



May 18, 2026

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Top Stories

Significant Severe Weather Expected Across the U.S. Central Plains Today

A widespread severe weather threat is expected this afternoon into the overnight hours across parts of the Central Plains and Midwest. The greatest threat extends from eastern and central Kansas into southeast Nebraska, northwest Missouri, and western Iowa, where atmospheric conditions will support intense rotating thunderstorms capable of producing very large hail, destructive winds, and strong tornadoes. The Storm Prediction Center has highlighted parts of the region under a Level 4 of 5 Moderate Risk for severe weather.

Storms are expected to rapidly intensify Monday afternoon and evening near Wichita, Salina, Topeka, Lincoln, and Omaha, before spreading east toward Kansas City and western Missouri through the overnight. Multiple tornadoes, including strong tornadoes capable of significant damage, will be possible along with hail larger than baseballs and widespread damaging winds. In addition, repeated thunderstorms may lead to excessive rainfall and scattered flash flooding, some locally significant. The Weather Prediction Center has placed parts of Missouri under a Level 3 of 4 excessive rainfall risk. Tuesday's severe weather threat is expected to be more dispersed, spreading from eastern Canada to Texas.

WHO Declares Ebola Outbreak to Be International Emergency, U.S. Restricts Travel From Some Countries

The World Health Organization has declared the ongoing Ebola outbreak affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) following the spread of the rare Bundibugyo strain of the virus across international borders. Health officials have reported at least 336 suspected cases and approximately 88 deaths in eastern DRC, with Uganda confirming multiple imported cases linked to cross-border travel. Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a severe and often fatal hemorrhagic illness that spreads through direct contact with infected bodily fluids, contaminated surfaces, or infected animals. Unlike airborne respiratory viruses such as COVID-19, Ebola generally requires close physical contact for transmission.

The outbreak is centered primarily on Ituri Province in eastern DRC, including mining communities around Mongbwalu and Rwampara, though confirmed cases have now been identified in Uganda, including Kampala. WHO officials have warned that the actual scale of transmission is likely significantly higher than currently reported due to delayed detection, widespread armed violence in affected regions, and gaps in epidemiological surveillance. Several countries are increasing health screenings at ports of entry in response to the outbreak. Earlier today, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that it would be coordinating with other agencies to implement enhanced health screenings and travel monitoring for “individuals arriving from areas affected by Ebola outbreaks in the region” and would enact “entry restrictions on non-US passport holders if they have been in Uganda, DRC, or South Sudan in the previous 21 days.” The order is in effect for 30 days. Among other things, it potentially complicates travel arrangements for the World Cup, which will include a team from the DRC.

U.S.-Iran Negotiations Remain Deadlocked as Drone Strikes Reported in Saudi Arabia, UAE

U.S. President Donald Trump warned that the “clock is ticking” for Iran to agree to a peace deal with Washington as negotiations remain deadlocked. Trump warned Tehran of dire consequences if they did not “act fast” on the peace agreement, while Iranian officials responded with defiant rhetoric, warning of “unexpected scenarios” targeting U.S. assets and bases in the region. Meanwhile, Iran is preparing to introduce a new mechanism to regulate shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, including charging transit tolls for vessels using the strategic waterway. Tehran indicated that maritime traffic would continue to flow through the strait, but access restrictions could apply to vessels linked to “enemy countries” involved in the conflict or supporting hostile operations against Iran.

Regional tensions escalated further after Saudi Arabia reported intercepting three drones launched from Iraq, while the United Arab Emirates confirmed that a drone strike caused a fire near the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in Abu Dhabi's Al Dhafra region. Emirati authorities stated that the fire affected an electrical generator outside the plant's inner perimeter, with no injuries reported and no impact on radiological safety or plant operations. Meanwhile, Israel has continued strikes in Southern Lebanon despite a 45-day extension of a ceasefire arrangement.

Climate and Natural Hazards

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Extremely Critical Fire Weather Threat Across the Southern High Plains:** Dangerous wildfire conditions are expected Monday across parts of New Mexico, the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles, southeastern Colorado, and southwestern Kansas as powerful winds and extremely dry air develop. The highest-risk areas near Amarillo, Liberal, and Plainview may experience explosive fire growth, with rapidly shifting winds later in the day potentially worsening ongoing fires and complicating firefighting efforts.
- **Dangerous Heat Continuing Across Western India:** Above-average heat will continue across western India through the week, with temperatures frequently climbing into the low to mid 40s°C across parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. Several locations have already exceeded 45°C and heat-related warnings remain in effect. Minimal overnight relief and little rainfall are expected, increasing concerns for heat-related illnesses and strain on vulnerable populations.
- **Record Rainfall in China's Hubei Heightens Flood Risk:** Heavy rain across central and eastern China has triggered flood warnings, street flooding, transport disruptions, evacuations, and casualties. Hubei has recorded extreme totals, including 507 mm in one village, with floods prompting suspensions of work, schools, and transit in some cities. Impacts have extended to Hunan, where more than 15,000 people have been evacuated. In Guangxi, at least five deaths have been reported.
- **Monsoon Rains Raising Major Flood Concerns in Southern Myanmar:** Persistent monsoon rainfall will continue across southern Myanmar through next week, with widespread totals of 200-300 mm (8-12 inches) and locally higher amounts possible. Heavy rain may trigger widespread flooding, river rises, and landslides, with some areas facing life-threatening conditions, evacuations, and major travel disruptions. Worldwide

Worldwide

- **Drone Attack on Moscow Highlights Ukrainian Military Capabilities; Moldova Criticizes Russian Citizenship Changes:** Ukraine launched over 1,300 drones at Russia over the weekend, killing three people in the Moscow region overnight on Sunday in an attack that Russian state-owned media called the “largest in more than a year.” The strikes demonstrate Ukraine’s ability to penetrate Moscow’s air defenses, though the attacks are unlikely to change the trajectory of peace negotiations. Moldova’s President Maia Sandu denounced the Kremlin’s simplification of Russian citizenship rules for residents of Transdnistria, Moldova’s pro-Russian separatist region, arguing that the lifting of certain eligibility criteria is a recruitment tool for Russia's military. Relations between Russia and Moldova are already strained over recent airspace violations. Elsewhere in the region, Slovakia closed border crossings with Ukraine for several hours last Wednesday over unspecified “security reasons,” and suspected drone activity prompted Finland to temporarily suspend flights at Helsinki Airport on Friday.
- **Samsung Workers Prepare to Strike Thursday:** Samsung Electronics could face major supply chain disruptions starting Thursday if the National Samsung Electronics Union (NSEU) proceeds with a large- scale strike after wage and bonus negotiations collapsed during government-mediated talks. Around 42,000 workers are expected to participate initially, with estimates potentially exceeding 50,000 if negotiations remain stalled. The strike could significantly disrupt Samsung’s semiconductor and AI- memory production, with industry estimates warning of losses approaching KRW 100 trillion (USD 70 billion) if manufacturing halts for an extended period. Samsung has begun contingency planning and is also seeking a court injunction to limit parts of the strike, while South Korea’s Labor Ministry continues to encourage negotiations rather than pursue emergency intervention. Although both sides remain open to further talks before the strike date, the situation poses broader risks to global electronics supply chains and investor confidence in the Korean technology sector.
- **Colombia Election Tensions Escalate Amid Violence and Political Hardline Rhetoric:** Colombia’s presidential election campaign is unfolding amid escalating violence and deep political polarization. Opposition candidate Abelardo de la Espriella has said he would extradite President Gustavo Petro to the United States if requested, while also advocating a hardline security strategy involving military deployment in the streets, similar to efforts underway in Ecuador and El Salvador. Meanwhile, reports indicate that two campaign staffers were killed in Meta, underscoring rising insecurity ahead of the vote. Additionally, humanitarian agencies, including the Red Cross, report that displacement and civilian harm have reached their highest levels in a decade due to ongoing armed conflict. Authorities

further warn that attacks and intimidation may undermine democratic participation. As the May 31 election approaches, tensions continue to intensify across political and security fronts nationwide.

- **Peru Faces Uncertain Political Outlook Ahead of June Presidential Runoff:** In Peru, presidential candidates Keiko Fujimori and Roberto Sánchez will compete in the June 7 runoff after electoral authorities finally confirmed the results of the April election. Fujimori, daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori, has campaigned on stronger security measures and support for Peru's mining sector, while Sánchez has called for greater state involvement in the economy and reforms to the country's constitution. The election follows months of political instability, delayed vote counting, and allegations of fraud by rival candidates. Prosecutors have also accused Sánchez of falsifying campaign finance information in party financial reports from 2020–2021, though he denies wrongdoing. The runoff is expected to deepen political polarization ahead of the vote.
- **VP Sara Duterte's Impeachment Trial Begins as Political Tensions Rise in Philippines:** Earlier today, the Philippine Senate opened the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, who faces a potential ban from public office that could end her 2028 presidential ambitions. She has 10 days to respond to charges of misusing public funds, accumulating unexplained wealth, and threatening the lives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and others, although a trial date has not yet been set. The trial unfolds amid significant political turbulence, following the brief emergence on May 11 of Senator Ronald dela Rosa, who is wanted by the ICC for crimes against humanity and has been in hiding for months. Dela Rosa used his time in public to shift Senate leadership toward Duterte allies — potentially complicating prosecutors' chances of securing the two-thirds majority needed for conviction. Dela Rosa has since gone back into hiding after a high-profile standoff on Senate grounds led to shots being fired, although he reportedly remains in the Philippines. Despite disputes over the enforceability of the ICC warrant in the Philippines since the country withdrew from the Rome Statute in 2019, Justice Minister Frederick Vida says that they will still comply with the request to arrest Dela Rosa. The ongoing situation has prompted protests in Manila and threatens to widen the fissure between the country's two most powerful political forces—the Duterte and the Marcos families.
- **Israeli Opposition Sets Stage for Dissolution of Parliament Amid Rising Discontent From Ultra-Orthodox Groups:** Opposition leaders have called on all Knesset members to vote for the parliament's dissolution on Wednesday, with both coalition and opposition parties clearing their legislative agendas ahead of the expected preliminary vote. The measure appears likely to pass, setting the stage for elections as soon as late August. The move comes as tensions rise between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the ultra-Orthodox community after Netanyahu failed to pass legislation exempting yeshiva students

from compulsory military service. Haredi protesters have escalated demonstrations — including attempting to storm the home of the Military Police chief — amid mounting tensions over the draft. Police Commissioner Danny Levy has ordered officers to detain draft evaders and hold them for Military Police pickup, following IDF complaints that police were obstructing enforcement efforts. Cyber and Regulatory

Cyber and Regulatory

- **Ransomware Attack Targets North American Electronics Manufacturing Facilities:** Foxconn, a major electronics manufacturer and supplier to companies such as Apple and Nvidia, confirmed a cyberattack affecting several North American factories after the Nitrogen ransomware group claimed responsibility for the breach. The attack raises concerns about potential exposure of sensitive customer and project data, and that disruptions could affect technology supply chains. The ransomware group claims it stole 8 TB of data containing more than 11 million files, including project documents and technical drawings linked to the technology companies. Foxconn said it activated a cybersecurity response immediately upon discovering the breach, saying that factories have resumed normal operations. Security researchers say the group has been increasingly targeting manufacturing and technology companies since 2023. Meanwhile, Foxconn has not confirmed whether customer data was compromised or whether a ransom demand was made. Researchers have also questioned whether the group may be overstating the scale of the alleged data theft.
- **Canvas Reaches Agreement with ShinyHunters Following Breach:** Instructure, the company behind the Canvas learning platform, has confirmed it reached an agreement with the ShinyHunters cybercrime group after an attack disrupted access to the platform for thousands of schools during finals week. Canvas, which supports coursework, exams, grading, and communication for more than 9,000 education institutions worldwide, reported the breach last week, raising concerns about the security of student and faculty data. The hackers claimed to have stolen 3.65TB of data, containing roughly 275 million records, and briefly defaced Canvas login pages with extortion messages. Instructure said exposed data included email addresses, usernames, enrollment details, and messages, but did not include passwords, grades, financial data, or coursework submissions. The company attributed the breach to vulnerabilities tied to "Free-for-Teacher" accounts, which have since been disabled and new security controls implemented.
- **Google Researchers Identify Suspected AI-Assisted Zero-Day Exploit Attempt:** Google researchers have identified and helped prevent exploitation of a zero-day vulnerability that they believe was developed with AI assistance by a prominent cybercrime group. The

group's name was not released; however, Google says it has a strong record of high-profile incidents and mass exploitation. Meanwhile, the discovery underscores concerns that hackers are increasingly using AI to develop more sophisticated attacks, including techniques that could support MFA bypassing and social engineering operations such as phishing. The exploit reportedly targeted an open source web administration tool and included functionality to bypass two-factor authentication through a Python-based script. Google also reported increased AI adoption among Chinese and North Korean-linked threat groups for malware development and vulnerability research. The extent to which AI discovered the vulnerability remains unclear, but continued advances in its capabilities could increase the speed and scale of future cyber operations.

- **G7 Nations Release AI “Ingredients List” Security Guidance:** G7 cybersecurity agencies, including the U.S.’ CISA, released guidance for AI “software bills of materials” (AIBOMs) to outline what information organizations should disclose about AI systems. The guidance comes during a period when AI is rapidly being integrated into critical infrastructure, healthcare, defense, and consumer technologies, raising concerns about risks to security and supply chains. The guidance recommends documenting AI models, training datasets, cybersecurity controls, and performance-related metrics to improve trust and transparency. Experts say the framework provides the first meaningful global baseline for AI supply chain security, covering most major requirements. The initiative also builds upon earlier SBOM efforts for traditional software, underscoring growing concern over vulnerabilities hidden in AI-enabled systems. However, implementation of challenges or unresolved issues around monitoring AI behavior following deployment may affect adoption or effectiveness of the guidance.
- **Mythos, Daybreak Accelerate AI-Driven Vulnerability Discovery Efforts:** Anthropic’s Mythos and OpenAI’s newly launched Daybreak highlight how advanced AI tools are accelerating vulnerability discovery across software and financial systems. These developments are compressing the timeline between vulnerability discovery, exploitation, and remediation, forcing organizations to patch weaknesses faster than traditional security processes were designed to handle. While Mythos uncovered relatively few new flaws in the heavily audited curl project, major U.S. banks reportedly say the system is identifying hundreds to thousands of vulnerabilities in financial systems, underscoring how AI-driven security testing could strain industries reliant on aging technology. Meanwhile, curl developers argue that Mythos may have been oversold, though other experts say curl’s mature, heavily tested codebase likely limited new discoveries. Banks are reportedly patching issues within days instead of weeks as Mythos rapidly links small weaknesses into larger risks and attack paths. Infrastructure and Supply Chain

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Several Killed in Kenyan Protests Over Rising Fuel Prices While India Urges Austerity:** The global energy shock engendered by the Iran conflict is straining several economies, particularly in Africa and Asia. Kenya has raised retail fuel prices by over 20% for two consecutive months. The fuel price hike triggered a strike and protests by public transport operators across the country today, resulting in at least four deaths and dozens of injuries so far. In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for austerity measures and fuel conservation. Stressing the need to protect the economy from external shocks, Modi urged citizens and businesses to reduce fuel consumption, avoid non-essential travel, increase use of public transport, and adopt work-from-home practices where possible. Shortly after his remarks, petrol and diesel prices went up by ₹3 per liter, the first hike in four years and the Delhi government announced a mandatory two-day work-from-home policy for government employees and restrictions on official foreign travel.
- **Iranian Media Signals Interest in Controlling Cables Near Strait of Hormuz:** In addition to being a significant trade transit zone, the Strait of Hormuz is also a strategic “digital chokepoint” for global internet infrastructure, with dozens of submarine fiber-optic cables carrying financial transactions, cloud traffic, and internet data between Europe, Asia, and the Gulf. According to reports, Iranian state-affiliated media outlets have speculated on the imposition of licensing fees, requiring companies such as Meta, Amazon, and Microsoft to operate under Iranian legal oversight. They would also potentially hand maintenance control over to Iranian firms, while hinting at disruption if demands are ignored. Iranian media appears to be signaling that digital infrastructure may be weaponized alongside oil exports, shipping lanes, and regional cloud infrastructure during periods of confrontation. Even without direct sabotage, the rhetoric alone increases pressure on telecom operators to diversify cable routes, accelerate redundancy projects, and reduce dependence on politically contested maritime corridors.
- **U.S. Senate Committee Advances Cryptocurrency Regulations:** The Republican-led Senate Banking Committee advanced the Clarity Act, long-awaited legislation that would establish regulations for cryptocurrencies — a landmark step for a bill previously stalled by disputes between crypto companies and banks. The bill now heads to the full Senate. Supporters argue it would provide the legal certainty needed for broader adoption of cryptocurrencies, stablecoins, and blockchain-based financial products. Critics contend it is too industry-friendly and poses risks to national security and financial stability. If the Senate fails to pass the bill before November's midterm elections, analysts say it is unlikely to become law anytime soon.

- **U.S., U.K. Regulators Turning Attention to Private Credit Market:** U.S. and U.K. regulators are intensifying scrutiny of the \$3.5 trillion private credit market. The U.K.'s Financial Conduct Authority is planning a significant overhaul of reporting requirements for private credit managers, potentially forcing firms to disclose granular, loan-level data — a move the industry strongly opposes. The push follows Bank of England warnings that market opacity could trigger a loss of confidence. In the U.S., SEC enforcement chief David Woodcock flagged ongoing stress in private credit portfolios, citing defaults, losses, and nearly \$14 billion in investor redemption requests in early 2026, while signaling close attention to risks around liquidity, valuations, and conflicts of interest.
 - **Trump Returns From Beijing With Limited Overall Progress Despite Some Deals:** U.S. President Donald Trump's two-day Beijing summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping was heavy on pageantry but light on concrete outcomes. Xi issued a clear warning around Taiwan, calling it a "highly dangerous situation" that could lead to "clashes" between the two nations. Trump announced that China planned to buy 200 Boeing jets, a number that, despite its multi-billion-dollar price tag, was below what markets were hoping to see. On Iran, where observers were hoping to see some movement towards a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, Trump said that China agreed the waterway must be opened, but Beijing gave no indication that it plans to involve itself further. While an agricultural deal was also high on the priority list for the U.S., it's unclear what additional commitments China has made. There will be future opportunities for greater progress, with Trump inviting Xi to the U.S. on September 24, and other potential meetings at the APEC and G20 summits later in the year.
- Health

Health

- **WHO Revises Number of Hantavirus Cases Down as Monitoring Efforts Continue:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has revised the MV Hondius hantavirus case count down from 11 to ten, after a U.S. passenger previously recorded as inconclusive tested negative. Eight cases are confirmed and two are probable. Over 120 passengers who disembarked in Tenerife are being monitored in their home countries, while the 27 remaining crew members and medical personnel on board face quarantine and weekly testing now that the vessel has arrived in Rotterdam. None have shown symptoms. WHO chief Tedros cautioned that additional cases may emerge given the hantavirus's incubation period of up to six weeks, but stressed this would reflect functioning control measures rather than a spreading outbreak. In the U.S., 41 people are under monitoring, with none testing positive so far.
- **Access to Mifepristone in U.S. Remains as Supreme Court Stays May 1 Ruling:** On Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court stayed a May 1 ruling from the New Orleans 5th Circuit

Court of Appeals that restricted mail-order access to mifepristone, a pill commonly used in abortions. The 5th Circuit had said that the distribution of mifepristone via mail interfered with Louisiana's ban on abortions. The Supreme Court's stay will likely prevent further limitations on access to the pill while the court determines if it will hear a challenge to the 5th Circuit's ruling raised by two manufacturers of mifepristone. That decision could come next year. The Supreme Court's stay was issued as part of its emergency docket and came with no reasoning attached.

- **WHO/Europe Provides First-Ever Snapshot of AI Usage Across EU Member States:** WHO/Europe has released the first comprehensive review of AI use in health care across all 27 EU member states. The report finds strong momentum, with nearly three quarters of EU countries already using AI-assisted diagnostics and 63% deploying chatbots for patient engagement. Nearly half have created dedicated professional roles for AI and data science in health. While adoption is accelerating, the report identifies workforce training as a key gap, urging countries to integrate AI literacy into medical education. It also calls for broader public engagement in AI governance, and recommends establishing centers of excellence to test technologies and develop shared standards for safe, equitable implementation.
- **FDA Head Ousted in Latest Bout of Uncertainty for HHS:** The FDA has undergone sweeping leadership upheaval over the past year. Commissioner Marty Makary resigned after just 13 months, having failed to manage the agency's bureaucracy amid pressure from anti-abortion groups, vaping lobbyists, and pharmaceutical executives. His handpicked vaccine chief, Dr. Vinay Prasad, was pushed out twice after clashing with drugmakers and overruling vaccine staff. Dr. Tracy Beth Hoeg, who led the drug center and investigated COVID vaccine safety without publishing supporting evidence, was also removed. The departures leave the FDA with deep instability, with career scientists largely replaced by political appointees aligned with Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
- **One Dead as Multistate Salmonella Outbreak Grows:** Three multistate Salmonella outbreaks linked to backyard poultry have sickened 184 people in the U.S., a sharp rise of 150 cases since April 23, though the true number is likely higher. At least 54 have been hospitalized and one person has died in Washington state, although most cases have been reported in the Midwest. More than a quarter of those affected are children under five. The outbreaks trace back to five hatcheries and involve three strains, the largest being Salmonella Saintpaul, which accounts for 72% of cases and is notably linked to contact with Pekin ducks. Experts note that healthy-looking birds can carry the bacteria, and advise against kissing or cuddling poultry, along with frequent handwashing and thorough egg cooking. Demonstrations and Industrial Action

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Selma and Montgomery Voting Rights Demonstrations Draw National Democratic Leaders:** Thousands of people gathered in Montgomery and Selma on May 16 as part of the “All Roads Lead to the South” campaign protesting Alabama’s newly redrawn congressional map and broader voting rights concerns. Marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge before larger rallies continued at the Alabama State Capitol. More than 275 organizations, including the NAACP and Black Lives Matter, took part alongside national Democratic figures such as Senators Cory Booker and Raphael Warnock and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Speakers framed the rallies as part of an ongoing fight over voting access, representation, and redistricting in the South. In related activism, the group “Fair Immigration Reform Movement” has also called for a May 20 protest at Banneker Park in Washington opposing proposed increases in ICE and Border Patrol funding under the slogan “Fund Care, Not ICE.” Voting rights are likely to continue to be a central rallying cry for activists and civil society groups heading into the midterm elections.
- **Bolivia Faces Escalating Unrest as Economic Crisis and Protests Challenge Rodrigo Paz Government:** Bolivia is facing escalating unrest under President Rodrigo Paz as protests and road blockades spread amid an economic crisis. According to reports, miners, teachers, Indigenous groups, and unions, including the Bolivian Workers' Central (COB), have demanded wage increases and President Paz’s resignation. Clashes in La Paz and surrounding regions have led to arrests as security forces attempt to clear blockades. Supporters of former president Evo Morales have warned that if he is arrested, it could trigger widespread mobilization from his base, with union-linked groups and coca growers signaling the potential for mass protests and intensified unrest, further escalating an already fragile political situation. Moreover, the situation has raised concerns across Latin America, with several governments urging dialogue, stability, and respect for democratic institutions to prevent further deterioration in the coming weeks.
- **Opposition Groups in Tbilisi Plan Major March on Georgia’s Independence Day:** An alliance of opposition groups in Georgia is organizing a “mass rally” in Tbilisi next Tuesday, May 26, coinciding with the country’s Independence Day. The alliance launched a national mobilization campaign in late March to counter the Georgian Dream political party’s moves towards what the European Union has called authoritarianism and democratic backsliding. Georgia’s opposition groups have been in a holding pattern, with repressive laws and arbitrary arrests of demonstrators exhibiting a chilling effect on protest activity since the 2024 elections. Tuesday’s rally, which features a march from Tbilisi State University to the Parliament building on Rustaveli Ave, could provide momentum for the opposition

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movement and signal a resurgence of mass political demonstrations. Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze criticized the opposition rally for attempting to “create division.”

- **Medical Exam Test Cancellation Sparks Demonstrations Across India:** Student demonstrators clashed with police outside the National Testing Agency (NTA) office in Delhi last week following the agency’s decision to cancel the NEET-UG test over allegations of a paper leak. Approximately 2.28 million students took the exam, which is a primary factor for admission to medical colleges, and they will need to retake it if they want to vie for a limited number of seats. The National Students' Union of India (NSUI), one of the student groups driving demonstrations over the NEET leak, is organizing a gathering in Karnataka on May 19, and the Karnataka Youth Congress will hold a protest march in Bengaluru on May 21. Protests are likely to continue in the coming weeks amid ongoing outrage over the situation.
- **Belgrade Braces for Student-Led Demonstration on Saturday:** Students in Serbia are organizing a mass protest in Belgrade this Saturday, May 23. The mobilization entails demonstrators gathering at four locations across Belgrade—the Faculty of Agriculture in Zemun, the Faculty of Law, the roundabout in Autokomanda, and Republic Square—in the early afternoon before marching to Slavija Square by 6 pm. The marches are likely to disrupt traffic and prompt a heightened security presence near Slavija Square. Saturday’s action will mark one year since student demonstrators refocused their protest campaign on early elections, evolving from the original demands of government accountability for the 2024 Novi Sad railway station canopy collapse.

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Upcoming Events

- May 18: Victoria Day (Canada)
- May 19: Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day (Türkiye)
- May 21-23: Shavuot (Global)
- May 24: Parliamentary Elections (Cyprus)
- May 24-30: Hajj (Saudi Arabia) Dates may vary
- May 24: National Assembly Elections (Guinea)
- May 25: Memorial Day (United States)
- May 25: Africa Day (Various Countries)
- May 26: Independence Day (Georgia)
- May 26-31: Eid al-Adha (Global) Date may vary based on location
- May 30: UEFA Champions League Final (Budapest, Hungary)
- May 31: Presidential Election (Colombia)
- June 1: General Elections (Ethiopia)
- June 1-30: Pride Month (Global)
- June 5: Naksa Day (Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank)
- June 7: Parliamentary Election (Armenia)
- June 7: Presidential Election Runoff (Peru)
- June 7: Parliamentary Election (Kosovo)
- June 11-July 19: FIFA World Cup (Canada, Mexico, United States)
- June 15-17: G7 Summit (Évian-les-Bains, France)
- June 16: Muharram (Global) Date may vary based on location
- June 19: Juneteenth (United States)
- June 19: Dragon Boat Festival (China)