

Protests Continue After End of G20 Summit



Protesters demonstrate against the G20 economic summit during a protest march on July 08, 2017 in Hamburg.

HAMBURG, Germany (Dispatches) -- **Anti-globalization activists have rioted for a third consecutive night in Hamburg even after Group of 20 leaders had already left the northern German city.**

Police used water cannon trucks again early Sunday against rioters attacking them with iron rods and pavement blocks.

They arrested 144 protesters and temporarily detained another 144 persons.

At a news conference, the head of operations for Hamburg police, Hartmut Dudde, said 476 officers had been injured since Thursday in a deployment of more than 20,000 officers, and 186 people were detained. No accurate number for protesters injured was available.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel condemned the violence, saying "Germany's reputation is severely affected internationally by the events in Hamburg."

Gabriel told Bild am Sonntag paper that a Europe-wide investigative team should search for suspects.

Protesters torched cars and lorries, smashed windows in banks, looted retail stores and hurled paving slabs and other objects before police managed to restore order.

Most of the 100,000 protesters were peaceful, hoisting signs saying the G20 leaders were not welcome, or engaging in mass bicycle processions through the city center wearing brightly colored uniforms.

Climate and trade were two of the most contentious issues, in part due to the assertive stance taken on both by U.S. President Donald Trump.

In the wake of Trump's decision to leave the Paris climate agreement, the group agreed in a draft statement to "take note" of the U.S. withdrawal while the other 19 reaffirmed support of the Paris deal to limit emissions of greenhouse gases scientist say are behind global warming.

Anti-Racism Protesters Arrested at U.S. Klan Rally

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (Dispatches) -- **Several Ku Klux Klan opponents have been arrested at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.**

Dozens of Klan members were protesting against a city council decision to remove a statue honoring Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

The police was guarded by scores of the group but outnumbered by hundreds of counter-demonstrators who waved signs denouncing racism.

The anti-KKK protesters raised their voices in chants and shouts, drowning out speeches from the white supremacists, live video feeds on social media showed.

"It's an open-carry state, so our members will be armed," said James Moore, a member of the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which is headquartered in Pelham, N.C., near the Virginia border.

At least one person who participated in the Klan rally against the statute removal could be seen with a holstered pistol.

Confederacy statues and flags have been removed from public spaces across the United States



Ku Klux Klan opponents face off white supremacists at Justice Park in Charlottesville, Virginia on July 8, 2017.

since 2015, after a white supremacist murdered nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church.

Critics of the monuments say they foster racism by celebrating leaders of the Confederacy in the pro-slavery South during the U.S. Civil War. Supporters say they represent an indelible part of U.S. history and part of regional heritage.

The University of Virginia issued a statement condemning the KKK and urging members of the university community to avoid confrontation and support the other events.

"We want them to know there's no platform for white supremacy," said Grace Aheron, who works for a nonprofit organization in Charlottesville.

"They say to ignore them and that they're just a small group, but we've watched the rise of many people, including our current president, who hold many similar views. It's enraging that the city would give a permit to a known terrorist organization."

Death Toll From Japan Floods Rises to 18



The picture shows an aerial view of flooded Asakura City, Fukuoka prefecture, on July 6, 2017.

TOKYO (AFP) -- **The death toll from heavy rains and flooding in Japan's heavy has risen to 18, officials said Sunday, as rescue teams continued their search for survivors.**

Swathes of Kyushu - the southernmost of Japan's four main islands - have been left devastated after overflowing rivers and torrential downpours swept away roads, houses and schools this week.

Thousands of people have been evacuated to makeshift shelters in school gyms and public buildings, but many remain stranded, with emergency services battling through thick mud and rain to try to reach them.

More than 500 people were still cut off by Sunday, public broadcaster NHK reported, with collapsed bridges and waterlogged ground on steep hillsides hampering rescue efforts.

The government was doing its "utmost" to recover those missing or stranded, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said in a rare weekend press conference.

Officials of Fukuoka and Oita prefectures said a total 18 people had been confirmed dead while 27 were missing or could not be reached.

Five people were in critical condition, Suga said, with the government still trying to ascertain if their injuries were a result of the severe weather.

Television footage showed rescue helicopters held up at a makeshift heliport -- unable to fly because of the downpours, while people prayed for the safety of their family members.

More than 50 centimeters (20 inches) of rain deluged parts of Kyushu in 12 hours on Wednesday, prompting the Japan Meteorological Agency to warn of possible significant damage.

Rains have continued intermittently since, with up to 22 centimeters recorded in Fukuoka in the past 72-hour period.

Japan's weather agency on Sunday warned of continued heavy rains and mudslides in northern Kyushu.

Pyongyang-Based Media Warn: U.S. Pushing Koreas to Brink of Nuclear War



U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping talk on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg on July 8, 2017.

SEOUL (Dispatches) -- **North Korean state media have sharply criticized a recent practice bombing run by two U.S. B-1B bombers on the Korean peninsula, calling it a dangerous move raising the risk of nuclear war.**

A commentary Sunday in the ruling party's Rodong Sinmun newspaper accused the U.S. of "reckless military provocations" and said the danger of nuclear war is reaching an extreme pitch. The commentary was reported on in English by the state Korean Central News Agency. "The U.S., with its dangerous military provocation, is pushing the risk of a nuclear war on the peninsula to a tipping point," it said.

The article, published under the title "Don't play with fire on a powder keg," described the Korean Peninsula as the "world's biggest tinderbox."

Two U.S. Air Force bombers released inert weapons Friday on a training range in South Korea. South Korean F-15 and U.S. F-16 fighter jets joined them in the drill. The bombers also flew with Japanese F-2 fighter jets over the East China Sea on their way back to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The 10-hour mission came three days after North Korea tested an intercontinental ballistic missile on Fourth of July, America's Independence Day.

Pyongyang described the joint drill as a "dangerous military gambit of warmongers who are trying to ignite the fuse of a nuclear war

on the peninsula."

"A small misjudgment or error can immediately lead to the beginning of a nuclear war, which will inevitably lead to another world war," the Sunday editorial read.

Trump Friendly With Xi

Trump took a conciliatory tone on Saturday at a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping where the leaders agreed to keep working on North Korea's nuclear issue and bilateral trade irritants.

"It's an honor to have you as a friend," Trump told Xi. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the Trump-Xi meeting lasted over an hour-and-a-half, and they had "substantive discussions" about how to deal with North Korea together.

Xinhua said Xi stressed to Trump China's position that it adheres to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and maintaining peace and stability there.

While China has been angered by North Korea's repeated nuclear and missile tests, it also blames the United States and South Korea for worsening tension with their military exercises.

Xi also reiterated China's opposition to the U.S. deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system in South Korea, Xinhua said. China says THAAD threatens its security, despite U.S. and South Korean assurances it is aimed only at defending against North Korea.

Brexit May Never Happen: Top Lawmaker

LONDON (Reuters) -- **Britain's scheduled exit from the European Union may never happen because its main political parties are too divided on the issue, said Vince Cable, a veteran lawmaker bidding to lead the fourth largest political party, the Liberal Democrats.**

Prime Minister Theresa May's failure to win an outright majority in a snap national election last month has cast doubt on her capacity to lead Britain out of the EU, sharpening a debate on what sort of exit deal the government should seek.

"I'm beginning to think that Brexit may never happen," Cable told the BBC on Sunday. "The problems are so enormous, the divisions within the two major parties are so enormous I can see a scenario in which this doesn't happen."

Cable served as business minister between 2010 and 2015 when the pro-European Liberal Democrats were the junior partners in a coalition government led by May's Conservative Party.

He is currently the only candidate in a contest for leadership of his party.

The Liberal Democrats' influence has waned since 2015, and they hold just 12 out of 650 seats in parliament.

They campaigned in the 2017 election to give Britons a second referendum on leaving the EU once a final deal had been agreed - something Cable described as a possible way out of Brexit.

The Conservatives are historically divided between a deeply eurosceptic faction and more pro-European members. That is expected to make life difficult for May when she puts Brexit legislation through parliament because she will need to unite the party to win key votes.

The second-largest party, Labor, is also riven by disagreement on what kind of deal would work best for Britain's economy.

Last month Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn sacked three members of his policy team after they defied his wishes by coming down in favor of Britain staying in the single European market in a parliamentary vote.

News in Brief

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- **U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday it was time to work "constructively" with Russia, saying Vladimir Putin had "vehemently denied" meddling in the 2016 election.**

"I strongly pressed President Putin twice about Russian meddling in our election," Trump said after returning from Europe where he met Putin for the first time. "He vehemently denied it. I've already given my opinion...."

Writing on Twitter, Trump said he and Putin had talked about the idea of setting up what he called "an impenetrable cyber security unit" to prevent hacking in future elections. He also said the two men had discussed the implementation of a ceasefire in Syria which began on Sunday, saying "it will save lives". "Now it is time to move forward in working constructively with Russia!"

KIEV (Reuters) -- **Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said Sunday the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Kiev was a powerful show of Washington's support, as Tillerson urged Russia to ease the separatist conflict in the country's east.**

Tillerson welcomed the appointment of Kurt Volker as a Special Representative to the Minsk peace process, saying Volker's experience as a career diplomat would help bring about the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. Poroshenko added that Volker, who accompanied Tillerson to Kiev, will stay in the Ukrainian capital for several days to speed up coordination between the U.S. and Ukraine.

WARSAW (AFP) -- **Authorities in Bialystok, Poland, evacuated about 10,000 people from their homes Sunday morning after a 500-kilogram World War II-era bomb was found during construction work.**

Residents on about 60 streets in the northeastern city near the Belarus border, along with those living on 45 streets in two suburbs, had to leave after military experts determined there was a risk the bomb could explode while being extracted from the site by a crane. Evacuations were also carried out along the route soldiers were to take to bring the bomb to a military base where it would be destroyed.

JUBA (AFP) -- **South Sudan marked its sixth independence anniversary Sunday in muted fashion, with no official celebration, as the world's newest nation reels from a brutal and destructive ongoing civil war.**

A third of the population has been forced from their homes creating one of the world's worst refugee crises, tens of thousands have been killed and a famine and food shortages have threatened the lives of millions more. "Today I have nothing to celebrate," said 34-year-old father of three Ariik Majok, who works as a night watchman in the capital. On July 9, 2011, dignitaries from around the world joined crowds of South Sudanese to celebrate the country's independence from Sudan, to the north, after decades of civil war. But two years later, in December 2013, a new conflict was sparked when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy, Riek Machar, of plotting a coup.

CARACAS (Dispatches) -- **Venezuela's opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez has vowed to continue with his subversive activities after being released from jail and placed under house arrest.**

The surprise move came amid intensifying pressure on the government of Nicolas Maduro, with a rising toll of death and destruction from three months of non-stop street riots. Lopez, leader of the Voluntad Popular (Popular Will) party, emerged hours after his release from prison looking fit and happy. He pumped his fist in the air, unfurled the Venezuelan flag and told a crowd of supporters who had gathered outside: "Yes, we can!"