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The **Makana 360 Daily Monitor Report** aims to provide timely and insightful updates on the most significant global news and top events, offering a concise overview of key developments that impact businesses, politics, and society. By curating and analyzing major trends, the report enhances awareness, facilitates informed decision-making, and supports strategic planning for our audience.

 **US forces kill two in strike on alleged drug boat in the Pacific**

The US military struck another vessel allegedly carrying drugs in the Pacific Ocean, killing two people on board, the Pentagon said. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth confirmed no US personnel were harmed and described the vessel as part of a known trafficking route. It marks the eighth US strike on suspected drug boats since September, but the first in the Pacific. President Donald Trump defended the operation, calling it vital for national security, and said he might seek congressional approval to expand strikes onto land. The US says it is engaged in a “non-international armed conflict” with drug-trafficking groups deemed terrorist organisations.

 **France backing away from pledge to intercept migrant boats**

France is retreating from its recent pledge to take stronger maritime action against small boats crossing the English Channel, BBC sources say. The shift, linked partly to France’s political turmoil, undermines UK efforts to curb illegal crossings. Despite promises of a new “maritime doctrine” allowing patrols to intercept and tow boats back to shore, insiders call it “just political talk.” Former Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau had driven tougher policies, leading to a summit between Macron and Starmer last July. However, French police remain hesitant to stop overcrowded “taxi boats” due to safety risks, with only rare interventions seen near Boulogne.

 **Ukraine could get 150 advanced Swedish fighter jets under just-signed deal**

Sweden, NATO’s newest member, has agreed in principle to sell Ukraine up to 150 of its advanced Saab Gripen-E fighter jets – the first major offer of jets from an alliance member. The deal, signed by President Volodymyr Zelensky and Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, remains a letter of understanding, with details on cost and delivery still pending. Both leaders hailed it as a potential “game changer” for Ukraine’s air defense and Europe’s security. The Gripen-E, known for its low maintenance and ability to operate from rough runways, could significantly boost Ukraine’s capabilities against Russia’s air superiority.



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