



August 5, 2025

## Headlining This Week's Brief

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Climate and Natural Hazards  
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### Top Stories

#### **California's Gifford Fire Surges in Size**

The [Gifford Fire](#), which ignited along Highway 166 west of Cuyama on Friday, is rapidly emerging as one of California's [largest wildfires of the year](#), with over 65,000 acres burned, second only to the 80,000-acre Madre Fire. As of Monday morning, containment remains at just 3%, prompting widespread evacuations in both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. More than 1,000 firefighting personnel are battling the blaze, which has threatened at least 460 structures and forced hundreds to evacuate. A temporary evacuation point has been established at Benjamin Foxen Elementary School in Santa Maria, while Highway 166 remains closed between Highway 101 and the southern junction of Highway 33.

The fire has grown significantly, spreading north across Branch Mountain Road and southeast toward Pine Canyon, though improved conditions on Sunday night allowed crews to strengthen lines on the western flank. Authorities report that the fire is under investigation, with suppression efforts supported by 51 engines, 32 hand crews, 16 dozers, and 15 water tenders. Evacuation orders remain in place for numerous zones across both counties. Injuries include one civilian and two firefighters. Residents are urged to avoid the area and stay updated via local authorities and Caltrans.

## **Strongest Quake Since 2011 Triggers Pacific-Wide Tsunami Warnings; Minimal Damage Reported**

The [M8.8 earthquake](#) that occurred off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula on July 29 triggered Pacific-wide tsunami warnings, but ultimately failed to cause major infrastructure damage and resulted in only limited casualties. Evacuation orders were [issued](#) for more than two million people across the Pacific, and one death related to evacuations during the tsunami warning was [reported](#) in Japan, with at least 11 others [hospitalized](#) for heatstroke symptoms. Japan [lifted](#) all tsunami advisories by July 31. Meanwhile, traffic complicated evacuation efforts in Hawaii, and officials are [studying](#) how the earthquake's timing and insufficient messaging on [vertical evacuation](#), or moving to upper floors of tall buildings, contributed to gridlock in some areas.

More significant impacts were felt from flooding due to tsunami waves, which disrupted ports and transit systems across Russia and Japan, while minor flooding and traffic disruptions also occurred in Hawaii and along the U.S. West Coast. Ports across Japan, Hawaii, Alaska, and the West Coast experienced [temporary disruptions](#) due to evacuations and precautionary closures as well. Airports and ferry services also saw disruptions, with U.S. and Japanese carriers [suspending](#) flights during the tsunami warnings and Japanese ferries told to remain [offshore](#) away from the port in Hokkaido.

Hundreds of aftershocks have been [detected](#) off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula following the July 29 earthquake. Aftershocks, which are typical for an earthquake of this magnitude, may continue for weeks, though the strongest and most frequent typically occur within the first few days. On Sunday, days after the M8.8 quake, a volcano in Kamchatka [erupted](#) for the first time in hundreds of years; however, ashfall has not impacted populated areas.

## **Gaza Starvation Crisis Creates Momentum for Recognition of Palestinian Statehood**

The [United Kingdom](#) and [Canada](#) have joined a growing number of Western countries either [threatening](#) or [announcing plans](#) to recognize a Palestinian state in response to the Israeli government and military's perceived neglect of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The fresh momentum in support of Palestinian statehood is largely driven by a [starvation crisis](#) blamed on Israeli authorities' suspension of aid deliveries into the territory between March 2 and May 19, along with inadequacies in the new aid mechanism installed since then, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. The United Nations [estimates](#) that nearly a third of people in Gaza are going days without food, with some 90,000 women and children believed to be in urgent need of treatment.

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The changing political climate surrounding Palestinian rights raises further pressure on an Israeli administration trying to balance the [political benefits](#) of continuing the conflict against its consequences for [trade](#) and both [institutional](#) and [private](#) investment. Even the United States, long Israel's most important ally, has grown increasingly critical during the second Trump administration, with President Trump [claiming](#) that the U.S. intends to establish aid distribution centers in Gaza "without fences" in response to ongoing food shortages.

Other countries, including Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and several European partners, have joined the Israel Defense Forces in dropping aid into Gaza [by air](#) in an attempt to quickly address the situation, but experts warn that the capacity for such air drops is nowhere near meeting the needs of Gazans, nor is air delivery a safe or efficient alternative to more traditional ground transport.

## Investigations Ongoing Following Midtown Manhattan Shooting

On Monday, July 28, a mass shooting unfolded at [345 Park Avenue](#) in Midtown Manhattan, [claiming](#) five lives (including the gunman) and leaving several others injured. The building, a prominent hub hosting major tenants such as Blackstone, the NFL, and KPMG, was [equipped](#) with state-of-the-art security measures, including threat-detection software, on-site NYPD officers, and bulletproof safe rooms. Despite these precautions, the gunman evaded initial security protocols, with surveillance cameras identifying him only moments before he opened fire in the lobby, fatally shooting an NYPD officer and a woman seeking cover. He then killed a security guard near the elevator and critically injured another person before proceeding to the 33rd floor, where he killed one final victim before taking his own life.

Authorities have revealed that the gunman, who drove from Las Vegas, had a documented [history](#) of mental illness but possessed a valid Nevada concealed carry permit. Investigators recovered a cache of firearms and prescription medications from his vehicle. A [note](#) left by the assailant suggests the attack was motivated by grievances related to brain trauma in football, specifically chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). The FBI is leading an ongoing investigation to uncover further details and motives.

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Critical Fire Weather Outlook in Western U.S.:** Hot, dry, and windy weather will create dangerous [fire conditions](#) across the Great Basin, central Rockies, and northern Arizona from Monday through Friday. A strong weather system will bring low humidity, gusty west-southwest winds, and dry thunderstorms, especially across Utah and nearby states. This setup will likely

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spark and spread wildfires quickly due to very dry vegetation and ongoing drought. Conditions will be most severe on Tuesday and Wednesday in central and southern Utah, northern Arizona, and eastern Nevada. Fire risk may continue into Thursday and Friday before easing by Saturday as weather patterns shift.

- **Widespread Smoke Over Great Lakes, Northeast U.S., Eastern Canada:** Smoke from widespread Canadian wildfires has prompted [Air Quality Alerts](#) across North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. A stagnant wind pattern is unlikely to change through Friday, meaning that poor air quality will persist for most locations. Canada is experiencing its [second worst fire season](#) on record.
- **Atlantic Tropics Turning More Active:** [Multiple systems](#) are now being monitored. First, [Tropical Storm Dexter](#) is no threat to land following its formation over the weekend. Second, a new area of interest has been highlighted off the Carolina coast. Forecast models indicate conditions could become favorable for the formation of a new tropical storm in proximity to the coast by Friday and Saturday. At minimum, Georgia and the Carolinas are likely to see a continuation of unsettled weather in the form of above average rainfall and elevated flash flood risk. Additionally, the central Atlantic is being watched for potential development later in the week. While it's too early to determine any land impacts, the increase in activity marks the beginning of the more active phase of hurricane season.
- **Alabama, North Florida, Georgia, Carolinas Stay Unsettled:** Over the weekend, multiple water rescues and one flood-related fatality were reported after intense rainfall hit [Cleburne County, Alabama](#). Looking ahead, Level 2 of 4 excess rain risk will continue for the remainder of [today](#) and [tomorrow](#). [Flood Watches](#) are in effect.
- **Scotland, Norway Hit by Storm Floris:** [Storm Floris](#), the most powerful August storm since U.K. storm naming began, is producing wind gusts greater than 60-80 mph across Scotland. An Amber Warning remains in effect until 11 pm tonight (local time). Widespread transportation disruptions are ongoing, including [closures of major bridges](#) and tourist attractions. [Network Rail Scotland](#) is clearing fallen trees on several routes, where a combination of speed restrictions and complete closures have been imposed until conditions become safer. Late tonight into early tomorrow, conditions will rapidly improve over Scotland, but dangerous winds will shift eastward into [Southwest Norway](#), where Level 2 of 3 Wind Warnings are in effect.
- **Portugal and Spain Remain Gripped by Heat Wave, Wildfire Risk Intensifies:** An ongoing heat wave shows no sign of easing, with well-above-average temperatures forecast to persist through the weekend. Extreme heat is expected to expand into southern France and northern Italy in the coming days. Spain's meteorological agency, AEMET, has issued a [Special Heat Wave Notice](#) through at least August 10. Daytime highs are projected to exceed 40–42°C in some areas, with

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widespread extreme heat affecting the southwest, central, and northeastern regions. Nighttime temperatures will also remain uncomfortably warm, particularly across central and southern Spain. The heat wave is being fueled by a persistent weather pattern drawing hot, dry air from North Africa. [Portugal](#) is also on high alert, with elevated wildfire danger and ongoing heat concerns across much of the country.

- **Multiple Flood Concern Areas in China, Taiwan:** The Central Meteorological Observatory has issued an orange alert for heavy rain through tomorrow. Widespread heavy to torrential rain is expected across parts of Gansu, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Beijing, Tianjin, Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan. Severe rainstorms and localized downpours of 250–350 mm may hit areas including southeastern Hebei, northwestern Shandong, eastern Guangxi, southeastern Guangdong, and western Taiwan. Some regions may also experience hourly rainfall over 80 mm, along with thunderstorms and strong winds. In southern Taiwan, [flooding](#) over the last week has forced 5,900 to evacuate and has killed four.

## Worldwide

- **New U.S. Tariffs Likely Final, According to Trump Administration Negotiator:** Following last-minute adjustments via [executive order](#) on July 31, the window for negotiations on new U.S. tariffs for most trade partners (except China) closed on August 1, leaving some countries significantly more well-positioned than they were following the [initial tariff threats](#) in April, while others are now at a steeper disadvantage. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer [claims](#) that the rates, [most](#) of which are set to become effective by August 7, are “likely to stay in place rather than be cut as part of continuing negotiations,” suggesting that tariffs as high as 35% on Canadian goods and 50% on Brazilian imports (albeit with [numerous exceptions](#)) could remain. While the new tariffs are “[a substantial source of revenue](#)” for the government, negative impacts to [investments](#) and U.S. [manufacturing](#) could offset these gains.
- **House Republicans Seek to End U.S. Funding of OECD:** Republicans on the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Appropriations are [pursuing legislation](#) to cut off U.S. funding of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) because it “promotes higher tax rates, corporate tax floors and digital tax schemes that target American taxpayers.” About 18% of the OECD’s 2025 budget comes from U.S. funding, which is [used](#) to conduct “evidence-based policy analysis” and compile economic data for use by researchers in the pursuit of sustainable economic growth for member states. The move is the latest in a [series](#) of efforts

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to pull back on U.S. funding for various international institutions (or withdraw from them altogether).

- **China Attempts Economic Pivot Amid Overcapacity, U.S. Trade Uncertainty:** China has [increased](#) spending on social welfare programs to the highest levels since data collection began in 2007 as Beijing contends with a range of economic headwinds. Massive levels of local debt, [manufacturing overcapacity](#), a sluggish property market, [an ongoing trade war with the U.S.](#), and pervasive levels of *neijuan*—cutthroat competition on pricing that can lead to deflationary pressures—have prompted the Politburo to [call for](#) “stepped up” economic support to “[unleash] the potential of domestic demand” and bolster the service industry. Even as China attempts to develop its domestic market, it’s still trying to [attract foreign investment](#), including from the U.S.—although recent high-profile exit bans have [damaged](#) business confidence.
- **Myanmar Junta Ends, Re-Instates State of Emergency Ahead of Planned Elections:** On July 31, Myanmar’s military government [ended](#) a four-year-long State of Emergency (SOE), a move likely meant to legitimize the junta’s authority ahead of supposed plans to hold an election in six months’ time. However, the junta [announced](#) a new SOE and imposed martial law in at least 63 communities later that day due to ongoing resistance in those [areas](#). The new SOE will supposedly remain in effect for 90 days in order to “restore normal administrative conditions,” likely to further legitimize the upcoming elections. However, recent junta moves—such as the [transfer of power](#) to an interim government still under the control of coup leader Min Aung Hlaing—suggest that the vote will be neither free nor fair.
- **Several Caribbean Countries Contend With Heightened Levels of Violence:** Several Caribbean countries are grappling with elevated levels of violence as of July 2025, primarily driven by organized crime, as the U.S. [increases its travel advisories](#) for several countries in the region. While the approximately 500 homicides [reported](#) so far by Costa Rica’s Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) are roughly in line with numbers from the past two years, there has been a [sharp increase](#) in San Jose province. Trinidad and Tobago [extended](#) its state of emergency as the Attorney General accused some prison officers and attorneys for imprisoned gang leaders of plotting to kill government officials. Meanwhile, the Turks and Caicos Islands [experienced](#) its first mass shooting in recent history. At least three people were killed and 10 injured during a shooting at a nightclub that Premier Charles Washington Misick [intimated](#) was linked to Haitian gangs, although he presented no evidence connecting the violence to the country’s Haitian community.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **EU Sets Compliance Deadlines for AI Act:** The European Union (EU) [began the rollout](#) of its AI Act despite [pushback](#) from tech giants, setting a precedent for the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) that could reshape global [compliance](#) norms. The AI Act includes defined criteria for general-purpose AI models, conditional exemptions for open-source providers, and staggered compliance deadlines through 2027. Companies like Alphabet, Meta, and ASML had [urged](#) a delay, voicing concerns about the AI Act's compliance costs and legal uncertainties and warning it could "[stifle](#)" European AI development. Google has agreed to sign the EU's AI Code of Practice, while Meta has refused, citing risks to innovation.
- **China Announces AI Action Plan, Domestic Alliances for AI Ecosystem:** China is [accelerating](#) its AI ambitions, unveiling a national push for self-sufficiency amid rising tensions with the U.S. Chinese officials [unveiled](#) a global action plan for AI days after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a [similar action plan](#). Additionally, Chinese tech firms [announced](#) two new domestic alliances aimed at consolidating the chip supply chain to counter U.S. sanctions and build a self-reliant AI ecosystem. With various U.S.-imposed barriers limiting Chinese access to cutting-edge chip technology, this integration will be key to maintaining the pace of technological advancement in the country.
- **China Summons Nvidia Over Security Vulnerabilities:** China's Cyberspace Administration (CAC) [summoned](#) Nvidia Corporation representatives on July 31 to address alleged security vulnerabilities related to its H20 artificial intelligence chips, citing concerns over embedded tracking, location, and remote shutdown capabilities. According to the CAC, the features pose potential backdoor risks that could compromise network and data security. The summoning follows earlier calls by U.S. lawmakers to mandate tracking capabilities in advanced chips exported abroad. Nvidia has denied embedding such functions, stating that they would violate customer trust and business logic, while reaffirming its commitment to cybersecurity. Analysts have [said](#) that the move renews uncertainty around Nvidia's business operations in China and adds tension to ongoing U.S.-China trade talks, despite recent progress on export restrictions.
- **Singapore Warns Terrorism Threat Remains High Amid Online Radicalization:** In a recent report, Singapore's Home Affairs Ministry has [warned](#) that the terrorism threat to the country remains high, driven largely by online self-radicalization, especially among youth. While there is currently no indication of an imminent attack, authorities reported that at least six Singaporeans have shown support for or were preparing to engage in violence linked to the conflict. The ministry cited ongoing global conflicts, especially the conflict in the Middle East, as key factors motivating these decisions. The report also highlights threats posed by extremist ideologies



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shared online, the use of AI in terrorist activities, and political risk due to Singapore's international ties and status as a secular state.

- **Australia Adds YouTube to Under-16 Social Media Ban:** Australia has [expanded](#) its under-16 social media ban to include YouTube, reversing an earlier exemption amid growing concerns over harmful content exposure among minors. The move signals rising regulatory risk for a broader class of online platforms and could intensify global pressure on platforms to improve youth protections. The law, first introduced in November 2024, made Australia the first country to propose an age-based social media restriction. Regulators [highlighted](#) that 37% of minors reported encountering harmful content on the platform. YouTube, previously exempt due to its popularity with educators, disputes the ban on the grounds that it is a video-sharing platform, not social media. The law takes effect on December 10, 2025, with fines of up to AUD 50 million (US\$33 million) for platforms that fail to comply.

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **China Launches Mega Dam Construction in Tibet, Worrying Downstream Countries:** China officially [launched](#) construction of a mega dam project in Tibet that is [projected](#) to be the biggest hydropower dam in the world. The dam, expected to be finished sometime in the 2030s, would generate a potential capacity as high as 300 billion kilowatt-hours—roughly the U.K.'s total annual energy consumption. Chinese authorities argue the dam will serve as a major economic boost, energizing sectors such as steel, cement, and equipment manufacturing and help the country meet its goal of zero-emissions by 2060. However, the project carries with it [environmental](#), diplomatic, and economic concerns. Downstream countries, notably India and Bangladesh, have voiced alarm, saying that China could restrict or weaponize water flow during future conflicts.
- **New Language Requirements for U.S. Truckers to Further Strain Driver Availability:** Increasingly strict U.S. enforcement of English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirements for truck drivers will likely [impact](#) the availability of qualified drivers in the country, threatening supply chains. New [policies](#) that took effect on June 25 allow for truck drivers to be taken off the road during traffic stops or inspections if they cannot prove they understand instructions given in English. Almost 4% of the workforce—140,000 drivers—are believed to be at risk of being removed from service due to their limited English proficiency. The policy will further burden a commercial fleet [already short](#) over 82,000 drivers, and the widening demand mismatch is likely to complicate logistics, create shipping delays, and raise costs.



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- **Indian Authorities Target Infrastructure Failure Mitigation, Response Strategies After School Roof Collapse:** After seven children were killed by the collapse of a [school roof](#) in India, federal authorities [ordered](#) all state-level administrative bodies to report any safety concerns at schools across the country within 24 hours. Authorities are also pushing for increased safety training for both staff and students, and more collaboration between educational institutions and disaster or emergency response teams, such as local police and fire departments, following the incident. Safety concerns have been raised repeatedly amid India's years-long infrastructure and development boom, with observers warning about everything from [electrical hazards](#) to a haphazard [inspection process](#) in a country where the pace of investment in infrastructure and local business operations far exceeds the development of new safety measures.
- **Guyana Seeks to Capitalize on Economic Boom with New Port Legislation, Investments:** Guyana's new Port Act—legislation meant to “govern [the] development, regulation and oversight of port operations”— could play a significant part in determining the country's future opportunities in both maritime trade and the oil sector. The bill, which is still being drafted, could see significant investments in a new deepwater port in Berbice and an existing one in Georgetown that will allow the country to capitalize on the economic boom it is experiencing as part of its growing role in the oil industry. Together, Argentina, Brazil, and Guyana are [expected](#) to be responsible for most of the expansion in oil production outside of OPEC member states over the next five years, and port access for oil tankers will be critical to maintaining the country's rapid economic growth and development.
- **New Panamanian Lawsuits Boost U.S. Interests Amid Canal Dispute With China:** Panamanian authorities recently announced [two new cases](#) that [seek to cancel](#) Hong Kong-based port operator CK Hutchison's contracts (through a local subsidiary) to operate ports at opposing ends of the Panama Canal. The move comes as the Trump administration continues its efforts to gain control of the Panama Canal and remove “[Chinese influence](#).” A deal to sell the two ports in question to a new operator anchored in part by U.S. investor BlackRock was effectively blocked by Chinese regulators, and a July 27 negotiation deadline [passed](#) with CK Hutchison now seeking Chinese investors to take over operation of the ports.

## Health

- **Indoor Air Microplastic Contamination ‘More Than Expected’ Amid Global ‘Plastics Crisis’:** A new [review of recent studies](#) published in the Lancet estimated that a global “plastics crisis” is costing as much as US\$1.5 trillion annually in health and disability impacts around the world. The report comes on top of new [research](#) from France's University of Toulouse that [finds](#) that the

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amount of microplastics humans breathe while indoors could be up to 100 times higher than previously thought. The study is reinforcing concerns about the safety of plastic products in the home due to the degradation process undergone by furniture, decor, textiles, and the interior of vehicles. While their exact health impact remains unclear, the researchers warn that “long-term exposure...may contribute to respiratory problems...neuro-developmental disorders, reproductive birth defects, infertility, cardiovascular disease, and cancers.” The findings come as officials from 175 countries [begin](#) the final round of talks on a Global Plastics Treaty that campaigners hope will set targets for reducing plastic consumption.

- **Suspension of NIH Funding Reversed; Could Signal Future Cuts:** The Trump administration reportedly [withheld](#) National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for a portion of July 29 before blowback from legislators and the public led to a reversal later that day. While the reinstatement means that the universities, teaching hospitals, and other institutions that rely on the funding will be able to continue operating, the move raises questions about the future of NIH funding. As “the [largest public funder](#) of biomedical research in the world,” future efforts to undermine NIH grants could threaten nearly US\$48 billion in cancer, infectious disease, and other critical medical research every year.
- **As COVID-19 Cases Rise Across U.S., Concerns Grow About Long-Term Effects:** At a time when COVID-19 cases are [rising](#) across the United States and vaccine uptake continues to [taper off](#), concern is growing about the potential impacts of low herd immunity on vulnerable populations. A new University of Colorado Cancer Center [study](#) warns that respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19 might “wake up” dormant cancer cells in recovered patients, adding to the litany of potential [long-term health impacts](#) associated with the virus. Despite researchers finding “[no safety issues](#)” with the latest mRNA- based COVID-19 vaccines, changing U.S. government [messaging](#) around the safety of vaccines and the [broader decline](#) in U.S. vaccination rates for seasonal or endemic illnesses continue to expose at-risk populations to these potentially severe effects.
- **Canada Measles Cases Among World’s Worst, Alberta Hit Hardest:** Canada faces one of the 10 highest measles caseloads in the world, with approximately [4,200 cases](#) reported as of July 2025—three times the number of cases reported in the U.S. over the same period. Authorities attribute the outbreak to [falling vaccination rates in children](#), a trend that has worsened since the COVID-19 pandemic. The problem is particularly severe in Alberta province, which does not require schoolchildren to be immunized and where nearly a third of children are not fully vaccinated by age seven. The province of under 5 million residents has more cases than the U.S.,

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though vaccinations during the March–July period of 2025 rose 55% over the previous year amid a pro-vaccination public health campaign.

- **Honduras Announces Mask Mandate to Curb COVID-19, Other Respiratory Illness:** Honduran authorities announced a [mask mandate](#) in “enclosed or crowded” public spaces, such as hospitals, public transport, and schools, amid a surge in respiratory illness in the country, including COVID-19. At least six people have died of COVID-19 in Honduras during 2025, though the country has reported just 654 cases between January and July 2025, with roughly a third of cases attributed to the [fast-spreading](#) XFG subvariant. Some schools and government offices have switched to remote work or learning to help control the spread. The new policy has spurred an increase in local demand for hand sanitizer and disposable masks, leading to anecdotal reports of retailers beginning to raise prices.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Demonstrations Over Immigration Escalate at Hotels Across the U.K.:** Demonstrations over the use of hotels to house asylum seekers have been ramping up for several weeks across the United Kingdom, with more than 20 protests planned for this coming weekend. Epping, an English town north of London, is entering its fourth week of demonstrations outside The Bell Hotel. Eight officers were [injured](#) during an unruly demonstration there last Thursday, and gatherings are likely to continue on Thursday and Sunday evenings in the near term. Media coverage of a sexual violence case involving two men in Nuneaton, whom a local official has [alleged](#) are both asylum seekers, are behind plans to demonstrate at the town’s Council House this Saturday. Many calls to protest have been met with counterdemonstrations, primarily driven by organizations associated with activist group Stand Up To Racism.
- **Canada Post Contract Rejections Prolong Labor Dispute and Overtime Ban:** A dispute between the Canada Post and its workforce continues to [escalate](#) after employees represented by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) [rejected](#) two multi-year contract proposals on August 1. Nearly 70% of urban and rural workers voted against the offers, which included a 13.59% wage increase over four years, falling short of the union’s 19% demand. The rejection extends supply chain disruptions caused by a peak season strike and a national overtime ban initiated in May. Canada Post expressed disappointment and is evaluating next steps, while the CUPW has [indicated](#) it remains open to resuming negotiations to secure agreements that meet its workers’ needs.

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- **Demonstrations, Strikes Planned Across South Asia This Week:** Several countries in South Asia will see heightened demonstration activity this week. In India, Karnataka state may see a [bus drivers' strike](#) as early as tomorrow, despite the Karnataka High Court [ordering](#) trade unions to postpone the work stoppage by one day. In Pakistan, Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has called for nationwide demonstrations tomorrow, with the primary rally [planned](#) for Islamabad's F-9 Park beginning at 4 pm. Also on Tuesday, Bangladesh will celebrate the 2024 [resignation](#) of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed, capping a weeklong series of commemorative events and coming amid heightened tensions between Hasina's Awami League (AL) and former opposition parties.
- **Peru Truckers' Strike Set Amid Ongoing Crime Concerns:** On Monday, August 11, Peru's National Association of Transport Intergration (ANITRA) will [initiate](#) a truckers' strike in Lima and Callao, citing the government's failure to address rampant extortion and crime targeting transport workers as the primary reason for the action. Union President Martín Valeriano noted that despite earlier strikes on September 26, 2024, and April 10, 2025, neither the executive nor legislative branches have responded adequately, necessitating a third strike. Separately, a [breakdown](#) in negotiations between artisanal miners from Peru's National Confederation of Small and Artisanal Mining (Confemin) and the government is likely to trigger renewed strikes, roadblocks, or other demonstrations in the coming weeks.
- **Heightened Tensions Remain in Angola After Taxi Drivers' Strike:** Disruptions are possible in Luanda and other urban areas across Angola following last week's taxi drivers' strike, which was called in response to government plans to raise the cost of fuel. Media [reports](#) claim that at least 118 shops were vandalized during the strike and subsequent unrest, with the Arreiou grocery chain suffering particularly significant damage after dozens of locations were [reportedly](#) targeted. Despite the strike ending on July 30, tensions over cost-of-living issues could spark further unrest. Any demonstration activity is likely to continue to be met with a strong security response. Police [arrested](#) more than 1,500 people in connection with the demonstrations, including the [vice-president](#) of the taxi association behind the strike.

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## Upcoming Events

- July 3-August 9: Amarnath Yatra (India)
- August 5: July Mass Uprising Day (Bangladesh)
- August 5: Opposition Protests (Pakistan)
- August 5: Karnataka Transporters' Strike (India)
- August 14: Independence Day (Pakistan)
- August 15: Independence Day (India)
- August 17: Independence Day (Indonesia)
- August 17: General Elections (Bolivia)
- August 21: Ninoy Aquino Day (Philippines)
- August 24: Independence Day (Ukraine)
- August 25: Day of Songun (North Korea)
- September 1: Labor Day (United States)
- September 1: General Elections (Guyana)
- September 9: Opening of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) (New York City, NY)