



ATHENS (Reuters) - Greek authorities have ordered the evacuation of two settlements on Evia Island and deployed dozens of firefighters, planes and helicopters to battle a major wildfire there. In a statement on Saturday, the country's firefighting department said 88 firefighters and volunteers were working to extinguish the blaze. Eight firefighting aircraft and six helicopters have also been deployed to help the effort. Authorities said they have asked residents of two endangered communities to evacuate. Strong northerly winds were causing new fires, the firefighting department said. Greece and other Mediterranean countries are in an area considered a wildfire hotspot by scientists, with blazes common during hot and dry summers.

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan's military will hold a five-day combat readiness drill this week, the defense ministry said on Sunday, as part of modernization plans to shift its training focus to more realistic exercises simulating war, away from setpiece events. The "Immediate Combat Readiness Exercise" would start on Monday and run until Friday, the defense ministry said in a statement, describing the drill as part of annual training plans in joint operations for the armed forces. "The main objective is to train units at all levels to become familiar with combat practices and the battlefield environment during the readiness deployment phase," it said.

NOVI SAD (Reuters) - Thousands protested in Serbia's northern city of Novi Sad on Saturday to mark the 2024 deaths of 16 people after a railway station awning collapsed and demand snap general elections. Student-led anti-government protests that turned violent at times spread across Serbia following the disaster, rattling the 13-year rule of populist Aleksandar Vucic and his Serbian Progressive Party. The Reuters Daily Protesters, opposition and rights groups allege the railway station disaster was a sign of broader government mismanagement of construction projects and corruption. In Novi Sad, Serbia's second-largest city, thousands of protesters stood in temperatures of around 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) chanting "Victory" and jeering Vucic and SNS. Many carried banners and wore t-shirts reading "Students are winning."

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has maintained his lead over opposition right-wing Senator Flavio Bolsonaro in the race for the October presidential election, a new poll by Datafolha showed on Saturday. Lula, of the left-wing Workers' Party, would win a potential second-round runoff against the senator by 47% to 43%, repeating last month's results, Datafolha said. The Reuters Inside In the most likely first-round scenario, the incumbent polled at 41% compared to 31% for Bolsonaro. The new Datafolha survey suggests that the senator may have stemmed the electoral damage caused by the revelation that he asked a now jailed banker to finance a film about his father, former President Jair Bolsonaro, who has been convicted of plotting a coup against the democratic order.

LONDON (Reuters) - Scottish police said on Sunday they had charged a 36-year-old man after a series of attacks in Edinburgh on Friday, which Prime Minister Keir Starmer said appeared to have an anti-Muslim motive. Five men sustained injuries in the attacks and three required hospital treatment for non-life-threatening injuries, police had previously said. Videos on social media showed a half-naked, tattooed, white man who appeared to be carrying a large weapon chasing an Asian man and then attempting to break his way into a restaurant, before later being handcuffed on the ground by police.

Meloni Tells Trump to Focus on His Own Popularity as Row Rumbles On



ROME (Reuters) - Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told U.S. President Donald Trump to look after his own popularity after he accused his NATO ally of trying to boost her domestic ratings by repairing ties with Washington. The Italian premier had accused Trump on Friday of being a liar for alleging that she had "begged" him for a photo with her during this week's Group of Seven summit in France. He repeated the assertion on Saturday, misspelling her name as "Gigiorgia" as he posted on his Truth Social platform that "she wants to be friends again in order to get her 'numbers up'". Meloni responded, posting on Instagram in English: "President Trump, these constant, unprovoked attacks are senseless." "My popularity is none of your concern," she added. "I suggest you focus on yours." Meloni's government, which took office in 2022, has seen public approval rise in opinion sur-

veys to around 35% after a steady decline in 2025. Her Brothers of Italy party leads polls at around 28%, with the opposition Democratic Party at about 22%. The U.S. president, who was sworn in in January 2025, saw his approval rating tick up by one percentage point in recent days to 36%, still near the lowest levels of his political career, as public dissatisfaction over the cost of living grew less intense, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll. Italy's first female prime minister told Trump on Saturday that "being his friend has certainly not helped" her popularity. Trump repeated earlier criticism of Rome for not allowing the use of U.S. military bases in Italy during the war with Iran that the U.S. and Israel began at the end of February. Meloni responded: "Their use is governed by agreements that we have always respected and that cannot be violated. As long as I am prime minister, Italy remains a sovereign nation."

Cuba Slams U.S. for 'Lying' Over Fuel Blockade



HAVANA (Dispatches) - Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla has condemned U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's claim that there is no oil blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba. In a post published on X on Sunday, Rodríguez wrote: "When Rubio talks about incompetence in Cuba, he should be asked why he lies chronically and contradicts the U.S. president and his spokeswoman by denying the existence of the total fuel blockade that the White House acknowledges." "There is no oil blockade on Cuba, per se," Rubio claimed on Saturday while guest-hosting the daily White House press briefing. Rodríguez stated that Rubio's references to the situation in Cuba are consistently framed in a way that avoids responsibility and self-accountability, describing it as "an attempt to present himself as a savior." The Cuban foreign minister also denounced the "economic suffocation plan" against his country, saying it prevents foreign companies from selling parts and technology needed for the island's thermoelec-

tric plants. The plan "prevents any company in the world from selling oil to our country" and also targets CUPET, the Cuban company responsible for fuel logistics and energy infrastructure, he explained. He added that it sanctions nickel companies, threatens foreign companies involved in tourism and mining, and strips foreign citizens who visit Cuba of the right to use Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) visas to enter the U.S. Rodríguez also said Washington pressures and threatens countries that maintain health cooperation agreements with Cuba. He further stated that Rubio "openly calls for the subversion of Cuba's constitutional order and persistently seeks U.S. military intervention in Cuba." An executive order signed by Trump on January 29 authorized the White House to impose tariffs on countries exporting fuel to Cuba. So far in 2026, Cuba has received a single shipment of 100,000 tons of crude oil from Russia.

Pressure on UK's Starmer as 100 Labour MPs Call for Him to Quit



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pressure is piling on UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer after Andy Burnham stormed to victory in the Makerfield by-election, with the number of Labour members of parliament (MPs) who have called for him to set out plans to quit reaching 100. Calls for Starmer to go have been building since Labour took a hammering in May's local elections, and now marks around a quarter of the party's 403 MPs. The prime minister has repeatedly vowed to fight any leadership challenge, insisting he will not "walk away." But Burnham's by-election victory has prompted more backbenchers and Labour grandees to call for Starmer to stand down. Some MPs who had signed a statement rejecting calls for a leadership election last month have now reversed their position, while former home secretary Alan Johnson told LBC his message to the prime minister would be: "It's over, Keir." Starmer is understood to have spoken to a number of Cabinet ministers, some of whom are reported to have told him he should set out a timetable for his de-

parture. Some in Westminster believe a contest could begin as early as next week, but allies of Burnham favor a longer wait to allow them to prepare for government. Adding to the pressure on Starmer, U.S. President Donald Trump predicted on his Truth Social platform that "Keir Starmer will resign as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom". Trump then repeated his view that Starmer had "failed badly" on cutting immigration and boosting North Sea oil output. Starmer's unpopularity was laid bare by Labour's heavy losses in local elections in May, and polls of party members indicate Burnham would win a formal leadership contest. Should Burnham take the helm, he would become Britain's seventh prime minister in the past 10 years. Sky News reported that it understood foreign minister Yvette Cooper had called on Starmer to stand down in a private conversation over the weekend. Her spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Her apparent appeal, alongside other ministers and dozens of lawmakers, increased the sense that it is now a case

of when, rather than if, Starmer would step aside. Starmer said only a few days ago that he would stand in any formal Labour leadership contest that sought to replace him. While Starmer's team believes his landslide national election win in 2024 gives him the mandate to stay in post until 2029, business minister Peter Kyle said the prime minister was reflecting on the "the political challenges that he faces in this moment". Kyle said he had spoken to Starmer on Friday and had found a man who was questioning what "the country expected of him". The conversation showed Starmer was in "very difficult circumstances", the business minister said. "So I'm not going to deny the political challenges that he faces in this moment, but what I'm also not going to do is say there is ever anything inevitable about the days ahead," Kyle told LBC radio. Starmer's position is precarious. Burnham's thumping win over the populist Reform UK party to take a parliamentary seat in Makerfield prompted more lawmakers and ministers to press the prime minister to set a timetable for his departure to avoid what could be a divisive leadership race. The team supporting Burnham, a 56-year-old career politician, had said they were giving Starmer the weekend to consider his position in the hope that he would set out an orderly transfer of power. As yet, there was no indication the two had spoken. Former minister Jess Phillips - who is a supporter of health secretary Wes Streeting, another potential challenger to Starmer - told the BBC that "it feels like we've come to the end of the road" and that it would be best for Starmer's departure to be "as dignified as possible".

Russia Strikes Ukrainian Military Airfield, Transport Infrastructure

MOSCOW (Xinhua) - Russian Armed Forces have struck a military airfield, oil refining facilities, as well as fuel, energy, and transport infrastructure in Ukraine over the past 24 hours, the Defense Ministry said on Sunday. Russia's operational-tactical aviation, strike drones, missile and artillery units hit Ukraine's military-related infrastruc-

ture along the front-line combat zones, including workshops for long-range drone manufacturing, assembly and storage facilities; energy and transport infrastructure; military fuel depots; logistics hubs; and temporary deployment sites of Ukrainian armed formations and foreign mercenaries in 147 areas, the ministry said in a press release.

Russian air defense systems shot down eight guided aerial bombs and 483 fixed-wing drones operated by Ukrainian forces over the past 24 hours across combat zones, said the ministry. Russian Black Sea Fleet destroyed four unmanned boats belonging to Ukrainian forces in the southwestern Black Sea, the ministry added.

Protests Grow in Albania Against Kushner-Backed Resort in Protected Area



Marchers brandish placards accusing the government of corruption, saying coastal development deals are being struck behind closed doors.

TIRANA (AP) - Thousands of protesters have marched through Albania's capital, Tirana, in one of the largest rallies yet against a luxury resort project linked to United States President Donald Trump that has become a lightning rod for anger over alleged corruption. Since late May, demonstrators have

gathered every evening to oppose the planned construction of a hotel complex tied to Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner, on a protected stretch of the Balkan country's coast. Saturday's march drew what appeared to be one of the biggest crowds since the movement began,

with many members of the Albanian diaspora travelling home to join. Waving Albanian, protesters released red balloons and chanted "Albania is not for sale," a slogan projected onto the facade of the prime minister's office. "We are not against the country's development; we are against the arrogance and lack of transparency surrounding projects that affect our lives," said Alma, a science student. The Kushner-backed resort, along with another planned development on nearby Sazan Island, would sit near key breeding grounds for migratory birds in the Vjosa-Narta protected area, including flocks of flamingos. Environmental concerns have fused with wider anger at Prime Minister Edi Rama, whom protesters accuse of opaque deals along the coast. Many now say they will remain on the streets until he resigns. Rama, who has stayed defiant, told a party meeting that he would not step down and argued that the controversy is driven more by Kushner's name and the "shadow of Trump" than by the project itself.