News Roundup (C2)

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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. accountability
2. mobilization / mobilisation
3. overstretched / over-stretched
4. concession
5. provisional
6. retaliation
7. escalation
8. spilled over / spilt over
9. opaque
10. speculation
11. unfounded
12. corroborate
13. reassurances
14. patchwork

Word Partners

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

Phrases: a growing student mobilization; make a concession; wild speculation; prevent a military escalation; an opaque process; a patchwork of local rules; apply for an exemption; offer reassurance.

Part B. 1 accountable 2 mobilize / mobilise 3 escalate 4 speculate 5 exempt / exempted 6 corroboration

Comprehension Questions: Model Answers

1. *Who won the Nobel Peace Prize, and what did the committee say about international law?*
Navi Pillay won it. The committee said that judges and institutions of international law are under political attack.

2. *How does the reading describe the French student movement, and what did the government offer?*
It is a student mobilization that began in September in the suburbs of Paris. The government offered 3,000 substitute teachers, which the unions saw as insufficient.

3. *What happened at the airport in Riyadh on October 10, and who claimed responsibility?*
A missile struck King Khalid International Airport on October 10. The Houthis, an Iran-backed group in Yemen, claimed responsibility.

4. *Why does the writer call the casualty numbers provisional?*
Because later reports raised the toll from 12 to 13, so the first figures were not final.

5. *What is known and what is unknown about the death of the technician in Russia?*
Known: a 28-year-old technician died on October 2, and officials called it pneumonia of unknown origin and denied an accident. Unknown: the exact cause, since no test data has been published.

6. *Why does the writer say that reassurances carry little weight without data?*
Open answer. A strong answer says that calming statements cannot persuade people if they are not backed by evidence that others can check.

7. *How does the Dutch law treat exemptions, and why might the result be a patchwork?*
It allows exemptions, such as sparklers and shows permitted by a municipality. More than 150 municipalities say they will not permit shows, so rules will differ by place.

8. *What method does the writer recommend for reading breaking news?*
Open answer. A strong answer names watching for words such as reportedly, noticing who is speaking, and separating the claim from its evidence.

9. *Do you think a reader can apply the writer's method in the first hours of a story? Give a reason.*
   Open answer. Accept a reasoned yes (use caution words and compare sources) or a reasoned no (early facts are often unavailable). The answer should give one reason.
10. *True, False, or Not Given: "The French unions accepted the government's concession." Explain your answer using the reading.*
    False. The concession did not satisfy the unions, which called for a further day of action.
11. *Yes, No, or Not Given: "The writer believes that claims of a plague leak in Russia have been proved." Explain your answer using the reading.*
    No. The writer says no published evidence supports the claims, so they are unfounded, and never says they were proved.
12. *Author's purpose: Why does the writer include the change in the Riyadh toll from 12 to 13? Is it (a) to illustrate why early figures need caution, (b) to criticize the Saudi government, or (c) to show that the Houthi claim was false?*
    (a) To illustrate why early figures need caution. The first count was 12 and a later one was 13.

True or False

1. **T.** The reading says she began her career defending anti-apartheid activists.
2. **F.** It said that judges and institutions of international law are under political attack.
3. **T.** The mobilization began in September in the suburbs of Paris.
4. **F.** The concession did not satisfy the unions, which called for a further day of action.
5. **T.** It struck King Khalid International Airport, the main gateway to Riyadh.
6. **F.** Later reports raised the toll from 12 to 13.
7. **T.** The watchdog denied a laboratory accident.
8. **F.** No published evidence supports claims of a plague leak.
9. **T.** Sparklers remain legal, and a municipality may permit organized shows.
10. **F.** Supporters cite several reasons, so animal welfare is one argument among several.

Language Focus: Appositives

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

1. My hometown, a small port city, is famous for its seafood.
2. My best friend, a nurse, works at night.
3. The book I am reading now, a novel about a lighthouse, is very slow.
4. I admire my grandmother, a woman who raised five children.
5. Last week I visited Gyeongju, the ancient capital of Silla.
6. My favorite writer is Han Kang, the Nobel-winning novelist from Korea.
7. I come from Busan, a port city known for its beaches.
8. Pillay, the newest Nobel Peace Prize winner, is a former UN official.
9. I visited Tokyo, the capital of Japan.
10. My favorite teacher is Ms. Park, a specialist in physics.

Accept any grammatical appositive with commas. Check that the appositive is a noun phrase and not a full clause with its own verb.

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). This C2 version uses the same sources as the B1 version of this roundup. It adds Rospotrebnadzor by name (CNN, New Statesman) and the phrase "anti-plague research institute", and drops the specific institute name.

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.