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Headlining This Week's Brief

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Top Stories

Cyclone Akvan Brewing in the Bay of Bengal to Threaten Andhra Pradesh

A disturbance growing more intense over the southern Bay of Bengal is forecast to develop into Tropical Cyclone Akvan over the next 24 hours. The system is forecast to strengthen as it tracks northwest towards Andhra Pradesh. Landfall is currently expected on Friday, near where Arnab and Murasu made landfall. Evacuations are likely for vulnerable areas before the Akvan arrives.

Several Days of Rain and Storms to Impact Florida

Days of scattered rain and storms will bring an elevated threat of flash flooding to eastern Florida. Reliable model data shows a strong signal for multi-day rainfall totals in excess of 6 inches in the hardest-hit locations.

Nationwide Ground Stop Over Communications Malfunction Disrupts Thousands of US Flights

US air travel has begun to normalize after a nationwide ground stop ordered on 13 November disrupted tens of thousands of domestic and international flights throughout the weekend. While investigations into the root cause of the failure that inspired the order remain ongoing, authorities have pointed to data anomalies in telecommunications equipment housed in Arkansas and Texas, with the resulting information overload impacting outdated air traffic control systems in use at all 22 regional air traffic control centers across the country. The resulting impacts to scheduled flights reverberated across the

aviation sector, with disruptions leading passengers to miss connecting flights or reservations for lodging and travel at their destination, while supply chains reliant on air freight also experienced delays. Disrupted flight schedules also impacted the availability of aircraft and crew scheduled for onward travel, which will impact other flights (including international crews) as additional schedule changes are made to accommodate delayed travelers or goods. The systems used to manage air traffic control and communications in the US have previously been described by the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) as "dangerously outdated," and the FAA had already announced efforts to modernize the system ahead of the outage. Following the failure, which may have been prompted by the installation of fiber optic cables at a remote facility in Arkansas, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy called for an additional $50 billion in funding to support an effort to modernize the country's air traffic control system. Congress had approved $12.5 billion in 2025, and...

Industrial Action, Political Violence Threaten to Destabilize Bangladesh's Young Government as Former Leader Plans Return From Exile

Bangladesh is facing a complex wave of unrest driven by several distinct issues, threatening to destabilize the country just over two years after a mass uprising unseated longtime ruler and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed. With Hasina now planning to return to Bangladesh by the end of the year despite facing a death sentence, the country’s fledgling government could face worsening political instability and a security crisis in the coming weeks. Garment sector unrest continues to drive disruptions in industrial hubs across Bangladesh despite a government-backed wage increase from December. Workers have walked off production lines, blockaded roads, and harassed company leadership and law enforcement. The demonstrations have sometimes led to clashes, arrests, and transportation disruptions and other business activities in impacted areas, in addition to continuing to force the closure of factories. The garment sector accounts for the bulk of Bangladesh’s exports, suggesting that prolonged disruptions could have a significant impact on the wider economy and threaten Bangladesh’s role in global garment supply chains. Meanwhile, rising political violence, including arson attacks, bombings, and unrest, will likely be amplified by Sheikh Hasina’s plans to return to Bangladesh in December, despite the current government denying her a passport and threatening to enforce a death sentence issued in absentia. Local media report that at least 50 crude bombs have been set off in Dhaka in recent days, including three targeting police stations. Attackers also targeted the offices of the ruling BNP. Eight buses were also torched amid the unrest, which has...

Climate and Natural Hazards

- Active Weather Pattern Across Europe, Wind and Flood Threats: Multiple disturbances will track across Europe this week, driving rounds of heavy rain and persistent strong winds. Through next Sunday, Portugal and northwestern Spain, France, and the western Balkans will be most at risk for areas of substantial flooding.

- Wetter Pattern Across California US This Week: An active weather pattern across the Western United States this week will peak from late Tuesday through Thursday as a weather boundary swings from north to south across the state. Flash flooding will be possible along most of the California coast, while heavy snow is forecast across the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- Earliest Major Sudden Stratospheric Warming Event on Record Occurred Last Week: The earliest major sudden stratospheric warming event on record occurred last week. This may affect weather patterns in the Northern Hemisphere in a few weeks. However, details are uncertain since it has taken place so early, and the strongest El Niño on record is in progress.
- October 2026 Was the Warmest October on Record Globally: October 2026 was the warmest October on record for the globe, exceeding the average October global surface air temperature by 0.90°C. Global ocean temperatures set a new record high for any month in October 2026, surpassing the previous record set in September 2026.

Worldwide

- Beijing, Taipei Tensions Threaten to Undermine Upcoming APEC Conference: Taiwan's participation in the upcoming 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, to be held from 18-19 November in Shenzhen, China, makes for a potential diplomatic flashpoint amid renewed tensions between Beijing and Taipei over the island's independence. Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has insisted that Taiwan will participate on an equal basis and appointed Acer founder Stan Shih as its representative to the conference. Beijing maintains that Taiwan's participation must adhere to the One-China principle, which considers Taiwan to be Chinese territory. Tensions have been further heightened by President Xi Jinping's 12 November assertion that reunification with Taiwan is inevitable, as well as recent large-scale, unannounced Chinese naval and air exercises, involving more than 100 naval and coast guard vessels operating near Taiwan and elsewhere across the Pacific. Taiwanese officials characterized the drills, which reportedly simulated attacks on military forces and cities, as an attempt at "silent intimidation" ahead of the summit. These provocations will complicate attempts at diplomatic engagement in Shenzhen, and could undermine Taiwan's participation, particularly if Beijing attempts to restrict Taipei's representation or uses the summit to reinforce its position on reunification, which could in turn discourage other participants from engaging with the Taiwanese delegation.
- Colombia Faces Worsening Insecurity Despite Government Attention, US Support: The administration of new Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella faces rising pressure over worsening insecurity in the country, despite de la Espriella campaigning on a security-focused platform and significant US support. The Trump administration has offered Colombia up to $1 billion in security assistance, and US forces launched joint operations with their Colombian peers earlier this year, targeting drug traffickers and other militant groups in the country. However, these operations have attracted retaliatory attacks from groups such as the National Liberation Army (ELN), with one 07 November attack on a military base near the country's eastern border with Venezuela killing at least three soldiers and wounding dozens more. Meanwhile, a series of

bombings targeting toll booths on the Pan-American Highway in the country's western Cauca and Valle de Cauca regions are also raising concerns amid reports of injuries to civilians and destruction of infrastructure on the key transnational roadway. While the President immediately launched a wave of counterattacks, further escalations could trigger widening public safety concerns. Future security operations threaten to drive an escalatory cycle between the two sides that could increase the risk of spillover into public spaces and indiscriminate attacks.

- Rift Between Current, Former Indonesian Presidents Threatens to Destabilize Government: Indonesian Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka has reportedly resigned amid questions about his education credentials and a wiretapping scandal that may be tied to Gibran's father, former president Joko Widodo (Jokowi). The move staves off a likely impeachment attempt after at least 120 legislators backed a brewing effort to remove him from office. Lawmakers are purportedly moving forward with the impeachment process until President Prabowo Subianto's acceptance of Gibran's resignation is confirmed. The resignation would also require the approval of the upper house, "which will oversee the process of approving his resignation and selecting a replacement." Gibran is expected to formally submit his resignation on the morning of 12 November. The incident will raise further questions about political stability in the country at a time when tens of thousands of soldiers are deployed in the capital for ostensibly ordinary security purposes, and when Gibran's father Jokowi has been implicated in a wiretapping scandal that has seen several members of the current administration with ties to the former president arrested. While Jokowi's support was critical to Prabowo's victory in the country's 2024 presidential election, a widening rift between the two factions could see loyalists to the former president continue to work against the interests of the current administration, raising concerns about the stability of the operating environment for investors and supply chains reliant on Indonesian partners.
- Regional Alliances Strengthen Across Middle East as Houthi Attacks Intensify: Mutual defense agreements are gaining momentum across the Middle East as Houthi rebel attacks on Saudi Arabia intensify, prompting the wider coordination of regional security efforts. Egypt's legislature has approved military support for Saudi Arabia, with Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty later revealing that Egyptian troops have already been supporting Saudi Arabia's defense from within the country for months. Indonesia, Pakistan, Qatar, and Türkiye separately signed the Badr Memorandum of Understanding on 21 October to strengthen defense cooperation, the coordination of defense industry production, and training activities among the four signatories. Türkiye's parliament has also ratified the Mecca Joint Defense Pact with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, reinforcing the framework for mutual defense and military assistance, though Ankara has emphasized a preference for deterrence over direct military confrontation. Further efforts to strengthen the Mecca Pact are advancing alongside diplomatic attempts to contain the conflict. Senior officials from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye have held consultations with Iranian counterparts in Tehran, though no concrete signs of progress toward a ceasefire with the Houthis have emerged to date.

- Somalian Political, Security Turmoil Threaten Further Regional Destabilization: At a time of worsening political instability, the continued withdrawal of peacekeeping forces from Somalia is likely to increase the risk of renewed conflict and further destabilization across the wider Horn of Africa. Following the closure of the United Nations' Somalia mission in October after decades of support, the withdrawal of Ugandan peacekeeping forces nationwide and a US retreat from a strategic airbase near Mogadishu will provide militant groups with an opportunity to regain territory in the embattled country. Meanwhile, the country's Supreme Court recently rejected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's attempt to extend his term, ordering elections to be held by 03 February 2027. The move sets the stage for a constitutional crisis and the further delegitimization of the current government. Given both the political and security power vacuums, militant groups' efforts to return to power could face little resistance, raising the risk of further piracy in the Red Sea, spillover conflict in neighboring Ethiopia (which is already facing its own domestic security crisis), and other regional impacts.

Cyber and Regulatory

- EU Proposes New Rules to Curb Manipulative Online Practices and Protect Consumers: The European Commission has proposed a Digital Fairness Act (DFA) to tackle what are perceived as manipulative online practices such as hidden fees and subscription traps, which could strengthen consumer protections across the European Union (EU). The proposed rules would ban misleading marketing tactics, require clearer pricing information, make online subscriptions easier to cancel, and allow users to disable addictive features such as autoplay and endless scrolling. They would also restrict gambling-like in-game purchases and advertising that targets minors, as well as requiring greater transparency from influencers. A parallel enforcement reform would give the Commission powers to investigate major cross-border violations and impose fines of up to 6% of companies' annual global turnover in the event of a violation. The proposals must still be approved by the European Parliament and member states, with concerns over regulatory overlap and compliance costs likely to shape negotiations. The Commission estimates the reforms could save consumers up to €13.7 billion annually and would spare consumers €88.4 billion in financial losses between 2025 and 2035, though industry voices warn that overlapping regulations could increase compliance costs and legal uncertainty.
- Microsoft Apologizes, Disruptions Continue After Service Outage Impacts Communications, Government Services, Transportation Worldwide: While many services had been restored by the afternoon of 13 November, users of Microsoft programs around the world continue to experience disruptions resulting from a service outage that began 12 November. After a technical failure caused "a number of servers" to "unexpectedly become unavailable," business and consumer versions of Outlook, Teams, SharePoint, Copilot, Microsoft Defender, Intune, Power BI, and other Microsoft 365 products were disrupted to varying degrees, first in the Americas before eventually spreading worldwide. The impact was extensive, disrupting government services such as private communications and police reporting, AI-enabled applications or agents, air travel

bookings, and even healthcare activities. The consequences of the outage raise questions about the extensive global exposure to a single point of failure following similarly widespread impacts after a vulnerability was discovered in the PHP web scripting language earlier in October. Microsoft itself experienced a smaller 365 outage in January, suggesting that the incident could also attract regulatory scrutiny or reduce confidence in the use of Microsoft 365 products, especially in critical functions.

- Hack of 'Legacy System' Controlled by Major Multinational Raises Questions Over Management, Protection of Unused Data: Maersk, one of the world's largest multinational shipping and logistics service providers, announced on 11 November that the company was investigating "an IT security incident involving unauthorized access and data extraction" from an unused "local legacy system" the company gained control of during a previous corporate acquisition. While the company's findings "strongly suggest no sensitive data has been disclosed," the investigation remains ongoing. Hackers affiliated with the WhiteArmor campaign, which has targeted at least 20 companies across several industries since 21 October, claimed to have breached Maersk on 07 November, and demanded $5 million in bitcoin to prevent the release of "around 100 gigabytes of data…including driver records, staff accounts, delivery recipients' names and addresses, and mobile device logs containing phone numbers, emails and device identifier numbers." Maersk has not reached out to the hackers to negotiate. While Maersk acted quickly to notify the public of the breach and claims that the system's isolation from currently used platforms prevented the attack from causing more harm, the incident will likely increase regulatory scrutiny of Maersk's cybersecurity practices and the handling of "legacy systems" acquired during corporate mergers and other business ownership changes more broadly.
- Israeli Ad Tech Firm Targets Starlink Users, Collecting Location and Browsing Data: Cybersecurity researchers are raising concerns after an ad tech company previously implicated in the delivery of spyware was found to be tracking data collected from users of Starlink internet services. Israeli ad-tech firm Discover-Tech allegedly used online advertising auctions to place advertisements capable of collecting location and browsing data from Starlink users, potentially enabling their identification and surveillance. TrendAI researchers reportedly found that the company was the leading bidder for Starlink-related advertising traffic in more than 100 countries, including Libya, Syria, and Yemen where legitimate advertising demand is limited. Starlink plays an important role globally in providing connectivity to regions where conventional internet access is restricted. The allegations follow a separate October investigation by the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab, which found that Discover-Tech's advertising network allegedly facilitated the delivery of Candiru spyware to at least 45 devices used by Al Jazeera journalists between 2024 and 2025. The company reportedly leveraged mass advertising auctions across nearly 200,000 websites and mobile applications, including networks associated with NATO, the UN, and government and defense institutions, to place these malicious ads, prompting Google, Comcast and other advertising platforms to remove Discover-Tech from their platforms.
- Foreign Disinformation Networks Seen Exploiting French Riots to Deepen Political Divisions: An internal EU assessment found that a covert Russian disinformation network known as "Operation

Overload" exploited France's October riots to amplify anti-immigration narratives and undermine confidence in the government. The network allegedly circulated fabricated videos impersonating Western media outlets, including false claims that migrants had raped protesters and that terrorist attacks were imminent. Covering the period from 07 to 21 October, the assessment reportedly identified efforts to portray French leadership as weak and increasingly authoritarian, while suggesting that European governments were prioritizing support for Ukraine over domestic concerns. Despite the incident, the EU found no evidence that Moscow or other foreign actors played a part in instigating or escalating the unrest, describing the activity as the opportunistic exploitation of existing grievances and demonstration activity. The findings also point to a wider foreign influence campaign seeking to capitalize on France's domestic divisions. A separate French Foreign Ministry assessment reportedly identified accounts linked to Israel and the US MAGA movement amplifying narratives connecting the unrest to radical Islamism and immigration.

- White House Network Accessed by Proxy Services Hidden in Staffers' Devices: Cybersecurity providers Layer 3 Intel and Synthient have discovered devices connected to residential proxy services that have access to the White House's network (AS2650). These residential proxy services are known to "sell access to IP addresses in different parts of the world" and can "ensnare" consumer devices and apps, which appears to be what has happened at the White House. The residential proxy could allow an actor to route their internet traffic through a White House IP address, giving a sense of legitimacy to bot activity or enabling attackers to more effectively target US government agencies with social engineering attempts. The timing of these devices' connections to the White House network suggests that they belong to staffers, rather than being permanent fixtures of the facility itself. However, the incident raises significant questions about the vulnerability of sensitive federal government networks and staff members' use of personal devices or unapproved applications in the workplace.
- EEOC Lawsuit Targeting Coca-Cola Distributor Highlights Persistent Focus on DEI: On 16 October, a federal judge declared that a lawsuit brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) against Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast (a distributor based in New Hampshire) over discrimination during a workplace event can proceed. By hosting a women-only retreat, the EEOC claims the company violated Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which "prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin." The lawsuit was brought after a male employee of the company filed a discrimination complaint with the EEOC, whose subsequent investigation found "that male employees were denied the same paid time off and networking opportunities" provided to their female peers who were included in the event. In addition to highlighting the regulatory risks companies are exposed to when hosting professional events targeting any specific demographic, the case also underscores the EEOC's continued efforts to investigate business activities affiliated with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). President Trump's selection of Andrea Lucas to serve as acting chair of the EEOC reinforced this initiative, with Lucas having described fighting "unlawful DEI-motivated race and sex discrimination" as a priority for her administration. In some cases, companies seeking to maintain

DEI initiatives through the remainder of the Trump administration are reportedly seeking to modify those programs to meet the EEOC's demands where possible.

- Beijing Seeks to Reinforce Competitiveness With Revised Anti-Corruption Legislation: Chinese lawmakers revised 2025 draft legislation on corruption before passing it earlier this week, expanding regulators' powers "to combat cross-border corruption, to strengthen efforts to track down fugitives, prevent flight, and recover illicit assets." The final text includes measures that Chinese media describe as "supporting the development of a fairer global anti-corruption governance system," including confidentiality expectations surrounding both sensitive information and investigations into potential violations. The legislation will also increase compliance obligations for the private sector by "requiring Chinese companies engaged in cross-border business to establish anti-corruption compliance functions proportionate to their size, business activities and risk exposure." While the law is likely to be applied selectively, Chinese regulators can be expected to pursue charges in the case of particularly noteworthy violations as Beijing seeks to maintain its competitive edge with tech sector peers such as the US.
- IBM Ends Sponsorship for Foreign Workers in US Consulting Roles Amid Trump Administration Regulatory Pressure: Global technology and consultancy firm International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) announced on 10 November that it will end sponsorship of work visas and "green cards" for most US-based roles in its consulting division, which employs more than 150,000 people. The move not only affects forthcoming hiring practices, but also employees currently sponsored by the company. Affected employees will reportedly have the option of relocating to IBM positions outside the US or leaving the company by the end of 2026. IBM attributed the decision to changing skill availability and client requirements, while noting that its reliance on high-skilled visa programs had been declining for several years. The move also comes amid rising US regulatory pressure on both long-term and seasonal migrant workers under the Trump administration. Recent moves have included efforts to attach a $100,000 fee to new H-1B petitions and the suspension of several technology companies, including Infosys, TCS, and Cognizant, from eligibility for further green cards under a special program. The rising scrutiny of the employment of foreign workers in the tech sector could encourage other companies to follow suit, raising the risk to foreign workers employed in the US.
- Australia to Raise Scrutiny of AI Activities, Threatens Criminal Penalties for 'Serious Misconduct': The Australian government is taking several steps to increase oversight of Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies' activities in the country and the handling of Australian citizens and firms' data, threatening potential criminal penalties in the event of serious violations. According to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the government intends to establish a new regulator for the sector, which "will be able to enforce significant penalties for AI companies doing the wrong thing." The plan also includes a review of Australian criminal codes to facilitate charges against decision-makers behind future violations of the country's new policies, and will mandate the reporting of any AI-related cybersecurity breaches. The changes follow an incident in August that saw an OpenAI model escape its test environment and "broke in" to a government healthcare database without authorization. The company failed to report the breach for several weeks, leading to an

official government inquiry that recommended all the changes put forth by Albanese's administration.

- Investigations Into Nvidia CEO's Affair Raise Threat to Other Company Leaders, Broader Tech Sector: As investigations into chipmaker Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang's alleged extramarital affair with a potential Chinese spy continue to unfold, the fallout could see leadership figures and operating standards scrutinized at other US firms, especially those working with sensitive or cutting-edge technologies. The FBI is launching a US government investigation into the incident, though President Trump has played down concerns of the severity of any potential consequences for Huang or Nvidia; the company, meanwhile, has contracted former US attorney Joon H Kim to handle its own internal investigation. The discovery of any connections to Beijing would likely lead to a much wider probe, especially amid repeated reports of Chinese institutions gaining access to the company's chips despite US export controls. If the investigations produce evidence of wrongful activity, additional US federal agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or Nvidia shareholders themselves could seek charges against Huang or other Nvidia leaders, such as board members if their guidance played a role in any misconduct. Additional chipmakers and companies involved in other advanced technologies could face similar regulatory scrutiny if their leadership figures are found to have ties to potential foreign agents, particularly if those companies have questionable business relationships with China or other countries in competition with the US tech sector. The incident has also raised questions about President Trump's strong personal relationship with Jensen Huang, raising the possibility that the scandal could also lead to further scrutiny of the Trump administration's dealings when Democrats assume control of the...

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- Europe Accelerates Development of Homegrown Military AI to Reduce Reliance on Palantir: European defense ministries are accelerating efforts to reduce reliance on US software firm Palantir for critical military operations. France is developing Arcadia, a multi-supplier military AI platform officials hope to deploy by mid-2027, while Germany is evaluating domestic alternatives including Helsing's Clarity, aiming to introduce an indigenous system from 2027 as well. The Netherlands also plans to replace some Palantir software within the next two years. European defense firms working on similar platforms include Denmark's Systematic (SitaWare) and France's Thales, Safran, and startup Comand AI. However, these homegrown systems lack Palantir's established scale, battlefield experience, and integration capabilities. The shift reflects concerns that dependence on US providers could expose sensitive military data and critical operational systems to political change in Washington, threatening potential service restrictions or data tampering that could undermine Europe's strategic autonomy during a crisis. These concerns have been reinforced following disruptions to Ukraine's access to US satellite communications amid the ongoing war in Ukraine, as well as the growing role of Palantir's Maven system in NATO operations. European governments fear that dependence on US suppliers could leave critical

military infrastructure exposed to changing US political priorities, restrictions on technology access, or external influence over sensitive data and operational systems. Palantir has sought to retain European demand by assuring customers that neither the company nor the US government have a "kill switch" to remotely deactivate the systems used by NATO, emphasizing that customers retain operational control and can run the software independently. Despite the broader European concerns, the...

- Russian Starlink Alternative Could Strengthen Drone Warfare Capabilities in Ukraine: Russia is developing indigenous satellite communications capabilities to reduce its reliance on Western technology and strengthen its military operations in Ukraine. Ukrainian military intelligence reports that Moscow already uses its Rassvet low-Earth-orbit satellite network, a domestic alternative to SpaceX's Starlink, to support military communications and improve the precision of reconnaissance and strike drones. Russia has launched 32 satellites so far, compared with Starlink's constellation of more than 10,000, meaning Rassvet currently provides only intermittent coverage. However, Rassvet's support of two-way data links could allow drone operators to adjust flight paths in real time, respond to moving targets, and potentially evade Ukrainian air defenses and electronic warfare systems. Moscow plans further launches by the end of 2026, with the state-backed project aiming to deploy more than 900 satellites by 2035. The development comes as Ukraine's dependence on US-linked Starshield communications is becoming a potential libaility amid intermittent service restrictions that continue to disrupt Ukrainian military operations. Kyiv has sanctioned 10 companies involved in Rassvet's development since October, and urged Washington to impose further sanctions.
- Pakistan's LPG Crisis Deepens Amid Supply Shortages and Regulatory Disputes: The October closure of two key Iran-Pakistan border crossings cut off a substantial source of Pakistani imports of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), used by consumers for a variety of household and small business purposes ranging from cooking to heating and powering equipment, further exacerbating nationwide shortages amid a broader energy crisis. Retail prices have reportedly reached PKR 700–800 ($2.53-2.89) per kg, despite the regulated November rate being set at PKR 295 ($1.07), with prices for cylinders exceeding PKR 10,000 ($36.19) in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The shortages have also prompted consumers in rural areas around Peshawar to switch to firewood, driving up alternative fuel costs as well. In response, the government announced a new LPG policy on 04 November, directing four state-owned enterprises to resume bulk imports, announcing plans to consider new supply arrangements with Saudi Arabia and Oman, and proposing the use of subsidies to keep LPG costs between PKR 300–350 ($1.09-1.27) per kg for beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Program. However, the proposal has triggered opposition from private LPG traders, who initially threatened a nationwide strike from 16 November over concerns about reduced private-sector participation and insufficient government consultation with the sector. However, the strike has been temporarily postponed following talks with the Sindh governor on 09 November. The dispute risks further disruptions to the supply chain just as winter demand increases.

- Strike Call at Busiest US Port Complex Postponed, but Disruptions Still Threaten Dependent Supply Chains: As talks continue between operators at the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach (together the San Pedro Bay Port Complex) and security workers organized under ILWU Local 26, union leaders agreed to extend talks through 20 November, postponing the immediate threat of a work stoppage until midnight on that date unless an agreement is reached. Despite the positive development, there is still no guarantee that a walkout will be avoided, and other disruptions still threaten to impact supply chains reliant on the port complex in the coming months. The state of California intends to close both directions on the Vincent Thomas Bridge, "which connects San Pedro with Terminal Island," from midnight on 06 November for repairs to the deck, with the bridge not scheduled to reopen until at least March 2028. Some 5,000 trucks per day use the bridge to access the port complex, suggesting that in addition to disrupting port access and local traffic, the project will also increase pressure on other access points such as Front St, Gibson Blvd, Terminal Way, and the Long Beach industrial corridor more broadly.
- Thai Regulators Cap Data Center Heat, Noise Levels, Threatening Investment in Critical Infrastructure: Thai regulators' plans to limit the ambient noise and heat generated by data centers in the country could threaten tens of billions of dollars in planned investments, potentially undermining the expansion of infrastructure critical to the growth of the tech sector in the long term. The Thai government recently approved the move to limit noise "when uninterrupted power-supply systems are running"—essentially the minimum noise produced by the facility—to 70 dBA; mandate the recirculation of water in cooling systems and testing of water that leaves the facility; and restrict ambient temperature increases in the immediate vicinity of the site "to one or two degrees Celsius." Projects that do not meet these standards "will not be allowed to proceed," according to Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas, suggesting that existing projects already under development could also be impacted by the new restrictions. Around 70% of the $50 billion in planned investment in the country announced through September of this year relates to industries reliant on data centers and other related tech sector infrastructure. The trend suggests that the new rules could have a lasting impact on the country's aspirations of developing a high-income economy, driven in part by investments in data centers and other tech projects.

Health

- UN Warns of Health Data Collection Failures Undermining Disease Surveillance and Healthcare Planning Across Africa: A November United Nation (UN) report highlights issues negatively impacting health data collection and management efforts across Africa, resulting in significant gaps in important data sets used to guide decision-making on public health responses to potential threats. Missing information on causes of death, mortality rates, and other important medical details are undermining authorities' abilities to identify potential disease outbreaks and allocate resources effectively. Despite the widespread adoption of digital information management

systems for public health reporting, the assessment found that only 43% of the 40 countries assessed for their research have sufficient capacity to analyze health data at the hospital and clinic levels, 25% can adequately assess data quality, and just 18% have dedicated budgets for health information systems. Limited access to digital patient records and poor interoperability between systems further undermines the effective consolidation and analysis of large data sets. The WHO has warned that unreliable data could delay lifesaving interventions, obscure visibility of emerging health threats, and leave vulnerable communities without access to essential services in times of crisis.

- DRC Ebola Outbreak Surpasses 11,000 Cases Amid Disruptions to Public Health Services, Funding as Kenyan, Nigerian Cases Come Under Control: The Ebola outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the virus has exceeded 11,000 cases and 5,300 deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) this year to date. While transmission has slowed in some areas, insecurity and attacks on healthcare workers continue to undermine containment efforts: the Africa Centers for Disease Control (Africa CDC) has reported armed attacks targeting healthcare workers and facilities, leading to reports of at least 16 assaults and damage to 11 healthcare facilities. Epidemiologists have been unable to reach more than 1,000 patient contacts for follow-up, three confirmed cases remain unaccounted for, and healthcare sector strikes over unpaid salaries have disrupted screening, treatment and contact tracing efforts further. The response is further complicated by funding concerns, with Africa CDC unable to locate over $700 million of some $962 million reportedly disbursed by international donors, raising questions over transparency in the DRC's handling of the outbreak and whether resources are reaching frontline workers. Meanwhile, Kenya has discharged its final patient, beginning a mandatory 42-day countdown during which no new cases must be reported before the World Health Organization declares the country to be once again Ebola-free (potentially as soon as 23 December. Meanwhile, Nigeria has completed 21-day monitoring protocols for 62 contacts linked to an imported case without detecting secondary transmissions, suggesting that the country's response efforts may prevent the wider spread of the highly infectious and often fatal disease.
- Generic Version of Long-Lasting HIV Preventative Treatment Could Launch in 120 Countries: On 09 November, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of lenacapavir, a low-cost generic alternative to Gilead Science's Yeztugo biannual HIV preventative medicine. While lenacapavir won't be available to US customers at heightened risk of HIV exposure due to Gilead's patent on Yeztugo, its approval could dramatically lower the cost of preventative treatments in some 120 "low- and middle-income countries" across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The FDA's approval does not guarantee the drug will achieve national-level approval in these countries, but it can often speed the approval process in other countries. While a full course of treatment with Yeztugo in the US can cost over $28,000 per year before insurance, the two yearly doses of lenacapavir cost patients in countries where it is available just $40 annually. This price point is

similar to presently-available daily preventative medications, but a single missed dose could expose a patient to HIV, leading public health experts to hope that the introduction of a treatment that is less reliant on patients' follow-through could hope reduce HIV transmission rates across the developing world in the long run.

- Mpox Outbreak in Alaskan Capital Highlights Likely Endemic Status Across US: An outbreak of Mpox cases in Anchorage, Alaska, is underscoring epidemiologists' warnings that the disease is likely to become endemic in the US, if it is not already. At least four cases have been reported in Anchorage as of 06 November, all in males that had not traveled abroad in the preceding 30 days. While this would seem to suggest local transmission, it remains unclear whether the four cases were infected by an unknown fifth person who may have contracted the illness abroad. Nonetheless, the CDC warned on 20 August that Mpox—particularly the clade IIb strain, which is different from the clade Ib strain believed to be circulating in Anchorage—is likely to "transition toward endemic circulation" in the US, after a review of public health data from 2024 and 2025 suggested persistent circulation since a 2022 outbreak. Symptoms are typically mild, though they can be severe in immunocompromised patients, and vaccination rates remain far too low to establish community-level immunities.
- US Measles Cases Reach Level Not Seen Since 1991 as International Panel Reviews Elimination Status: As of 06 November, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had reported 5,182 confirmed 2026 measles cases across 46 states and the national capital, more than double the 2,289 cases reported during all of 2025 and the first time the annual total has exceeded 5,000 cases since 1991. The death of an infant in Wisconsin was the third reported in the US in the last week and eighth fatal case of 2026, though the CDC's tally continues to not align with those reported by state health departments. A panel of experts from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), a branch of the World Health Organization, is set to analyze available data to determine whether the US has lost its measles-free status, which it achieved in 2000. Analysis by The New York Times suggests that outbreaks across the US have persisted for at least 12 months without interruption, a key factor in determining whether to pull a country's elimination status. The decision would be a significant blow to the reputation of the US public health system. Canada lost its elimination status last year. Many critics have focused on the government's messaging, conflicts with states over case and death counts, and the failure to encourage early vaccination or reestablish the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as key factors in the present failure to gain control of the still-spreading outbreaks. Noted vaccine skeptic and US Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr has faced particular scrutiny. With Democrats gaining control…

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- Further Nationwide Days of Action Planned This Week in France as Labor, Social Unrest Continue: Following France's fifth consecutive Saturday of nationwide unrest on 14 November, French authorities, businesses, and community members are bracing for further nationwide days of action planned for Tuesday and Saturday, 17 and 21 November. A move by authorities to ban demonstrations near schools and other preventative measures are likely to enflame tensions between demonstrators and law enforcement, raising the risk of further clashes, even as participation falls to a fraction of previous days of action. On 17 November, labor and student organizers have called for a nationwide general strike. The Paris area regional inter-union coalition (L'intersyndicale d'Île-de-France, which includes the CFDT, CFE-CGC, CGT, FSU, FO, Solidaires, UNSA, UE, UnEF. and FAGE) plans to hold a march from Paris' Place de la Nation to Place d'Italie, "following the Diderot-Daumesnil-Ledru-Rollin-Pont d'Austerlitz-Hôpital route." The coalition had originally proposed a route from Les Invalides to Place d'Italie to the police prefecture, and some participants may still gather at Les Invalides. In response to the marches, officials have ordered 17 metro stations to be closed beginning at 11:00 am. Train service across the country is also expected to be disrupted. On 21 November, the Yellow Vests movement has called for a further round of nationwide demonstrations, with the group listing over 30 demonstrations on their website at the time of publication. Event listings on the site have increased dramatically ahead of recent days of action, and while turnout to Yellow Vests demonstrations was diminished during 14 November compared to earlier "Acts" of the group's campaign,...
- International Youth Strike on 20 November Threatens to Disrupt Population Centers Across Europe, Though Impacts May Vary: On 20 November, youth-led organizers across Europe will host a joint International Youth Strike day of action, with calls for students to walk out of classes and join demonstrations shared widely across social media in at least 24 countries at the time of publication. Under the banner phrase "fight for our future, not their wars," the organizers denounce perceived imperialism, labor exploitation, and governments' collective failure to act on climate change. While some demands differ from country to country as national organizers incorporate their own messaging into the call to action, common themes include an end to militarization and the reprioritization of defense funding for social spending; the abolition of conscription; an end to imperialism and other forms of oppression; "climate and social change;" and systemic reforms to strengthen rights protections and weaken authoritarianism across the continent. While the organizers present an atypically well-coordinated international campaign, the strength of organizing efforts differs widely at the national level, suggesting that the scale of participation and associated disruptions will vary significantly from country to country. The most significant participation is expected in Germany and Spain, where organizers have announced demonstrations in dozens of cities well in advance of the planned day of action, increasing the

likelihood that they reach their supporters and achieve robust turnouts. While organizers in France have only announced one specific demonstration to date (at Tours' Caserne de Gendarmerie), organizers' calls for widespread participation in school walkouts and demonstrations across the country are expected to drive strong turnout in...

- Europe's 20 November Youth Strike to Coincide With Other Social, Labor Action, Increasing Likelihood of Disruptions: In addition to the continent-wide youth strike planned across Europe on Friday, 20 November, cost-of-living demonstrations and strikes are planned in Belgium, Britain, France, Greece, Italy, and Portugal, from 20-22 November. In addition to transport and area access disruptions resulting from the youth strike, labor action could limit access to government services, healthcare, public transportation, and other critical functions, increasing the likelihood that related unrest disrupts business activity and daily life in countries hosting additional demonstrations through the weekend.
- Nationwide Strike to Disrupt Colombian Cities on 19 November Over Proposed Tax Reforms: The Central Unitary Workers' Union (CUT), alongside other trade unions and social organizations, has called a nationwide strike on 19 November to oppose President Abelardo de la Espriella's proposed Economic Rescue Bill (Ley de Rescate Económico). Opponents argue that the legislation—which includes proposals such as an increase in the VAT on essential consumer goods, higher healthcare contributions, and tax reforms— threatens to increase financial burdens on workers and households. The mobilization is also expected to attract the support of teachers, indigenous organizations, student groups, and other social movements. Five assembly points have been announced, including Bogotá (Parque Nacional Enrique Olaya Herrera at 10:00 am), Cali (Plazoleta Jairo Varela at 9:00 am), Medellín (Adidas headquarters at 10:00 am), Barranquilla (Plaza Esthercita Forero at 3:30 pm) and Bucaramanga (Universidad Industrial de Santander (UIS) at 9:00 am). The strike is expected to cause localized traffic congestion and disruption around the assembly points. Following disruptive 14 October mobilizations that drew up to 62,000 participants nationwide, led to clashes in Ibagué and other cities, and forced the temporary closure of ten TransMilenio stations, authorities could launch a more robust security response as a precaution. The government has since revised its protest-response protocols, giving police greater discretion to intervene in cases of violence, vandalism, and blockades, potentially increasing the risk of confrontations if upcoming demonstrations escalate.

Upcoming Events

- Upcoming Events - Week of 16 November: AlertMedia is tracking a series of demonstrations, holidays, labor actions, and other events scheduled to take place over the coming weeks. 09-20 November: COP 31 UN Climate Change Conference (Antalya, Türkiye) 16 November: Revolution Day (Mexico) 16-18 November: 49th ASEAN Summit (Manila, Philippines) 17 November: Nationwide Strikes (France) 18-19 November: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (Shenzhen, China) 20 November: UK-EU Summit (Brussels, Belgium) 20 November: General Strike (Italy) 20 November: International Youth and Student Strike (Europe) 20 November: Black Consciousness Day Public Holiday (Brazil) 23 November: Labor Thanksgiving Day Public Holiday (Japan) 25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Global) 26 November: Thanksgiving Day (United States) 28 November: Municipal Elections (Taiwan) 29 November: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Global) 29 November: Snap Legislative Elections (Spain) 30 November: Bonifacio Day (Philippines) 30 November: St Andrew's Day Public Holiday (Scotland) 02-03 December: Eid Al Etihad National Day Celebrations (United Arab Emirates) 04-12 December: Hannukah (Global) 05 December: Presidential Election (The Gambia) 05 December: National Day (Thailand) 05-06 December: Doha Forum (Doha, Qatar) 06 December: Constitution Day Public Holiday (Spain) 06 December: Independence Day (Finland) 09 December: Anti-Corruption Day (Uganda) 10 December: International Human Rights Day (Global) 12 December: Jamhuri Day Public Holiday (Kenya) 13 December: Commemoration of Nanjing Massacre (China) 14-15 December: G20 Leaders Summit (Miami, United States) 16 December: Day of Reconciliation Public Holiday (South Africa) 18 December: International Migrants Day (Global) 18 December: National Day (Qatar) 22 December: General Elections (South Sudan) 25 December:...