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Trump Declares 20% Fee for Safe Hormuz Passage, Relaunches Blockade of Iranian Ports as Ceasefire Fails

Earlier this morning, President Trump announced that the U.S. would reinstate its blockade of Iranian ports and impose safe passage fees of "20% on all cargo shipped through the Strait of Hormuz." Trump expects the plan to enter into force immediately, though details remain scarce; the president also hinted that the U.S. intends to "keep" and "run" the strategic waterway. Iran responded by warning that continued interference in its affairs risks even greater disruptions to global fossil fuel supply chains. Despite Trump's claims that the strait is open, shipping traffic through the strait has again plummeted.

The latest back and forth comes after a week of intensifying operations that have placed the Memorandum of Understanding under increasing strain. A breakdown in the peace process and repeated strikes on ships attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz via a U.S.-approved pathway are behind the latest flare-up, with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz reiterating on Sunday that the ceasefire is likely over. Despite President Trump's recent threats to target civilian infrastructure, however, most U.S. strikes are expected to continue primarily targeting military sites and equipment at strategic sites across Iran. An expansion of the target list to include other civilian infrastructure could prompt Iran to resume its attacks on other critical infrastructure in the region.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula, tensions are again increasing in Yemen after the Houthis accused Saudi Arabia of striking Sana'a Airport. Despite the recent conflict with Iran, a 2022 truce between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia has largely held and the Houthis have mostly abstained from joining Iran in attacking other Gulf countries. A return to conflict could jeopardize oil flows through Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline or see the Houthis enforce a blockade on traffic through the Bab el Mandeb Strait, compounding shipping woes in the region.

Atmospheric River to Generate Significant Weather Disruptions Across Chile

A prolonged and potentially high-impact storm pattern is expected to affect central and parts of southern Chile from Tuesday through Friday, bringing repeated heavy rain, strong winds, coastal swell, and significant Andes snowfall. The system will interact with a high-end Category 4 to 5 atmospheric river near portions of Coquimbo, Valparaíso, and the Santiago Metropolitan Region,

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supporting unusually efficient and sustained precipitation. Model guidance indicates that parts of the Santiago area could receive approximately 175–215 mm (7–9 inches) of rain over the next week, although the exact placement of the highest totals remains uncertain.

The Santiago Metropolitan Region is the primary operational concern. Repeated rainfall may progressively saturate soils and overwhelm drainage systems, increasing the risk of widespread street flooding, underpass closures, hazardous road conditions, and significant transportation delays. Rapid rises are also possible along rivers, canals, and smaller waterways draining from the Andes and eastern foothills. Eastern and pre-Andean communities face a greater risk of landslides, rockfalls, and debris flows, while power outages, downed trees, emergency-access constraints, and localized isolation are possible if the heaviest rainfall occurs in shorter, higher-intensity periods.

Significant impacts are also expected across the broader corridor from Biobío through Coquimbo. Biobío, Ñuble, Maule, and O'Higgins face the highest risk of flash flooding, river rises, landslides, road closures, and power disruption, while Araucanía and Los Ríos may see debris-flow and rockfall hazards. Heavy snow and strong winds across the Andes could produce whiteout conditions, drifting snow, and mountain-pass closures, disrupting travel and cross-border freight movement. Valparaíso, Coquimbo, Atacama, and Antofagasta may also experience strong winds, heavy mountain snow, and hazardous coastal or high-elevation conditions as the system expands northward. MeteoChile and SENAPRED have issued or modified Early Preventive Alerts in several exposed regions.

Heatwave and Wildfire Impacts Mounting in Europe

Europe's escalating heat crisis has already been associated with more than 10,000 excess deaths, and the eventual toll is likely to be substantially higher. EuroMOMO surveillance recorded approximately 10,650 all-cause excess deaths across 27 participating European countries and regions during June 22–28, when a late-June heatwave peaked. More than 9,000 victims were 65 or older. The largest reported mortality increases were concentrated in Germany, England, Wales, France, Belgium, and Spain. Although the surveillance system does not assign causes of death, EuroMOMO officials said no other major concurrent factor could explain the unusually large increase. These figures largely capture the late-June heatwave and remain preliminary because mortality reporting typically lags by several weeks or months. Currently, Europe is experiencing its third successive major heatwave, meaning deaths from the latest period of extreme heat have generally not yet entered official surveillance totals.

Wildfire impacts are also intensifying and spreading well beyond Europe's traditional Mediterranean fire zones. An exceptionally large wildfire has burned roughly 800 hectares (1,980 acres) 40 miles south of Paris, forcing evacuations, causing disruptions along the A6 motorway and major rail services. Major incidents have also affected the U.K., including wildfires in North Wales and the Peak District that prompted home evacuations. In southeastern Spain, the Los Gallardos wildfire has killed at least 13 people and left 10 others missing, making it one of Spain's deadliest wildfire incidents in recent history. Elsewhere, more than 10,000 people were evacuated from a major fire near the French Pyrenees. Portugal requested international firefighting support, and additional significant fires are affecting Portugal, Greece, Croatia, and various other parts of southern Europe. Continued heat and drought-stressed vegetation will sustain the potential for rapid fire growth, evacuations, smoke exposure, transportation disruption, and mounting pressure on regional firefighting resources this week.

NATO Summit Sees Progress on Ukraine Support, Defense Spending Despite Persistent Tensions With Trump Administration

Last week's NATO Summit in Ankara, Türkiye, took place under the shadow of renewed large-scale U.S. military action against Iran, leading NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte to refuse to rule out future NATO involvement. While the comment suggests solidarity at a time when the U.S. relationship with the organization is in question, comments made by U.S. President Donald Trump on topics ranging from U.S. control of the Danish territory Greenland to cutting off U.S. trade with Spain suggest that the Trump administration will remain at odds with the organization through at least the near term. The tensions are reportedly driving the organization to reconsider whether a 2027 leaders' summit is worth risking another confrontation with Trump.

Despite the continued friction with the U.S., significant progress was made in several areas, including defense deals and support for Ukraine. Rutte noted that European member states and Canada will likely have increased their military spending by a combined \$300 billion between the beginning of 2025 and the end of 2026, including "tens of billions" in weapons purchases. Ukraine, meanwhile, will receive an \$80 billion support package over 2026-2027, as well as a license to produce Patriot missiles and other direct support from the U.S. The support could help turn the tide of the war, while also raising the risk of Russian retaliation for the intervention.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Montreal, Quebec, and New England Threatened by Severe Storms:** Montreal, Quebec City, extreme northern New York, northern Vermont, northern New Hampshire, and central/northern Maine are under a notable severe thunderstorm risk Tuesday. Scattered severe wind gusts over 65-75 mph, a few tornadoes including one or two strong tornadoes, and large hail reports are expected within the region.
- **Sustained Southern U.S. Flood Risk:** Scattered heavy rain and flooding will affect parts of the southern U.S. through the week, beginning Monday from Texas and Louisiana eastward across portions of the Southeast. The highest overall threat is expected Tuesday and Wednesday along the Texas-Mexico border, including the central Rio Grande Valley, Edwards Plateau, Hill Country, and adjacent areas of northern Coahuila, where repeated thunderstorms could produce several inches of rain and significant flash flooding. The risk should persist into Thursday as soils become increasingly saturated, then gradually ease by Friday. Additional Flood Watch issuance is likely. This threat comes on the heels of major flooding in Missouri, which resulted in over 200 rescues and one death.
- **All Quiet in the Atlantic, for Now:** The Gulf, Caribbean, and Atlantic have been quiet following Tropical Storm Arthur, which caused flooding along Texas and Louisiana June 17-18. A few models indicate an area of low pressure may drift into the eastern Gulf, south of the Florida panhandle by late weekend into early next week, but current odds of tropical development are extremely low.
- **East Pacific Hurricane Activity:** As of Monday morning, the National Hurricane Center has highlighted no less than five separate features of interest. Forecast guidance indicates a strong probability of multiple named storms and potentially a couple hurricanes forming within this region over the next ten days. However, there are no indications any of these features will directly threaten land at this time.
- **Bangladesh Floods Kill At Least 51:** Persistent monsoonal rain has caused widespread flooding and landslides across southern Bangladesh, particularly in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. At least 51 people have been killed and dozens injured. More than 1 million people are affected across seven districts, and 38,422 residents have been moved to temporary shelters. More than 650,000 people remain stranded.

Worldwide

- **World Cup 2026 Enters Final Stretch:** The 2026 FIFA World Cup reaches its climax this week. Two semifinals set the stage: France faces Spain in Arlington on Tuesday, and Argentina takes on England in Atlanta on Wednesday. All eyes then turn to Sunday, July 19, when the final kicks off at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. FIFA President Gianni Infantino has confirmed that President Trump will attend and join him in presenting the trophy. With roughly 80,000 attendees expected, New Jersey State Police are coordinating security through a dedicated command center involving local, state, and federal agencies. Officials have described the Final's security requirements as comparable to a Super Bowl. Other heads of state are expected, though full attendee lists have not been finalized publicly.
- **China Strikes Increasingly Aggressive Stance Towards Taiwan, South Pacific:** While the U.S. and Europe are increasingly preoccupied with the conflicts in the Middle East and Russia/Ukraine, respectively, China is growing more assertive in its interactions with Taiwan and other Pacific island nations competing with Beijing over territorial claims. In June, China positioned naval vessels around Taiwan, enabling Beijing to increase pressure on Taipei through expanded patrolling activities and for the first time targeting foreign commercial vessels in the area for questioning. The rising antagonism is not limited to Taiwan, with Philippine officials also flagging late June Chinese maneuvers around the disputed Scarborough Shoal (Bajo de Masinloc). This antagonism has been accompanied by an uptick in saber-rattling, with the People's Liberation Army Navy launching a rare submarine-fired ballistic missile test on Monday, July 6 in an apparent show of force.
- **Russian Strikes on Ukrainian Capital Threaten Worsening Civilian Impacts:** Russian missile strikes on Ukrainian capital Kyiv have killed at least 60 people in July alone, as Ukraine awaits munitions for its defense systems. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy noted that Saturday strikes hit public infrastructure "before the air raid alert was issued," with Russia's growing use of difficult-to-disrupt ballistic and cruise missiles in its attacks raising the likelihood of a successful hit. The intensifying Russian attacks come amid a series of Ukrainian drone strikes deep in Russian territory, which have significantly disrupted Russian fossil fuel supply chains by disabling refineries and tankers. The increasingly severe impacts to public infrastructure on both sides of the conflict pose significant threats to local communities, especially in Ukraine, where it is believed that "Russia seeks to raise the costs for Ukraine's economy, civilians, and political leadership."
- **Eastern Europe Risks Worsening Instability Amid Leadership Turmoil:** Rising pressure on leaders of countries across central and eastern Europe threatens both domestic political stability and the prospect of a united European front against perceived Russian aggression. In Hungary, pro-EU Prime Minister Péter Magyar's effort to remove President Tamás Sulyok — whom Magyar sees as a puppet of former Prime Minister Viktor Orbán — sparked calls for protests from Orbán's Fidesz party. A July 9 demonstration saw several thousand people gather at Budapest's Sándor Palace. In neighboring Romania, the leader of the country's pro-Russia Alliance for the Unity of Romanians (AUR) party is calling on pro-EU President Nicușor Dan to nominate a prime minister, after launching an effort to suspend Dan and organize early elections. Against this backdrop, Moldova — which faces frequent Russian interference and the threat of collateral damage amid the ongoing war in Ukraine — saw pro-Western Prime Minister Alexandru Moise resign on

July 3 amid a series of scandals at state-owned companies. The decision comes at a particularly sensitive time, when Moldovan authorities are seeking to limit the autonomy of the increasingly pro-Russian Gagauz region, threatening further internal turmoil and providing an opportunity for Moscow to once again meddle in Moldovan internal affairs.

- **France's Marine Le Pen Cleared to Run, Early Favorite for 2027 Presidential Election:** France's Marine Le Pen was cleared to run in the country's 2027 presidential election after appealing a 5-year ban on holding public office. Le Pen maintains her innocence after being convicted of overseeing "years of misuse...of European Parliament funds by paying staff with money intended for European Union parliamentary assistants." Despite being found guilty, Le Pen is currently the favorite to win in 2027, threatening a dramatic shift in French policy direction.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **U.S., Canada Expand AI Adoption for Cyber Defense:** The U.S. government is rapidly expanding its use of advanced AI models for defensive cybersecurity, with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) reportedly deploying Anthropic's Mythos model to audit federal software for vulnerabilities that could be exploited by foreign adversaries. The deployment is particularly notable given recent debates over restricting access to Anthropic's most capable models because of their advanced cyber capabilities. Officials say the AI has already helped identify numerous security flaws in government code, demonstrating the growing value of frontier AI in vulnerability discovery and secure software development. Anthropic is also broadening public-sector adoption through a partnership with the Government of Alberta that will use Claude to enhance cybersecurity operations and support responsible AI deployment across government agencies.
- **China Overhauls Internet Rules For AI:** China is undertaking its most significant overhaul of internet governance in more than two decades, updating its regulatory framework to reflect the country's transition from an internet dominated by websites to one centered on AI-driven platforms, algorithms, and digital systems. The proposed revisions would expand regulatory oversight of platform operators, strengthen accountability for AI-driven content, reinforce data governance requirements, and give authorities broader powers to supervise emerging technologies and online services. The changes build on China's existing AI governance framework, which already includes regulations governing recommendation algorithms, generative AI services, and mandatory labeling of AI-generated content. Analysts view the overhaul as part of China's strategy to establish a comprehensive rulebook for AI that balances innovation with state oversight, national security, and information control.
- **U.S. States Reassess AI Data Center Expansion:** Texas Governor Greg Abbott has proposed banning new AI data centers in rural areas while requiring developers to fund their own infrastructure, power, and water needs without tax incentives. The proposal could reshape future AI infrastructure growth in Texas as states increasingly seek to balance AI investment with resource, security, and oversight concerns. Abbott's proposal marks a shift from his earlier efforts to attract AI investment, including a \$40 billion Google expansion in the state. Arizona recently enacted a three-year freeze on new state tax incentives for data centers to reassess their economic and environmental impacts, reflecting similar policy concerns. Continued changes in AI regulation, infrastructure investment, and the cybersecurity threat landscape could influence future AI deployment and data center expansion.

- **U.K. Accelerates National Cyber Defense Initiative:** The U.K. is strengthening its national cyber defense through a new voluntary cyber resilience initiative for businesses and plans to develop AI-enabled defensive capabilities. The developments also reflect growing efforts to improve resilience against increasingly sophisticated AI-enabled cyber threats targeting government, critical infrastructure, and the private sector. More than 60 organizations, including Cloudflare, M&S, and Microsoft U.K. have signed the government's Cyber Resilience Pledge, committing to board-level cyber accountability and encouraging suppliers to adopt Cyber Essentials or equivalent baseline security standards. The National Cyber Security Center (NCSC) has proposed Cyber Shield, a future capability that would use autonomous AI "red" and "blue" agents to identify, defend against, and eventually remediate vulnerabilities across government and critical infrastructure networks. The NCSC says AI-enabled attacks and accelerated vulnerability discovery are driving the need for machine-speed cyber defenses.
- **AI Fuels More Sophisticated Phishing Campaigns:** Artificial intelligence (AI) is making phishing attacks more convincing, with cybercriminals increasingly reliant on simple engineering techniques to target organizations, particularly small businesses. The tactics increase the likelihood of account compromise, ransomware incidents, and data breaches, despite requiring comparatively unsophisticated malware. The Dutch Data Protection Authority reported that successful account takeover incidents nearly tripled in 2025, driven in part by AI-generated, personalized phishing emails. Separately, researchers identified a ransomware campaign impersonating Interpol that uses fake investigation notices to trick victims into downloading malware and negotiating ransomware payments. As AI capabilities continue to evolve, both defenders and attackers are likely to adapt rapidly, potentially changing the effectiveness and scale of these campaigns with little warning.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Saudi Arabia Quietly Blocks Payments to UAE Accounts:** Saudi Arabia has been delaying or blocking financial transfers from banks in the kingdom to accounts based in the United Arab Emirates, particularly in Dubai, since at least mid-May. The Saudi Central Bank denied imposing any "direct restrictions on specific countries," attributing delays to routine risk-based compliance screening. While the UAE's Ministry of Economy & Tourism claims it has received no formal private-sector complaints, the disruption is already forcing businesses to reroute payments through Bahrain or resort to services like PayPal to see financial transfers through. The issue reflects a wider Saudi-UAE rift rooted in diverging positions on the conflicts in Iran, Sudan, and Yemen. If the issue continues, or hardens into an official policy, it could meaningfully erode Dubai's historic role as an entry point into the Saudi market for foreign businesses.
- **Disruptions to Key Shipping Lanes Continue to Weigh on Global Logistics:** The normalization of the global energy industry remains unlikely as renewed U.S.-Iran fighting has again choked the Strait of Hormuz. Passages fell to just 10 vessels on July 9, as renewed Iranian attacks prompted some war-risk insurers to recommend suspending voyages through the strait entirely. Meanwhile, the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has warned of potential remedial action against China over systematic detentions of Panama-flagged vessels, while the Panama Canal Authority reduced its Neopanamax maximum draft over fears of the potential impact of the El Niño weather pattern on water levels. In the Mediterranean, carriers including Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd announced the partial resumption of some service through the Suez Canal, but explicitly tied any wider

rollout to continued Red Sea stability. Lastly, Indonesia and Singapore did offer a measure of assurance, formally reaffirming that the Strait of Malacca will remain open and toll-free under UNCLOS.

- **U.S. is Falling Behind in Africa Due to Lack of Ambassadors:** The United States currently lacks Senate-confirmed ambassadors in 41 African countries, including strategically important partners such as Nigeria, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, and Sudan, following the recall of more than a dozen career ambassadors in late 2025. The diplomatic gap comes at a time when the U.S. is seeking to deepen economic partnerships and conclude strategic deals, including those linked to regional peace efforts. Competitors such as China and the EU are also continuing to strengthen their commercial presence and shape Africa's trade architecture. The shortage of resident ambassadors could delay business negotiations, weaken support for U.S. companies, and erode Washington's influence over key economic initiatives and future trade frameworks, including the evolution of post-African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) relations.
- **Cuban Grid Under Increasing Pressure as U.S. Blockade Continues:** On Friday, Cuba's grid collapsed for the second time in a week and the fourth time this year as the impacts of a continued U.S. fuel blockade mount. The blockade has disrupted tourism, transportation, healthcare, and industrial activity. Public frustration is increasing, with demonstrations reported in Havana and elsewhere on July 7. Cuban authorities approved 176 market-liberalization measures in mid-June, a first since the 1959 revolution, expanding the role of private enterprise, banking, and investment amid growing economic pressure. Washington dismissed the changes as insufficient and imposed fresh sanctions on five Cuban entities. Deteriorating living conditions are likely to continue fueling unrest and complicate governance. Meanwhile, U.S. plans towards the island remain unclear, although significant military assets have been in place for months.
- **Russia Attempts to Jam Starlink to Counter Ukrainian Drones:** Russia is attempting to counter Ukraine's use of Starlink-connected "mid-strike" drones by deploying electronic warfare systems designed to disrupt Elon Musk's SpaceX satellite internet network. Ukrainian drone commanders told Reuters that systems such as Volna Kupol Garant can interfere with Starlink coverage across areas of around 20 square kilometers, threatening Ukraine's ability to operate drones that target Russian supply lines, fuel depots, air defenses and command centers. Ukraine has responded by targeting these jamming systems, while Russia has also adapted by disguising military supplies in civilian vehicles and using smaller, protected convoys.

Health

- **Ebola Still Spreading Undetected in DRC as Workers Go on Strike and CDC Increases Response Level:** Ebola continues to spread mostly undetected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with the total number of cases standing at around 2,000 and over 700 deaths. Some healthcare workers in the country are reportedly on strike, alleging that they haven't been paid and have only been provided limited equipment, further hampering efforts to control what officials have said is the fastest spreading Ebola outbreak on record. The rapidly expanding outbreak prompted the Director of the U.S.'s National Institutes of Health to inform employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that they were elevating their response to the highest level. The activation comes as the agency is supporting ongoing responses to measles, New World Screwworm, and polio, at the same time as it is dealing with reduced staffing levels.

- **ACA Premiums Set to Increase by 14% Next Year:** Affordable Care Act marketplace premiums are projected to rise a median 14% in 2027, marking a second consecutive year of double-digit increases and adding additional pressure on hospital budgets. Insurers attribute the increase to higher hospital and prescription-drug costs, including specialty and GLP-1 medications, as well as the expiration of enhanced federal subsidies. Consumers earning above 400% of the federal poverty level may face the largest increases because they no longer qualify for assistance. Rising prices are also prompting healthier people to drop coverage, leaving a costlier insurance pool. ACA enrollment has already fallen by roughly 3 million to 19.2 million.
- **Cyclosporiasis Outbreak Grows Alongside Concerns for Food Safety:** Cases of cyclosporiasis, an intestinal infection that causes frequent diarrhea and is often spread through fresh produce, have grown from just over 400 to 3,000 across 31 states. With over 86 people hospitalized, health officials have not found the source of the outbreak and are warning the public to take special care of food safety. Some of the hardest-hit states appear to be in the Midwest and Northeast, with Michigan reporting the most cases, although experts believe that a substantial number of cases are going unreported. Several restaurants have reported changing their menus to exclude items featuring fresh produce.
- **Venezuelan Healthcare System Faces Crisis Point Following Earthquakes:** Approximately 38 hospitals in Venezuela were damaged in the set of earthquakes that shook the country on June 24, prompting some international aid organizations to warn of an impending public health crisis. The damage further degrades an already struggling healthcare system that is now facing “a widening medical crisis,” with thousands of people injured and many others displaced and living in unsanitary conditions. Prior to the recent earthquakes, Venezuela’s healthcare system was severely underfunded due to an economic crisis and facing staffing shortages as skilled labor emigrated out of the country. Aid organizations have warned that the country is at risk of significant disease outbreaks if steps aren’t taken to support the healthcare system.
- **NYC Investigating Source of Legionnaires’ Disease on Upper East Side:** New York City health officials are investigating a Legionnaires’ disease cluster affecting Carnegie Hill and Yorkville on Manhattan’s Upper East Side. The outbreak has grown to 56 cases, including 16 current hospitalizations; no deaths have been reported. Preliminary screening found Legionella bacteria in cooling towers at 31 buildings, all of which were ordered cleaned and disinfected, though officials have not confirmed any as the outbreak’s source. Residents may safely use tap water, showers, and home air conditioning. People who develop fever, cough or breathing difficulties—particularly older adults, smokers and those with weakened immune systems—should seek medical care promptly. This year’s outbreak follows one from last year in Harlem that resulted in multiple fatalities.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **U.S. to See Demonstrations Against Government, ICE, Data Centers This Week:** Over 70 demonstrations opposed to the rapid buildout of data centers are planned across 26 U.S. states on Saturday, July 18, organized by the advocacy group Humans First. While most demonstrations focus on data center projects in rural communities, several actions are planned in major cities, including Atlanta (Capitol building at 11 am), Billings (Yellowstone County Courthouse at 10 am), and San Antonio (Bexar County Courthouse at 10 am). According to Data Center Watch, local opposition helped block or delay at least

75 data center projects worth roughly \$130 billion in the first three months of 2026, while the number of active grassroots opposition groups purportedly doubled during Q1 of 2026. During the week, protests demanding justice for Lorenzo Salgado Araujo are planned in Manhattan and Houston this Tuesday, a week after ICE agents shot and killed him in Houston. Additional demonstrations opposed to ICE are likely in the coming days, especially following reports that immigration enforcement agents killed another person in Biddeford, Maine this morning. Over the weekend, demonstrations under the slogan “Good Trouble Lives On” will take place in multiple cities across the country to express opposition to the Trump administration and the rollback of civil rights. While last year’s Good Trouble mobilization drew large crowds to hundreds of cities, this year’s iteration is likely to be more muted amid a saturated protest landscape.

- **Unions Plan Strikes, Rallies Across South Korea:** South Korea’s labor movement is converging on two consecutive pressure points this week. On Wednesday, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) is staging a general strike and rally at Gwanghwamun that they expect to feature approximately 10,000 participants. The July 15 action runs parallel to the Korea Metal Workers’ Union’s strike, encompassing 180,000 auto, shipbuilding, and steel workers demanding AI and robotics job protections, compounding disruption risk across South Korea’s industrial core. The strikes and demonstrations come after Samsung memory chip staff secured unprecedented bonuses and the country’s Yellow Envelope Act went into effect. The Yellow Envelope Act expands collective bargaining rights for subcontractors and limits companies’ abilities to pursue large damage claims against unions. On the day it went into effect, around 400 subcontractor groups demanded wage negotiations with management, although unions claim employers have been slow to begin talks. KCTU has promised further industrial action in August and September.
- **France Prepares to Mark Bastille Day, World Cup Match on Tuesday:** Large crowds, transport disruptions, and heightened security are expected across France on Tuesday as two events collide. The Bastille Day military parade steps off at 9:50 am on the Champs-Élysées. Road and metro closures are in effect in the 7th, 8th, 16th, and 17th arrondissements, and attendance requires advance registration this year. A counter demonstration by groups opposed to the military parade are organizing their own march from the Place de la Bastille beginning at 3 pm, while politician Florian Philippot is planning his own “national parade” at Place du 18 Juin 1940 (Montparnasse) beginning at 5 pm to express opposition to the presence of troops from Ukraine and other European countries in the military parade. In the evening, France will play Spain in the World Cup semifinal, with large fan gatherings expected at bars, restaurants, and Paris-area fan zones, including the official fan zone at Quai de la Photo. France’s quarterfinal win over Morocco drew largely peaceful celebrations with only isolated incidents, but French supporters have a history of localized disorder around high-stakes matches.
- **Nationwide Demonstrations Planned in Colombia, Peru Following Tense Elections:** Following a tense and tightly contested election, outgoing Colombian President Gustavo Petro has called for demonstrations in public squares across the country on July 20, which doubles as Colombia’s Independence Day and the date the new Congress is inaugurated. Petro has called for the rallies to demand the continuance of social reforms enacted during his time in office, as well as pressure the incoming Abelardo de la Espriella administration. De la Espriella won’t be sworn in until August 7. Ivan Cepeda, who was narrowly defeated by De la Espriella, has called for “civil disobedience” if De la Espriella does not reject his U.S. citizenship, suggesting a short

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honeymoon period for the incoming administration. Meanwhile, a similarly tense scene is playing out in Peru, where presidential runner-up Roberto Sanchez has called for a national mobilization on Wednesday to demand the release of former President Pedro Castillo. The demonstrations will coincide with the presentation of President-elect Keiko Fujimori's credentials during a ceremony in Lima.

- **Demonstrations Over Middle East Conflict Planned in London, Hampshire at Farnborough Airshow:** The biennial 2026 Farnborough International Airshow will open next Monday in Hampshire, England, with demonstrations opposed to militarization and the conflicts in the Middle East expected during the event. Airshow organizers anticipate "record" attendance this year, with the 2024 event drawing 100,000 people. The activist group Campaign Against Arms Trade is organizing a protest and vigil on July 20 outside the fair at Farnborough Airport. Additional demonstrations are highly likely. Meanwhile, in London, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) will host a National March for Palestine at Russell Square this Saturday, July 18. Marches organized by the campaign group have historically taken place with a heightened security presence. Saturday's march is likely to draw large crowds and lead to traffic disruptions.

Upcoming Events

- June 11-July 19: FIFA World Cup (Canada, Mexico, United States)
- July 4-26: Tour de France (France)
- July 14: Bastille Day (France)
- July 14: MLB All-Star Game (Philadelphia, United States)
- July 14-17: Aspen Security Forum (Aspen, United States)
- July 19: Presidential Election (Sao Tome and Principe)
- July 20: Inauguration of New Congress (Colombia)
- July 20: Independence Day (Colombia)
- July 20-21: President's Day (Botswana)
- July 23-August 2: Commonwealth Games (Glasgow, Scotland)
- July 24: White House Correspondents' Dinner (Washington, D.C., United States)
- July 28: Expected Presidential Inauguration of Keiko Fujimori (Peru)
- July 30: Kanwar Yatra begins (India)
- August 3: August Bank Holiday (Ireland)
- August 13: General Elections (Zambia)