



LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- Little Rock Police say they are investigating a shooting at an Arkansas nightclub that left at least 17 people injured. Little Rock police chief Kenton Buckner told KTHV that the shooting early Saturday morning at the Power Ultra Lounge appears to have happened following "some sort of dispute broke out between people inside." Police say via Twitter that all 17 victims, some of whom suffered injuries while fleeing, are alive and one victim who was previously listed in critical condition is now stable. Police say they do not "believe this incident was an active shooter or terror related incident." The club is in downtown Little Rock about 1 mile east of the state Capitol.

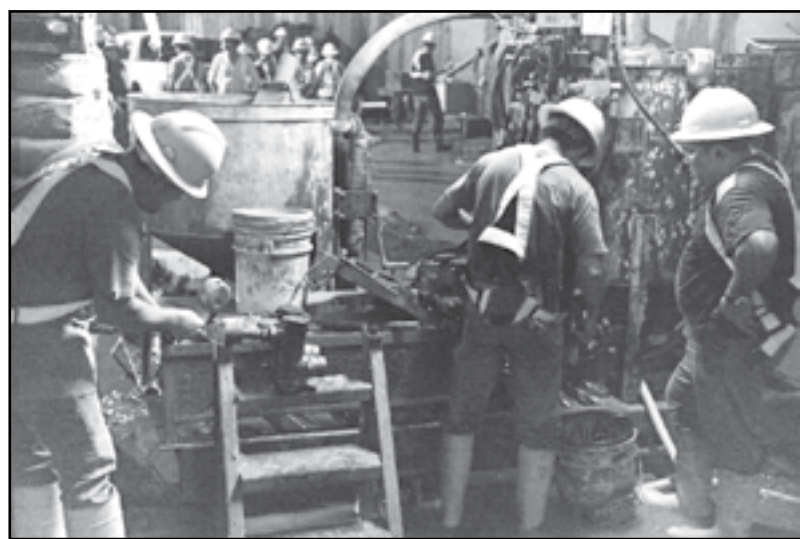
LONDON (Dispatches) -- British Prime Minister Theresa May is under pressure from her ministers to end the government's policy of economic austerity as a new poll shows her popularity has slumped, according to the Observer. Health minister Jeremy Hunt wants the government to drop a cap on public sector pay rises of a below-inflation 1 percent for nurses, while education minister Justine Greening wants more money for schools, according to the newspaper. Despite her party's expectations of a landslide victory, May lost her majority in parliament in last month's election, pushing her into a deal with a small euroskeptic Northern Irish Protestant party.

ISTANBUL (AFP) -- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday held talks with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in Istanbul as tension soared on the Syrian border between Turkish troops and a Kurdish militia. Sunday's meeting took place at Istanbul's Tarabya Palace by the Bosphorus, the presidency said, with images showing Turkey's top general Hulusi Akar and spy chief Hakan Fidan were also in attendance. Turkish troops and Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) have repeatedly exchanged cross-border fire in recent days and there is speculation Ankara may be planning an assault on the group in Afrin.

CAIRO (Reuters) -- An Egyptian court on Sunday upheld the death penalty for 20 men charged with killing policemen in the violence that followed the military's ousting of former-President Muhammad Morsi in 2013, while changing the sentence for many others to hefty prison terms. The verdicts can again be appealed. The case involves 156 people on trial and is known as the "Kerdasa incident" in reference to the pro-Muslim Brotherhood neighborhood where the violence took place in the Giza province adjacent to Cairo. Gunmen fired rocket propelled grenades at a police station in Kerdasa on Aug. 14, 2013, and slit a policeman's throat before burning the building down, hours after security forces violently dispersed two protest camps, killing hundreds.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - Brazilian police say they have captured a major drug lord known as "White Head" who used plastic surgeries to help him evade authorities for nearly three decades. Police say Luiz Carlos da Rocha was arrested Saturday in the state of Mato Grosso. He's been sentenced by Brazilian courts to more than 50 years in prison for international drug trafficking and money laundering. Police say Rocha's cartel produced cocaine in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia and exported it to Europe and the United States via Brazil and Paraguay. In Brazil alone, police estimate Rocha brought in 5 tonnes of cocaine per month.

Huge Power Outages Hit Central America



Workers at the Costa Rican Institute for Electricity are seen at the Reventazon River hydroelectric dam in 2016.

SAN JOSE (AFP) -- A huge power outage plunged millions of people across Central America into darkness Saturday, as authorities from Panama to Costa Rica to El Salvador scrambled to restore electrical service.

The blackout affected some five million people in Costa Rica alone, where officials largely had managed to restore service after a nationwide power outage lasting about five hours.

Authorities pinned blame for the power outages on a downed Panamanian transmission line that adversely affected the power supply for much of the region.

Countries in the region, from Guatemala to Panama, are connected by the same power grid, covering an expanse of some 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles).

But that interconnectedness means that the countries of Central America are vulnerable when there are power grid malfunctions in any one.

Chaos reigned in the Costa Rican capital after traffic lights ceased to function, while the main airport in San Jose had to run on backup power until the power system was up and running again.

The blackout was the first experienced in Costa Rica, among the most developed countries in Latin America, since 2001.

Officials said as many as two million people were left in the dark in Panama, with an undetermined number affected in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Details were not immediately available about how many people were affected by the blackout elsewhere in Central America, or whether they had managed to get their power systems back up and running.

Officials at the Costa Rican Institute for Electricity said power was disrupted throughout the entire country, but was restored in most places by 6:00 pm (0000 GMT).

"ICE is trying to diagnose the problem," Communications Minister Mauricio Herrera, said earlier Saturday referring to the office by its Spanish acronym. He said that workers succeeded in restoring power to some areas of Costa Rica.

ICE said that the origins of the blackout were outside of the country and urged the public to remain indoors while they try to fix the problem.

In Panama, the ETESA government power authority said via Twitter that the nation had experienced just a "partial blackout" and that workers were trying to restore power to the affected areas.

Much of the power was restored about three hours after the blackout started, officials said.

The blackout in Panama occurred about 15 minutes into a major speech delivered by President Juan Carlos Varela to the country's legislature.

Dems Push Bill to Oust Trump for Mental Illness



President Donald Trump has drawn a barrage of criticism, including from his fellow Republicans, after firing off his latest volley in his escalating feud with U.S. media.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- At least 25 House Democrats support a bill to create an oversight commission on presidential capacity -- a panel that would judge a president's mental fitness for office.

A clause in the 25th Amendment, which lays out the rules for succession in case of presidential disability, lets Congress set up its own panel to review the chief executive's fitness to serve.

Four of the Democrats signed on to the effort following Trump's Thursday tweets attacking MSNBC host Mika Brzezinski, said the bill's chief sponsor, Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland. "I'm convinced most Americans believe we are living in a very strange reality," Raskin

told Yahoo News. "The question is, what are the escape routes we have, and the 25th Amendment is one of them."

The 11-member commission would include psychiatrists and doctors, Raskin said.

But even if the bill passed, Raskin's commission could jettison Trump only if Vice President Mike Pence were on board.

"In case of emergency, break glass," Raskin said during an interview with Yahoo News. "If you look at the record of things that have happened since January, it is truly a bizarre litany of events and outbursts."

The 25th Amendment was adopted in 1967 following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Under Section 4 of the

Amendment, the vice president and a majority of the president's cabinet members could lawfully determine that the president is "unable to discharge the powers and duties" of the office. After providing a document stating their claim to Congress, the president would be removed from office.

If a president challenged the finding and demanded to be reinstated, a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress would be required to block it. In addition to the president's cabinet, Section 4 of the 25th Amendment also grants Congress, working in concordance with the vice president, the right to declare a president unfit for office--language that Raskin, a former Constitutional law professor, is hoping capitalize on.

Raskin's bill would create a nonpartisan panel appointed by congressional leaders composed of four physicians, four psychiatrists and three others--such as former presidents, vice presidents or other former senior government officials.

If directed by Congress, the commission would conduct an examination of President Trump "to determine whether the president is incapacitated, either mentally or physically."

After Trump's latest round of controversial tweets, four more Democrats signed on to Raskin's bill, according to his office, bringing the total number of sponsors to 25.

"The question is, where are we going to be six months, 12 months, 18 months from now? The presidency is considered extremely stressful for people with the strongest mental health," Raskin said. "We need to be prepared for all eventualities."

Indigenous Groups Mark Canada Day With Protests



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau leaves a Teepee on Parliament Hill in Ottawa after a brief meeting with indigenous activists.

OTTAWA (Al Jazeera) -- Indigenous people across Canada held ceremonies, events and protests on Saturday, saying there was nothing to celebrate as the country marked its 150th anniversary.

On Parliament Hill in the capital Ottawa, where thousands gathered to celebrate Canada Day, groups of indigenous people and their supporters were "reoccupying" what they said was their land and drawing attention to the history and oppression of the aboriginal people.

"The goal of the reoccupation is to express our indigenous sovereignty in the face of these toxic national celebrations," Freddy Stoneypoint, organizer of the demonstrations, told Al Jazeera.

"As an indigenous person, this is an opportune moment to make our community, which has been rendered invisible by the colonial occupation, known," said Stoneypoint, a member of the Ojibwe nation.

Stoneypoint is one of five Carleton

University students who, together with the Bawating Water Protectors, have erected a teepee on the land that is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people.

"When your identity and culture are suppressed, there shouldn't be celebrations," said Hamda Deria, another organizer.

The group first tried to erect the teepee on Wednesday, but was met with "violent resistance" from the police which arrested nine people before releasing them later.

"This is not a protest. This is an active ceremony and an active resistance," Deria said.

On Friday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met a small group inside the teepee. Stoneypoint, who was not present at the meeting, said he viewed Trudeau's unannounced visit as a "violent act" that was only for "self-serving purposes".

In addition to the reoccupation teepee ceremony, many other indigenous groups and activists planned events and protests for Saturday.

Idle No More and Defenders of the Land, two networks of indigenous communities, called for a National Day of Action, centered on the theme of "UNsettling Canada 150".

Inspired by First Nations political leader Arthur Manuel, who died in January, organizers called on members of the indigenous community and its supporters to "educate" the Canadian population about

their "right to self determination".

"I do not wish to celebrate Canada stealing our land. That is what Canadians will be celebrating on July 1, the theft of 99.8% of our land, leaving us on reserves that make up only 0.2% of the territories of given to us by the Creator," Manuel wrote in his last article before he died.

Russ Diabo, an organizer and member of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake, added that the planned action was also an "alternative celebration" for the indigenous communities, highlighting their "survival ... and right to self-determination" of their land, territories and resources.

The Canadian government is spending more than 0.5bn Canadian dollars (\$386m) on the celebrations, the highest ever spent on Canada Day.

"For many of us from the grassroots, we find it repugnant that Canada is celebrating 150 years of what we consider is racism and genocide and colonialism," Diabo said when asked what message the high price-tag sends to the indigenous community.

Sakihitowin Awasis, member of Michif Anishinaabe nation, said it was "extremely disheartening" that so much money was spent on the celebrations when the indigenous communities continue to face "a health and suicide crisis", "boiled water advisories", and an "epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women".

China Gaining Superiority Over U.S.: Official



The Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the U.S. ballistic missile defense system launches during a flight test from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, May 30, 2017.

WASHINGTON (CNBC) -- The former director of a U.S. intelligence program that helped Ronald Reagan improve America's missile defenses has lashed out at President Donald Trump's technology policies, saying they won't be enough to guarantee America's economic and military superiority over China.

The criticism from Michael Sekora, a trained physicist who ran the Socrates Project for the Defense Intelligence Agency from 1983 to 1990, comes soon after an upbeat meeting between the White House and tech leaders, and amid reports Trump is considering Chinese trade sanctions.

Project Socrates was tasked three decades ago with discovering the reasons why America was losing its economic competitiveness to Japan and others. The program's findings ultimately helped the U.S. surpass the Soviet Union in missile defense technology, accord-

ing to Sekora, who now runs a Texas-based consulting firm called Quadrigy.

By favoring government procurement of products made by U.S. firms like Apple, Microsoft and IBM and a balance-of-trade approach to foreign policy, "Trump is addressing the symptoms, not the disease" that's caused the U.S. to slip behind China in several key technologies, Sekora told CNBC in a phone interview.

China now has the world's fastest supercomputers, manufactures most of the world's computer chips and is the leading maker of drone hardware, he observed.

"Anybody who thinks China's advantage is cheap labor and currency manipulation is not paying attention," said Sekora, who ran the government effort to boost U.S. competitiveness for Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

The worry among strategic thinkers like

Sekora is that China has become the main threat to America's lead in military capability and economic output.

"China has become a superpower faster than any nation in world history," Sekora told CNBC. The key is, China has done it through technology-based planning. The country "is run by engineers and physicists, not MBAs and economists," Sekora said.

By stark contrast, Trump is merely continuing U.S. policy, in place since the end of World War II, that calls for the U.S. government to follow a budget-driven procurement process.

"Every person Trump has appointed is from the world of finance-based planning," said Sekora.

This approach to planning was the main reason behind a decline in America's competitive position, the Socrates analysts found.

"fucking enough".

"This complicit government will do nothing," he wrote, "so it's up to us to use every means we can," whilst adding the hashtag #stopinvasion.

In June, the Five Star Movement's mayor of Rome, Virginia Raggi, called for suspending the admission of refugees into the capital after what she called "a continued influx of foreign citizens" has left the city unable to provide further accommodation.

Italy Threatens to Seize Refugee Boats, Close Ports

PARIS (Dispatches) -- Italy has threatened to confiscate charity-run refugee rescue ships and close its seaports entirely to the mass influx of asylum seekers arriving via the Mediterranean route from Africa.

The southern European nation reportedly made the threat at an emergency European Union summit on Sunday after the country was overwhelmed last week by the arrival of 13,500 Africans in just two days, picked up off the coast

of Libya, leaving asylum seeker centers in a state of "collapse".

The move came less than a week after the country threatened to close seaports to rescue boats operated by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Italy's interior minister, Marco Minniti, demanded action from the EU at talks in Paris with his French, German, and Spanish counterparts.

The Italian government has said aid groups operating the rescue ships are acting as a "pull factor" for people smugglers and refugees attempting to enter Europe illegally. Officials were to threaten that unless NGOs did not adhere to strict rules to be discussed at the summit, their boats could be impounded and they would be banned from landing at Italian ports.

Italy, now the main point of entry to Europe, has seen more than 500,000 refugee arrivals since

2014. Nearly 100,000 refugees have reportedly crossed the Mediterranean since the beginning of 2017.

The country's populist parties, such as the Northern League and Five Star Movement, have seen increased public support since the beginning of the continent's refugee crisis.

The head of the Northern League, Matteo Salvini, threatened following the arrival of 8,500 illegal refugees on Tuesday alone that it was