 dead; one report says an injured Indian national died on Sunday. The reading uses 12 then 13 on purpose, as an example of a number that changed. The Houthis claimed the attack and warned airlines (Washington Post). Reports of "some international airlines" suspending flights come from Jerusalem Post coverage. Reports differ on the date of earlier attacks that week (Tuesday or Thursday), so the reading does not date them. The US president said he was weighing joining the fight (NBC, Al Jazeera). Latest reports found were dated October 11; no report of Saudi retaliation strikes was found on the morning of October 12, though a Saudi-backed ground offensive in Yemen has been under way since about October 4 (CNN, Al-Monitor). The Houthi group is described as Iran-backed in most Western reports.

Russia: a technician at the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Research Institute in Shelekhov was admitted to hospital on September 29 and died on October 2, aged 28 (New Statesman, CNN). The state health agency Rospotrebnadzor called it pneumonia of unknown origin, denied a laboratory accident, and said contacts tested positive for Covid-19 and rhinovirus, not plague. About 200 people under observation or quarantine is a media figure (New Statesman, Atlantic Council). Plague and "lab leak" claims are unverified. The end of the quarantine on October 8 and the nearly 5,000 negative tests are reported by one secondary outlet (ua.news) quoting the regional governor. The WHO spokesperson called the epidemic risk low; the WHO director-general said on October 7 that the full picture was missing (via ua.news). The reading therefore does not call this a leak.

Netherlands: the law (Wet veilige jaarwisseling) was passed by parliament and the Senate in 2025 and came into force on August 1, 2026; the ban first applies at New Year 2026 to 2027 (business.gov.nl, IamExpat, July 2026). Several outlets wrongly reported that the ban started on January 1, 2026. Supporters cite injuries, property damage, violence against emergency workers (IamExpat) and harm to animals (animal-welfare groups and the Party for the Animals). Animals are therefore one reason among several, not the only one. The collection total (more than 4,000 kg) and the figure of more than 150 municipalities refusing exemptions are from NL Times, September 27, citing the Ministry of Justice and Security and ANP. Sources disagree on whether professional displays remain allowed; the reading does not say. Hindi and Arabic translations have not been checked by a native speaker. Links opened: Al Jazeera (Pillay, Riyadh), NL Times, business.gov.nl; the others appeared in search results.