



**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** -- Democratic U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris held a marginal 46% to 43% lead over Republican former President Donald Trump, with a glum electorate saying the country is on the wrong track, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found. Harris' lead in the six-day poll, which closed on Monday, differed little from her 45% to 42% advantage over Trump in a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted a week earlier, reinforcing the view that the contest is extraordinarily tight with just two weeks left before the Nov. 5 election. Both polls showed Harris with a lead within the margin of error, with the latest poll showing her ahead just 2 percentage points when using unrounded figures. The new poll showed that voters have a dim view of the state of the economy and immigration - and they generally favor Trump's approach on these issues. Some 70% of registered voters in the poll said their cost of living was on the wrong track, while 60% said the economy was heading in the wrong direction and 65% said the same of immigration policy.

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** -- Washington state authorities said on Monday that five people were killed in a shooting at a home near Seattle and that a 15-year-old boy is in custody for the killings. Three children and two adults were killed, the King County Sheriff's department said in a statement. A girl who lived in the house was also injured. It was not immediately clear if all those involved were members of the same family, and the sheriff's department said it was still working to determine a motive for the violence. The boy taken into custody was booked at the King County juvenile detention facility and was expected to make a first court appearance on Tuesday or Wednesday, the sheriff's department said.

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** -- China is holding live-fire drills off the coast of its southern Fujian province facing Taiwan, just a week after a massive air-and-sea drill it described as punishing for Taiwan's president rejecting Beijing's claims of sovereignty. The live-fire drills were being held near the Pingtan islands, according to a notice from the Maritime Safety Administration. It warned ships to avoid the area. It did not offer additional details. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said China's drills were part of an annual exercise and it was tracking them. "It cannot be ruled out that it is one of the ways to expand the deterrent effect in line with the dynamics in the Taiwan Strait," the statement added. Taiwan is a self-ruled island that Beijing claims is part of China. Tensions around the issue have flared in recent years.

**NAIROBI (AFP)** -- Kenya's High Court began Tuesday hearing an appeal by impeached Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over his ouster in an unprecedented Senate vote last week. But as the proceedings got under way, President William Ruto filed an objection, saying the court did not have the jurisdiction to hear the case and that it was a matter for the Supreme Court. In a fast-moving and sometimes confusing saga that has plunged the upper echelons of Kenyan politics into disarray, the High Court in Nairobi on Friday ordered the historic impeachment to be put on hold. Its ruling came just minutes after parliament had approved Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki to replace Gachagua as Ruto's deputy.

**BRASILIA (Reuters)** -- Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the head injury he suffered from a fall at home over the weekend was "serious" and that doctors expect to have a clear view on its severity in three or four days, according to a phone call published by an ally. The president's injury forced him to cancel a trip to Russia for a summit of the BRICS group of major emerging markets being held in Kazan, following medical advice to temporarily avoid long-haul flights. "It was serious, but did not affect any particularly sensitive area," Lula told ally Luiz Caetano in a phone call. Caetano, who is running for mayor of the northeastern city of Camacari in the runoff of Brazilian municipal elections next weekend, shared a video with clips of the call with Lula on social media. These were the first publicly shared remarks from Lula since his injury.

**LIMA (Reuters)** -- Peruvian former President Alejandro Toledo was convicted of taking bribes from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht and sentenced to 20 years and six months in prison on Monday. The verdict marks Peru's first high-profile conviction related to Brazil's continent-spanning Lava Jato corruption scandal. Toledo, a 78-year-old economist who holds a doctorate from Stanford University, governed the Andean nation between 2001 and 2006. He was convicted of taking \$35 million in bribes from the company formerly known as Odebrecht, according to prosecutors, in exchange for letting it win a contract to build the road that now connects Peru's southern coast with an Amazonian area in western Brazil. During the year-long trial, Toledo denied the money-laundering and collusion charges. Odebrecht, now known as Novonor, was at the center of Latin America's largest graft scandal, after admitting in 2016 that it bribed officials in a dozen countries to secure public works contracts.

## Zelensky: U.S. Package to Fund Production of Drones



Ukrainian soldiers of 3rd assault brigade fly an FPV exploding drone over Russian positions in Kharkiv region, Aug. 24, 2024.

**KYIV (Dispatches)** -- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the United States was preparing an aid package worth \$800 million to finance production of Ukrainian drones.

Zelensky, in his nightly video address, said the package was in addition to a \$400 million package for new arms announced during U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's visit to Kyiv.

"A separate package is also being prepared -- \$800 million in funding for the production of Ukrainian drones," Zelensky said.

"Ukraine is grateful for this. We need to ensure that, whatever the political threats in the world, Ukraine can consistently defend its sovereignty and independence."

Since the full-fledged war began in February 2022, Ukraine has focused efforts on boosting domestic weapons production, particularly drones.

Zelensky told a meeting with foreign arms manufacturers this month that Ukraine could produce four million drones annually and was quickly ramping up its production of other weapons.

He said Ukraine had already contracted to produce 1.5 million drones this year.

Russian officials said Tuesday a Ukrainian drone attack caused an explosion and fire at a biochemical plant in the Tambov region. Ukrainian drones also damaged two distilleries in the Tula region, officials said Tuesday.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Tuesday it shot down 11 Ukrainian drones over the Bryansk region, three drones over Belgorod, two over Kursk and each over the Tula and Oryol regions.

In Ukraine, Sumy Governor Ihor Kalchenko said a Russian drone attack killed three people. Kalchenko said Ukrainian air defenses shot down 25 Russian drones in the region.

The United States "will get Ukraine what it needs" to continue to fight its 32-month war with Russia, Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin said Monday during a visit to Kyiv.

But he gave no indication the U.S. would consent to Ukraine's wish to immediately join NATO or allow Kyiv's forces to launch missile strikes deeper into Russia.

"Europe's future is on the line," Austin said in a speech at the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine. "NATO's strength is on the line. America's security is on the line."

As Austin visited Ukraine, the U.S. announced its 68th tranche of military aid since the start of the war with Russia, about \$400 million in new armaments, including munitions for rocket systems and artillery mortar systems and rounds, armored vehicles and anti-tank weapons.

## World's Anglican Leader Admits Ancestral Link to Slavery

**LONDON (AFP)** -- The leader of the world's Anglican communion, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, on Tuesday said that one of his ancestors owned slaves at a plantation in Jamaica.

His admission comes after he previously apologized for the Church of England's historic links to slavery, calling it a "source of shame", and urging followers to confront the past.

Welby, 68, said in a personal statement on his website that his late biological father, Anthony Montague Browne, "had an ancestral connection to the enslavement of people in Jamaica and Tobago".

"His great, great grandfather was Sir James Fergusson, an owner of enslaved people at the Rozelle Plantation in St Thomas, Jamaica," he added.

A number of former British colonies in the region are currently pushing for a formal apology and reparations from the royal family for their role in the trans-Atlantic trade in people.

Three candidates to be the next secretary-general of the Commonwealth group of mainly former British colonies, whose leaders meet this week in Samoa, have also all said they back compensation.

Welby's formal apology for the Church of England's role in the slave trade came in the wake of global anti-racism protests in 2020.

He also called the church "deeply institutionally racist" and apologized for Britain's treatment of black people and other minorities since World War II.

In 2023, the Church Commissioners who handles the body's finances and investments were told to increase its compensation scheme for communities affected by slavery to £1 billion.

Britain will not bring the issue of reparations for historical transatlantic slavery to the table at a meeting of Commonwealth nations that began in Samoa on Monday.

Leaders and officials from 56 coun-



King Charles and Prime Minister Keir Starmer are set to face demands for the UK to pay an astonishing £200 billion in compensation for its role in the slave trade when they attend a Commonwealth summit this month.

tries with roots in Britain's former empire attend this week the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in the Pacific Island nation.

Consecutive British governments have rejected calls for reparations but the chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) reparations commission, Hilary Beckles, told Reuters there were hopes this stance might change under the new Labour administration after 14 years of Conservative rule.

Both British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and King Charles will attend the Samoa meeting.

But a spokesperson for Starmer reiterated on Monday that reparations were not on his agenda. "We do not pay reparations," the spokesperson said. "The position on an apology remains the same. We won't be offering an apology at CHOGM."

# North Korea Says Troops in Ukraine 'Groundless Rumor'



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects troops in Pyongyang on October 17, 2024 in this photo released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency.

**UNITED NATIONS (AFP)** -- North Korea has not sent troops to Russia to help Moscow fight Ukraine, one of its United Nations representatives said, dismissing Seoul's claims as "groundless rumor".

South Korea's spy agency said Friday that Pyongyang sent a "large-scale" troop deployment to help its ally, claiming that 1,500 special forces were already training in Russia's Far East and ready to head soon for the frontlines of the Ukraine war.

"As for the so-called military cooperation with Russia, my delegation does not feel any need for comment on such groundless stereotyped rumors," a North Korean representative said during the UN General Assembly in New York.

Seoul's claims were "aimed at

smearing the image of the DPRK and undermining the legitimate, friendly and cooperative relations between two sovereign states," the representative told a committee meeting.

Pyongyang and Moscow have drawn closer since the 2022 Ukraine war, with Seoul and Washington claiming that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been sending weapons for use in Ukraine.

Russia has also not confirmed the troop deployment, but defended its military cooperation with North Korea.

After Seoul summoned Russia's ambassador to South Korea to complain, the envoy "stressed that cooperation between Russia and North Korea... is not directed against the interests of South Korea's security."

Neither NATO nor the United

States have confirmed the deployment, but both have cast it as a potentially dangerous escalation in the long-running Ukraine conflict.

Kim's powerful sister released a statement later Tuesday, calling Ukraine and the South "bad dogs bred by the U.S.," and again accusing Seoul of sending unmanned drones to Pyongyang.

"Seoul and Kyiv are exact counterparts in going about bagging and letting loose reckless remarks against nuclear weapons states at random without follow-up capability," Kim Yo Jong said.

South Korea's military initially denied sending drones, but has subsequently declined to comment, even after Pyongyang released images of what it claimed to be a drone sent from Seoul.

Kim Yo Jong added that Pyongyang's investigation into the case is ongoing and the "truth behind the despicable provocation" by the South will be "analyzed further in detail".

South Korea "strongly condemned" Pyongyang on Tuesday, urging North Korean troops to be immediately withdrawn, warning it would "not stand idly by" if the military alliance between the North and Russia continues.

Also on Tuesday, the South Korean news agency Yonhap reported that Seoul is considering sending personnel to Ukraine to monitor North Korean troop deployments, citing a government source.

## China Confirms 'Resolution' With India Over Border



Clashes between Indian and Chinese troops on the largely undemarcated frontier left 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers dead in 2020.

**BEIJING (AFP)** -- China said Tuesday it had reached a "resolution" with India over issues related to their disputed border, after New Delhi said it had struck a deal with Beijing for military patrols along the frontier.

China and India, the world's two most populous nations, are intense rivals and have regularly accused each other of trying to seize territory along their unofficial divide, known as the Line of Actual Control.

After a border skirmish in 2020, which killed at least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers, both sides pulled back tens of thousands of troops and agreed not to send patrols into a narrow strip surrounding the Line of Actual Control.

Beijing's foreign ministry said Tuesday it had given its "positive approval" to a border deal, confirming a similar statement by New Delhi on Monday.

"Recently, China and India have maintained close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues relating to the China-India border," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a regular news briefing.

"Currently, the two sides have reached a resolution on the relevant issues. China gives its positive approval to this," Lin said.

"In the next stage, we will properly implement that resolution with the Indian side," he said.

On Monday, India's top foreign min-

istry bureaucrat Vikram Misri said that "agreement has been arrived at on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control".

The deal would lead to "disengagement and eventually a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," Misri said.

India's external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said disengagement with China was "complete" and that details would come out in "due course".

The understanding "creates a basis for peace and tranquility along the border, which were there before 2020," he said at a conference hosted by Indian broadcaster NDTV.

Disputes over the 3,500-kilometre (2,200-mile) frontier are a perennial source of tension between China and India, major economies vying for strategic influence across South Asia.

China claims all of India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, considering it part of Tibet, and the two countries fought a border war in 1962.

The announcements came as Chinese and Indian leaders prepared to gather in Russia for the opening of a summit of the BRICS emerging economies.

Chinese state media reported on Tuesday that President Xi Jinping was on his way to the meeting, the biggest of its kind in Russia since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The border resolution has fed speculation that Xi and Modi may hold official talks there.

## Scientists Warn Nordic Countries of Abrupt Climatic Patterns

**COPENHAGEN (Reuters)** -- More than 40 climate scientists are urging Nordic ministers to prevent global warming from causing a major change in an Atlantic Ocean current, which could trigger abrupt shifts in weather patterns and damage ecosystems.

A collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, a system of ocean currents that transports warm water into the North Atlantic and provides Europe its mild climate, could put living conditions for people in the Arctic region and beyond at risk, according to the scientists.

"Such an ocean circulation change would have devastating and irreversible impacts especially for Nordic countries, but also for other parts of the world," the scientists said in a let-

ter on Saturday to the Nordic Council of Ministers, which comprises five countries, including Denmark and Sweden, and three autonomous territories.

The letter urges the council to actions that could involve calling for global greenhouse-gas emission cuts.

Several studies have suggested that the risk of the Atlantic current changing has been greatly underestimated, the scientists said, adding that there was a serious possibility of passing the tipping point in the next few decades.

"If Britain and Ireland become like northern Norway, (that) has tremendous consequences. Our finding is that this is not a low probability," said professor Peter Ditlevsen at the University of Copenhagen, a signatory of

the letter.

"This is not something you easily adapt to."

A collapse of the ocean-current system would increase cooling of the Northern Hemisphere, raise Atlantic sea levels, drop precipitation over Europe and North America and shift monsoons in South America and Africa, according to the United Kingdom's Met Office.

Global subsidies for fossil fuels reached a record \$7 trillion in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Such subsidies show there is no credible effort to prevent such a climate disaster, said professor Stefan Rahmstorf from Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.