



May 19, 2025

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Top Stories

New Tornado Outbreak Likely in U.S. Following Deadly Weekend Storms

A new two-day tornado outbreak is expected to begin Monday, following deadly storms over the weekend that [killed at least 27 people](#). Severe weather is forecast this afternoon and evening across far northeast Texas, east-central Oklahoma, northern and western Arkansas, east-central Kansas, and western and central Missouri. Much of this region faces a [Level 4 of 5 severe weather risk](#), with the greatest concern over east-central Oklahoma, western Arkansas, southwest Kansas, and extreme southwest Missouri. This includes Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Stillwater, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, and Joplin, where multiple long-track, violent tornadoes are possible. Large, destructive hail and wind gusts over 70 mph are also expected.

A powerful system moving out of the Rockies will create ideal conditions for rapid storm development along a dryline near and west of the I-35 corridor. Supercells and storm clusters are likely to form quickly and intensify, with storms spreading east into the Mid-Mississippi Valley overnight.

On Tuesday, [the severe threat shifts east](#) into the Mid-Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Valleys, including areas of Tennessee and Kentucky already hard-hit just days earlier. Another strong system will bring the risk of damaging winds, large hail, and tornadoes—some potentially strong. Storms may begin early, especially near the Ohio River, with conditions becoming more favorable as the day progresses. By afternoon, isolated supercells are likely to develop and may evolve into storm clusters or squall lines by evening, heightening the threat of widespread wind damage and embedded tornadoes. Residents in at-risk areas should remain alert and have multiple ways to receive warnings. For more information on the tornado outbreak, read AlertMedia's [Situation Report](#).

Election Dust Settles in Portugal, Romania, While Poland Prepares for Presidential Runoff

Poland will hold a presidential runoff vote on June 1 after pro-EU Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski narrowly [won](#) over Karol Nawrocki, a nationalist who is backed by the Law and Justice (PiS) party, but failed to gain an outright majority. Results for other candidates suggest that more voters could switch their support to Nawrocki than Trzaskowski in the second round, scheduled for June 1. Meanwhile, Polish authorities are investigating political ads on Facebook as possible election interference by Russia, and Prime Minister Donald Tusk [said](#) that Russian hackers recently targeted his party's website and those of other parties in his governing coalition.

In Romania, where security concerns stemming from the war in Ukraine loom particularly large, Nicușor Dan [won](#) the presidential election, despite his opponent, George Simion, a [Eurosceptic](#) who has opposed military aid for Ukraine, having received more votes in the first round. The election was seen as pivotal for the country's role in the European Union and NATO. Earlier in May, pro-European Union demonstrations were held across Romania, including 15,000 people who [gathered](#) in Bucharest.

In Portugal, the Democratic Alliance (AD) [won](#) a snap parliamentary election but fell short of securing a majority, which could lead to the continuation of political instability that has seen the country conduct three elections in as many years. As results continue to come in this week, the nationalist and anti-immigration [Chega party](#) may surpass the Socialists as the main opposition; however, the AD has [ruled out](#) working with Chega to form a coalition government.

U.S. Investigating Bombing of Reproductive Clinic, Say Suspect Had "Nihilistic Ideations"

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is treating a [bombing](#) at a reproductive health clinic in Palm Springs, California, that killed one and injured at least four as an [act of terrorism](#). No patients or staff at the clinic were injured in the explosion, which officials have called "the largest bombing scene" in Southern California in recent memory.

Authorities have not officially established a motive for the bombing, but have said that the suspect, a 25-year-old man from nearby Twentynine Palms who was killed in the blast, had "nihilistic ideations" and [expressed](#) "anti-natalist views." Authorities are also investigating audio that began circulating after the attack, where the speaker details a planned attack on an in vitro fertilization clinic and describes themselves as "anti-life." The incident bears some similarities to other violent attacks that experts have grouped under the broad umbrella of "[nihilistic](#)" or "[nonideological](#)" extremism. Characterized by an

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embrace of apocalyptic thinking and violence for its own sake, experts have pointed to [recent school shootings](#) in the U.S. and an [alleged threat](#) to a Lady Gaga concert as other examples of nihilistic violence.

Heightened Security Concerns, Political Violence Likely Ahead of Mexico Judicial Elections

Heightened security, political violence, and protest activity are likely to occur throughout Mexico in the coming days in connection with the first phase of judicial elections on Sunday, June 1. The vote follows controversial [judicial reforms](#) passed by outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that will make Mexico the only country to elect all judges, including approximately 1,600 federal positions and nine Supreme Court justices. Additional [phases](#) are planned through 2027. While the initiative has been framed as a step toward democratization, it has raised significant concerns over [judicial independence](#), [potential politicization](#), organized crime [interference](#), and systemic instability.

Concerns about weakening judicial independence and eroding legal stability could [deter](#) new capital inflows, complicate compliance efforts, and elevate the risk profile of existing operations. Credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service has [warned](#) that these changes could undermine Mexico's burgeoning near-shoring appeal and even [jeopardize](#) the country's adherence to the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) by injecting unpredictability into dispute-resolution mechanisms. Market analysts now [estimate](#) that investment levels may slip by as much as 12% below baseline forecasts, with roughly \$35 billion worth of projects already postponed amid the prevailing "climate of uncertainty." Such delays stall growth and risk leaving Mexico less competitive in attracting foreign direct investment, critical to its economic expansion. For more on Mexico's first judicial elections, read AlertMedia's [Situation Report](#).

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **At Least 27 Dead Following Severe Storms, Tornadoes in U.S. Since Friday:** The deadliest impacts occurred in Kentucky, where a [mass casualty event](#) was declared in Pulaski and Laurel Counties. At least 18 people were killed amid widespread destruction to homes, businesses, churches, and an airport. In St. Louis, an [EF-3 tornado](#) caused an estimated [\\$1 billion in damage](#) across 5,000 city homes and businesses, killing at least five people and injuring 30 others. Significant damage and seven injuries were also reported in Williamson County, Illinois, where a [mile-wide tornado](#) tore through neighborhoods, destroying multiple homes. In Monroe County, Indiana, at least [75 homes were damaged](#) by another powerful storm. In addition, on Sunday

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night, [major tornadoes](#) swept across rural areas of west-central Kansas. The town of Plevna was hit hardest, with multiple homes [destroyed](#) and emergency crews still assessing the damage.

- **Indian Southwest Monsoon Advancing Quicker Than Average:** A broad low-pressure system over the southern Bay of Bengal is gradually strengthening and enhancing southwest monsoon flow across southern India. While the system's core is expected to stay offshore, it's drawing in additional moisture from the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. The monsoon is advancing northward about a [week ahead of schedule](#), bringing above-average rainfall to much of central and southern India. The heaviest multi-day totals are expected along the West Coast, especially from Goa southward, with some areas potentially seeing over 12 inches of rain by May 26. [Bangalore](#) has already reported significant waterlogging. Red warnings for heavy rain and severe thunderstorms are in effect across southwestern India through mid-week.
- **Significant Flood Threat North of Sydney, Australia:** A stalled frontal boundary just north of Sydney is expected to remain in place through Thursday, bringing persistent heavy rainfall from Newcastle to Coffs Harbour. Widespread totals of six to 10 inches are likely, with some areas exceeding 12 inches. With the [ground already saturated](#), the risk of significant and potentially life-threatening flooding is high, particularly in low-lying areas. A [flood watch](#) is in effect.

Worldwide

- **Indonesia Announces Creation of Anti-Thuggery Task Force:** Indonesian officials have [announced](#) the formation of the Anti-Thuggery Task Force to combat extortion operations. The organizations behind the extortion, known as ormas, have hundreds of thousands of members and threaten businesses with harassment and violence to pay for protection, which has [lowered](#) foreign investments. The Ministries of Law, Home Affairs, and Politics and Security are collaborating on the task force and will enforce community group regulations and target those involved in criminal activities. After a statement about a crackdown on ormas by West Java Governor Dedi Mulyadi, one of the largest organizations, named Grib, threatened to storm the governor's office with more than 50,000 members.
- **Trump Administration Signs Investment Package With Saudi Arabia:** The White House [announced](#) a defense agreement and investment package during U.S. President Donald Trump's recent visit to the Middle East. The defense agreement will provide Saudi Arabia with military equipment, services from American defense companies, and extensive training for the country's armed forces. The investment package included a \$20 billion commitment for the development of AI data centers and energy infrastructure in the United States. Organizers of the U.S.-Saudi Investment Forum stated that 145 deals were signed. During the forum, Trump also announced

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the end of U.S. [sanctions](#) on Syria that had been in place since civil war broke out in 2011. The move could potentially allow for greater stability in the heart of the Middle East.

- **Israel Launches Post-Ceasefire Ground Offensive in Gaza:** Israel [launched its largest ground offensive](#) since the last ceasefire expired, expanding operations across northern and southern Gaza, where airstrikes killed at least 103 people. [The renewed assault follows stalled negotiations](#), with Israel demanding a hostage release without ending the war and Hamas insisting on a full Israeli withdrawal. Israel said that it would [allow](#) some humanitarian aid to enter Gaza alongside the offensive. Gaza has been under a total blockade since March 2, but it's unclear when supplies will be distributed. [As civilian casualties rise and aid access remains limited](#), internal pressure is mounting within Israel for a ceasefire deal amid reports of growing dissent and the humanitarian concerns in Gaza.
- **Libya Implements Ceasefire After Militia Leader's Death Sparks Clashes:** Following the killing of militia leader Abdulghani Kikli (Ghaniwa) last week, the Libyan government implemented a [ceasefire](#), halting the capital's worst [clashes](#) in years. The violence, which spread across multiple districts of Tripoli, resulted in at least six deaths and prompted the interior ministry to [urge](#) residents to stay home. Kikli, leader of the Stability Support Apparatus (SSA) in the Abu Salim district, was accused of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings and migrant abuse. A truce was [declared](#) on May 14 after clashes between factions aligned with Prime Minister Abdul Hamid al-Dbeibeh and the Special Deterrence Force (Rada). The ceasefire marks a pivotal moment in Libya's power struggle, underscoring al-Dbeibeh's [growing](#) influence in [consolidating](#) control over rival factions.
- **Sinaloa Cartel Members Indicted Under U.S. Terrorism Laws Amid Overdose Decline:** The U.S. Department of Justice indicted Sinaloa cartel leaders, including Pedro Inzunza Noriega and his son, for narco-terrorism, drug trafficking, and money laundering. Inzunza Noriega, a leader of the Beltrán Leyva Organization (BLO), a splinter group of the Sinaloa cartel, is accused of operating a major fentanyl network. This [marks](#) the first time cartel members have been charged under U.S. terrorism laws. Shortly before the indictments, 17 relatives of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán [surrendered](#) to the FBI at the U.S.- Mexico border. These developments coincide with a 27% drop in U.S. drug overdose deaths in 2024, the largest annual decrease in overdose fatalities. Experts [suggest](#) the decline may be attributed to expanded naloxone access and potential disruptions to cartel operations.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **M&S Confirms Theft of Consumer Data as DragonForce Claims Responsibility for Hack:** DragonForce, a ransom-as-a-service [group](#), [claimed](#) responsibility for recent cyberattacks on major U.K. retailers, including Marks & Spencer (M&S), Co-op, and Harrods. Last week, M&S [confirmed](#) the theft of customer data, including addresses, phone numbers, and dates of birth, likely accessed through a third party with system access. While payment information and passwords were not compromised, M&S [warned](#) of phishing risks, advising customers to reset passwords. The company has refused to pay the ransom, focusing on securely restoring its systems. The attack has caused significant disruption, with the retailer [halting](#) online orders and leading to estimated weekly losses exceeding £60 million, along with a £1 billion decline in market value.
- **EU Launches Cybersecurity Database as U.S. Cyber Agency Faces Funding Cuts:** The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) [launched](#) the European Vulnerability Database (EUVD), aimed at improving response to critical and actively exploited security flaws. The EUVD will [operate](#) similarly to the U.S.'s National Vulnerability Database, although administrators plan to update it more frequently and better highlight critical and exploited vulnerabilities. The rollout of the EUVD comes as ENISA's U.S. counterpart, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), faces questions over efficacy and funding cuts. Last week, CISA announced a [plan](#) that would have seen its website deprioritized as a source for updates on advisories in favor of other platforms, including X (formerly Twitter), although officials [reversed](#) course less than 24 hours later.
- **U.K. Announces Immigration Changes Aimed at Reducing Net Migration:** The U.K. government [unveiled](#) a series of new rules designed to reduce net migration by 2029. The reforms will [tighten](#) visa requirements, including by introducing higher English proficiency levels and extending the residency period for settled status from five to 10 years. The social care visa, which was introduced to address a shortage of care workers, will be abolished, potentially exacerbating staffing struggles. Skilled worker visas will also demand at least an undergraduate degree, and there will be tighter restrictions on recruitment from overseas for jobs in "critical" sectors. The immigration skills [charge](#) that businesses pay for hiring a skilled worker from abroad will also increase by 32%.
- **U.S. Issues Global Ban on Huawei AI Chips:** The U.S. [issued](#) new export control guidelines restricting the use of Huawei's Ascend AI chips worldwide, warning that unauthorized use may violate U.S. laws and lead to severe penalties. This move, despite a recent tariff truce with China, underscores Washington's continued focus on limiting Chinese tech advancement. The

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restrictions aim to curb Huawei's growing influence, as Chinese firms increasingly adopt domestic chips amid U.S. sanctions on Nvidia. While Huawei's chip supply is limited, the policy signals tighter global tech controls. Critics warn it will force companies to choose between the U.S. and China, escalating tech decoupling despite diplomatic efforts.

- **Post-Brexit Trade Deal Secured Between UK and EU:** The [United Kingdom and European Union](#) have agreed on a new post-Brexit trade deal after months of talks, resolving key issues such as fishing rights, with the EU granted 12 years of access to U.K. waters without changes to British quotas. U.K. officials praised the deal as beneficial for trade, jobs, and borders, while critics raised concerns over EU influence and potential return of free movement. A youth mobility scheme is still under discussion. The agreement will be formally announced at Lancaster House.
- **Other Stories the Global Intelligence Team Is Monitoring:** A [report](#) from Strider Technologies found a network of China-based front companies established by North Korean IT workers with the [intent](#) of getting unwitting Fortune 500 companies to hire them. On May 15, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) [withdrew](#) a proposed rule that aimed to expand the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) to classify data brokers as consumer reporting agencies and require them to obtain consent from consumers before sharing sensitive personal information. And among the many items included in U.S. President Donald Trump's "[One Big, Beautiful Bill Act](#)" is a [proposal](#) to levy a 5% tax on all outbound remittances by non-U.S. citizens.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **China's Influence Growing in Latin America Amid U.S. Tariff Uncertainty:** On Tuesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping [announced](#) a \$9 billion credit line and infrastructure investments at the China- CELAC Forum in Beijing to boost China's [influence](#) in Latin America and the Caribbean, countering U.S. presence in the region. In addition, China and Colombia [signed](#) a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) plan, with Colombian Foreign Minister Laura Sarabia calling it a bold move for trade and investment. Brazil has also [strengthened](#) ties with China, signing 20 agreements for future cooperation. Meanwhile, Mexico is [expanding](#) the Port of Manzanillo to handle 10 million containers by 2030, aligning with China's BRI, to secure trade routes amid U.S. tariff threats.
- **Criminal Networks Go Digital, Looting U.S. Supply Chain:** [Attacks](#) by organized criminal networks on the U.S. supply chain, exploiting advanced technologies, are costing companies nearly \$1 billion annually. In 2024, Verisk CargoNet [reported](#) 3,798 cargo theft incidents, up 26% from 2023, driven by sophisticated tactics like cyberattacks, identity theft, and impersonating carriers with forged documents and cloned websites. Often operating from abroad, criminal groups target food, household goods, and electronics while facing minimal risks. Major freight

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corridors in Southern California, Texas, and the Eastern Seaboard have been [hit](#) the hardest, as hijackers exploit vulnerabilities in logistics systems. Legislators have introduced the Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act to give federal authorities greater ability to target fraudsters.

- **Moody's Downgrades U.S. Credit Rating to Aa1, Signals Debt Concerns:** On Friday, Moody's [downgraded](#) the U.S. credit rating from Aaa to Aa1, citing the \$36 trillion debt and rising interest costs. The agency shifted its outlook to "stable" from "negative," noting persistent fiscal deficits. Moody's was the last of the major agencies to cut the U.S. from triple-A, potentially raising borrowing costs and complicating President Donald Trump's tax cut plans. Analysts warn of potential market volatility and higher Treasury yields, urging Congress to address deficits. Following the announcement, 10-year Treasury yields rose, and U.S. equity futures dipped, reflecting [concerns](#) about the long-term implications for U.S. financial markets.
- **UPS Adds U.S.-to-Canada Surcharge Ahead of Potential Canada Post Strike:** As of Sunday, United Parcel Services (UPS) has [implemented](#) a surcharge on shipments from the U.S. to Canada, just days ahead of a potential Canada Post strike expected to begin on May 22. The surcharge includes \$0.49 per package for Standard service and up to \$1.25 per pound for other shipping options. It will remain in place until further notice to help maintain service quality during a possible spike in demand. With Canada Post union negotiations still ongoing, major carriers like FedEx and UPS are preparing contingency plans while prioritizing service for existing customers.
- **Chinese Firms Accelerate Shift to Domestic Suppliers Amid U.S. Trade War:** Chinese companies are [intensifying](#) efforts to eliminate foreign components from their supply chains due to escalating U.S. trade tensions and tariffs. Over two dozen firms, spanning semiconductors, chemicals, and medical devices, are shifting to domestic suppliers to enhance self-reliance, aligning with [Beijing's Made in China 2025](#) and "[dual circulation](#)" strategies. Companies like Estun Automation and Thinkon Semiconductor are prioritizing local sourcing to reduce costs and geopolitical risks, potentially impacting global suppliers. Beijing views the trade war as validation of its self-sufficiency policies, strengthening China's economic resilience.

Health

- **Authorities Monitor Dengue Outbreaks in Pacific Region:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its Global Dengue [travel notice](#), expanding its list of countries experiencing "higher than usual numbers" of dengue cases to include [Fiji](#). The CDC warns that travelers visiting these countries may be at increased risk of infection. In Cairns, Australia, authorities [reported](#) the first locally transmitted case of dengue in the city in seven years. Elsewhere in the Pacific Ocean region, dengue outbreaks are being [monitored](#) in places like

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Samoa and Tonga, where hundreds of cases have been reported since mid-April, at least one of which resulted in a fatality.

- **WHO Declares Polio Outbreak in Papua New Guinea:** The World Health Organization (WHO) [declared](#) a polio outbreak in Papua New Guinea after detecting the virus in two asymptomatic children in the coastal city of Lae. The strain was genetically linked to one circulating in Indonesia, which shares a border with Papua New Guinea. With immunization rates generally below 50% and as low as 8% in some districts, authorities are concerned about both domestic and international transmission. The government, supported by WHO, UNICEF, and Australia, launched an urgent vaccination campaign targeting children under 10. Health Minister Elias Kapavore committed to achieving full immunization nationwide by year's end.
- **Screwworm Threat Forces U.S. to Halt Cattle Imports From Mexico:** The U.S. [suspended](#) imports of live cattle, horses, and bison from Mexico due to the northward spread of the New World screwworm, a parasitic fly whose larvae can cause severe tissue damage in animals. The screwworm was detected on remote farms in some Mexican states, including Oaxaca and Veracruz. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) noted that the suspension is on a month-to-month basis. Mexican authorities disagreed with the ban, stating that cattle entering the U.S. were "guaranteed to be free of screwworms." U.S. authorities in states like Mississippi are [urging](#) animal owners to be aware of the pest due to the recent detections in Mexico.
- **WHO Warns of High Regional Risk as Yellow Fever Cases Triple in the Americas:** The [WHO reported](#) a significant rise in yellow fever in the Americas, with 212 confirmed cases and 85 deaths from late December 2024 to April 26, 2025. The 2025 figures [equate](#) to more than triple the total cases recorded in 2024. Brazil and Colombia account for the majority of cases, and notably, infections are now appearing outside traditional Amazon basin areas. The WHO [classifies](#) the regional risk as high due to the disease's spread, high fatality rate, uneven vaccination coverage, and limited vaccine supply. The agency urges strengthened surveillance, cross-border coordination, and vaccination campaigns.
- **EPA Rolls Back Limits on Some PFAS in Drinking Water, Extends Deadline for Compliance:** The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) will maintain drinking water limits for two common PFAS chemicals, referred to as PFOA and PFOS, but will rescind and reconsider limits on GenX—a PFAS tied to North Carolina contamination—and several newer PFAS types, while extending the compliance deadline to 2031. The agency cites the need for flexibility and legal challenges from utilities, which argue the EPA lacked authority for some limits and failed to justify others. Health advocates and environmental groups criticized the rollback, warning it weakens protections against PFAS, which are linked to certain cancers and persist in the body and environment.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Service on New Jersey Transit Restarts Tuesday After Strike Ends:** New Jersey Transit's train engineers have reached a tentative [agreement](#) to end a three-day strike that disrupted service for [around 350,000](#) daily commuters, including key routes to New York City and Newark Airport. With train operations set to resume early Tuesday, NJ Transit is still [encouraging](#) those who can to work from home today and utilizing a series of regional park and rides for those who need to commute into New York City. The deal, centered on wage increases, came after union leaders proposed pay boosts without triggering budget or fare hikes. The agreement still requires ratification by the union and approval from NJ Transit's board in June.
- **Demonstrations Planned Marking Anniversary of George Floyd's Murder:** A variety of groups are organizing demonstrations over the coming days to mark the fifth [anniversary](#) of George Floyd's murder. The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO) have called for a National Day of Action on Sunday, May 25, while the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter is planning a rally outside the Hall of Justice for Wednesday. Leaders of an ongoing boycott movement against Target have [called](#) for demonstrations outside stores on Sunday as well. Calls from [some politicians](#) for a federal pardon for Derek Chauvin may spur heightened turnout. A demonstration in support of pardoning Chauvin is being planned outside Texas's Big Springs Federal Prison for May 31.
- **Demonstrations, Heightened Security Expected During Dayton NATO Summit:** Heightened security, transportation disruptions, and demonstration activity are expected in Dayton, Ohio, as the city prepares to host the NATO Parliamentary Assembly from Thursday, May 22, to Monday, May 26. Police plan to begin [closing roadways](#) and installing fencing in central Dayton starting Tuesday. Officials will also [establish](#) a protest zone at a city-owned parking lot located at 2nd and Jefferson streets. Various organizations, including the Party of Socialism and Liberation and pro-Palestine groups, are organizing a march and rally for Sunday. Demonstrators plan to gather on Sunday near Deeds Point Metro Park at 12 pm before marching towards St John's United Church of Christ (515 E 3rd St).
- **U.K. Climate Groups Target Shell AGM With Niger Delta Protest:** Climate activists with Extinction Rebellion, Fossil Free London, Amnesty International UK, and Justice 4 Nigeria plan to gather outside London's Shell Centre on Tuesday, May 20 and demand the oil and gas company take responsibility for environmental damage in the Niger Delta. While the demonstration takes place in central London, Shell senior management and shareholders will be at the company's AGM at the Sofitel Heathrow Hotel. Several British airports, including Heathrow, have obtained court injunctions barring demonstrators from airport grounds. Meanwhile, the Boycott Bloody

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Insurance campaign, which [organized](#) a national protest in March, is holding workshops in several cities across the U.K., suggesting further public activism in the coming months.

- **Belgium, Sweden to See Disruptions Due to Strikes:** Disruptions are possible at Swedish ports this week due to strikes over stalled contract negotiations. Trade unions are planning a six-hour nationwide strike on Wednesday and are threatening a full work stoppage from May 30. Meanwhile, Belgium continues to see widespread transportation disruptions as part of a [series](#) of public sector strikes against government austerity plans. Unlike previous strikes this year, flight cancellations at Brussels airport are not [expected](#). However, major disruptions to other forms of public transport are anticipated, particularly in Brussels, where transit operator STIB/MIVB is encouraging passengers to seek alternative transportation plans. Belgian rail operator SNCB/NMBS has also [warned](#) of disruptions, with two out of five IC trains expected not to run. Regional networks TEC and De Lijn also anticipate service cuts. Another nationwide strike is planned for June 27.

Upcoming Events

- May 23-26: NATO Parliamentary Assembly (Dayton, Ohio, United States)
- May 25: Parliamentary Election (Suriname)
- May 25: Parliamentary Election (Venezuela)
- May 25-26: Jerusalem Day (Israel, West Bank)
- May 26: Independence Day (Georgia)
- May 26-27: ASEAN Summit (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
- June 1: Judicial Elections (Mexico)
- June 1: Presidential Election Run-Off (Poland)
- June 3: Presidential Election (South Korea)
- June 5: General Elections (Burundi)
- June 4-9: Hajj (Mecca, Saudi Arabia)
- June 8-9: Abrogative Referendums (Italy)