

Hong Kong protesters enter downtown

Businesses that were seen as pro-China, multiple subway stations, vandalised in commercial districts

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong police fired tear gas and water cannon on Saturday as thousands of democracy protesters defied authorities in another unauthorised march after Beijing vowed to tighten control over the unrest-plagued city.

Commercial districts on the main island became a battleground as crowds of black-clad protesters, many wearing face masks despite a recent ban, clashed with riot police for hours.

Hardcore protesters hurled bricks and petrol bombs and vandalised multiple subway stations and businesses perceived to be pro-China – including the office of China's state-run Xinhua news agency, which had its windows smashed.



Counter-attack: An anti-government protester reacting as police fire tear gas during a march billed as a global 'emergency call' for autonomy in Hong Kong on Saturday. •REUTERS

scattering protesters with water cannon trucks and making dozens of arrests. After one clash, an AFP reporter saw around 100 people being taken away in three coaches.

By evening, the clashes had moved across the harbour to Mongkok and Tsim Sha Tsui, two areas that have seen regular skirmishes in recent months. In a statement Xinhua condemned

the "barbaric acts" of the protesters who targeted their office. The latest unrest came after China warned on Friday that it would not tolerate any challenge to Hong Kong's governing system and

planned to boost patriotic education in the city, which has seen 22 consecutive weekends of youth-led protests.

Hong Kong has been upended by the huge, often violent, pro-democracy protests which have battered the financial hub's reputation for stability and plunged the city into recession. Beijing has shown no willingness to meet protester demands for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability – and activists show no sign of leaving the streets. "The entire government is being controlled by the central government now, so we have to come out to protect the freedoms we deserve," added another 17-year-old protester. Police had rejected an application for an afternoon march, citing safety fears. But as often in the past, protesters simply defied the ban with thousands turning up before the clashes began.

Iraq cleric warns foreign actors against interfering in protests

Anti-government demonstrations have left 250 dead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Iraq's top cleric warned foreign actors on Friday against interfering in his country's anti-government protests as they entered a second month despite pledges of reform and violence that has left over 250 dead.

The demonstrations have evolved since October 1 from rage over corruption and unemployment to demands for a total government overhaul – shunning both politicians and religious figures along the way.

They have even condemned the influence of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary factions, who have descended into the streets of the capital and elsewhere to flex their muscles.

In his weekly sermon, top Shia religious authority



Rage against graft: Iraqi anti-government protesters near Tahrir Square Baghdad last month. •AP

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said Iraq must not be dragged "into the abyss of infighting". "No person or group, no side with a particular view, no regional or international actor may seize the will of the Iraqi people and impose its will on them," he said.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the Iraqi government to "listen to the legitimate demands made by the Iraqi people," saying an official probe undertaken last month into suppression of the protests "lacked sufficient credibility".

Pak. military backs govt. amid resignation calls

Islamists give Imran an ultimatum

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's powerful military said it supported the country's elected government and the Constitution, as tens of thousands of Opposition protesters gathered in the capital demanding that Prime Minister Imran Khan's year-old government quits by Sunday.

"We believe in the law and the Constitution and our support is with the democratically elected government, not with any party," military spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor said in

comments to a television news channel late on Friday.

Earlier on Friday, the Opposition had demanded that Mr. Khan and his administration resign within two days, raising the stakes in a protest campaign that the government has denounced as a threat to democracy.

The leader of the protest, religious party chief Fazl-ur-Rehman, told a rally of tens of thousands of supporters that he did not want a "collision with institutions", a thinly veiled reference to the military, and called on them to be impartial.

Chile march draws 20,000 demonstrators

They demand justice for those killed and injured in two weeks of unrest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SANTIAGO

Dressed in black, marching silently and raising one fist, around a thousand women on Friday demanded justice for those killed and injured during the last two weeks of social unrest in Chile.

Their march started off a day of demonstrations on a long weekend in the country, expanding later as tens of thousands answered social media calls to match last Friday's huge protest that attracted more than a million people.

Santiago authorities said the protest in the city drew about 20,000 demonstrators, including many young

people and families. Isolated clashes broke out after security forces tried to disperse protesters with tear gas and water cannon.

"Justice, truth, no to impunity," chanted the women marchers in front of the presidential palace in central Santiago, as their silent protest burst to life. They held up signs paying tribute to the 20 people killed and more than 1,300 injured during the protests, according to statistics provided by the National Human Rights Institute.

Protesters, whose rally coincided with the Christian holiday of All Saints Day, stood in silence holding one



A protester in Santiago, Chile, waving a Mapuche flag. •REUTERS

fist aloft in front of impassive police guarding the presidential palace. "We're not going to back down until the

government answers us about the deaths. We feel betrayed by this government," said Marco, a 22-year-old student.

In the central Plaza Italia square, which has been the epicentre of the protest movement these last two weeks – thousands waved Chilean and Mapuche indigenous flags.

Protesters in the country of 18 million people are angry about low salaries and pensions, poor public health care and education, and a yawning gap between rich and poor in Latin America's wealthiest country on a per capita basis.

Yemen govt. to share power with separatists

Agreement to be signed on Tuesday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Yemen's internationally recognised government will sign an agreement with southern separatists on Tuesday aimed at ending a conflict simmering within the country's long-running civil war, Yemeni and Saudi officials said.

The power-sharing deal would see the secessionist Southern Transitional Council (STC) handed a number of Ministries, and the government return to the main southern city of Aden, according to officials

and Saudi media reports on Saturday. Yemeni Information Minister Muammar al-Iryani tweeted that an official signing ceremony for the "Riyadh Agreement" would take place in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday in the presence of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Yemeni President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi.

The UAE-backed Security Belt Forces in August took control of Aden, which had served as the government's base since it was ousted from the capital Sana'a by Houthi rebels in 2014.

Turkey to send back foreign IS fighters

Some of them have been stripped of their nationality

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISTANBUL

The Turkish government said on Saturday that it would send foreign Islamic State (IS) fighters captured in Syria back to their countries of origin, despite the unwillingness of European states to take them in.

Interior Minister Süleyman Soyly said Turkey would hold captured foreign fighters "for some time. After that we'll send them back to their countries". Mr. Soyly said EU countries including the Netherlands and Britain had stripped some of the fighters of their nationality to prevent Ankara from sending them home.

"They found an easy solution," he said. "They say 'I took his nationality away, it's your problem now'. That's



Soldiers from Russia and Turkey began joint patrols on Friday in Hasakeh, Syria. •AFP

unacceptable in our view, that's totally irresponsible. What do you want me to do with your terrorists?"

Turkey last month launched an offensive in northeastern Syria against a Kurdish militia Turkey has branded "terrorists", but which was at the forefront in the fight against IS with the

backing of the West. As part of the offensive, Turkey took IS members previously held by the Kurds into custody.

Meanwhile, at least 13 people died on Saturday in a car bomb blast near a market in a Syrian border town controlled by Turkish forces, Ankara and a rights watchdog said. Turkey's military blamed the attack on the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia. A 120-km "safe zone" area between the Syrian towns of Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ain was established as part of a deal between Ankara and Washington, involving a ceasefire and the YPG's full withdrawal. On Friday, Turkish troops began joint patrols with Russian forces in northern Syria to ensure the withdrawal.

U.K. places moratorium on fracking

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

The British government called a halt on Saturday to the controversial process of "fracking" due to fears it could trigger earthquakes, in a surprise U-turn just weeks before a general election. But with just a few weeks to go before the polls – where environmental issues are expected to feature prominently – Business and Energy Secretary Andrea Leadsom announced a "moratorium" at what is currently the U.K.'s only operational shale gas well in Lancashire, northwest England.

Fracking or hydraulic fracturing is used to release oil and gas locked deep underground.

U.S. panel to probe TikTok app

Lawmakers fear it could be used by China for spying

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. government has opened a national security investigation into the Chinese-owned video app TikTok, *The New York Times* reported on Friday.

The report, citing anonymous sources, said the review by an intergovernmental panel may be looking into whether the app, popular for its music videos, was sending data to China.

The investigation is led by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., a government panel that reviews acquisitions in the United States by foreign companies, the report said. The news comes after lawmakers called for a review of the national security risks of TikTok, warning it could be

used for spying by Beijing.

A review could look into the acquisition in 2017 of TikTok, which at the time was known as Musical.ly, by Beijing-based ByteDance. The deal gave the Chinese company the app, which has been popular with youth for homemade karaoke videos and which now has an estimated 500 million users worldwide.

Senator Marco Rubio welcomed news about the review. "Last month I asked @USTreasury to conduct a CFIUS review of @tiktok_us," Mr. Rubio tweeted. "Because any platform owned by a company in #China which collects massive amounts of data on Americans is a potential serious threat to our country." Senate Democratic leader

Chuck Schumer and Republican Senator Tom Cotton last week suggested that TikTok's owner ByteDance could be forced to share user information with Chinese intelligence. "With over 110 million downloads in the U.S. alone, TikTok is a potential counterintelligence threat we cannot ignore," the two Senators said in a letter to Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire.

The Senators also warned that TikTok could potentially be used to influence voters in next year's election. TikTok said it could not comment on any regulatory matter but noted that it "has made clear that we have no higher priority than earning the trust of users and regulators in the U.S."

ELSEWHERE



Beto O'Rourke drops presidential bid

WASHINGTON
Beto O'Rourke, the former Texas Congressman, announced on Friday that he was ending his Democratic presidential campaign. Addressing supporters in Iowa, Mr. O'Rourke said he made the decision "reluctantly" and vowed to stay active in the fight to defeat President Donald Trump. "I will be part of this and so will you," he said. AP

9 children killed in Afghan landmine blast

KUNDUZ
A landmine explosion killed nine children in northeastern Afghanistan on Saturday, an official said, amid an increase in civilian casualties in the long-running and brutal war. The blast happened in Darqaz district of Takhar province, when the children stepped on a mine that had been planted on a road in a Taliban-controlled village. AFP

53 soldiers killed in Mali militant attack

BAMAKO
At least 53 soldiers and one civilian have been killed in an attack on an Army post in northern Mali, the government said, in one of the deadliest strikes against the West African country's military in recent memory. The authorities first reported the attack in Indelimane, Menaka region, on Friday, but gave a lower toll. REUTERS

30 Pak. migrants found in lorry in France

NICE
More than 30 migrants from Pakistan were found hidden in a lorry in southern France, prosecutors said on Saturday. They said the driver, who was also from Pakistan, was detained. The group of 31 Pakistani migrants was discovered during a routine check on a motorway near the Italian border on Friday, French prosecutors said. AFP

SUDOKU

9	2							
7		6		9				4
		3	5		1			
		4	8	6			9	
3								8
		8		5	7	3		
			1		6	8		
	3			8		7		1
							3	9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	3	9	7	1	2	4	5
9	4	1	5	2	8	3	6	7
7	5	2	3	6	4	9	8	1
5	1	6	8	4	9	7	3	2
3	8	4	7	1	2	5	9	6
2	7	9	6	3	5	4	1	8
6	2	7	1	9	3	8	5	4
1	3	8	4	5	7	6	2	9
4	9	5	2	8	6	1	7	3

Johnson's pre-poll lead could wither away

Nigel Farage's Brexit Party could act as a spoiler, draining away Conservative votes in election

MARK LANDLER
STEPHEN CASTLE
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited a primary school in Suffolk where he showed children old pictures of London. His opponent, Jeremy Corbyn, promised a crowd in London that the Labour Party would never sell out Britain's National Health Service to greedy American companies.

Then, shortly after 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nigel Farage, the insurgent leader of the Brexit Party, welcomed a special guest to his national radio show: President Donald Trump, calling in from Washington to disparage Mr. Corbyn and urge Mr. Johnson to forge a hard-line pro-Brexit alliance with Mr. Farage. In less than 30 minutes of drive-time banter, Mr. Trump had utterly scrambled the narrative, dominating the next day's headlines. Mr. Johnson plans to run on a simple message: Get

Brexit done quickly, under the agreement he negotiated with the European Union, so that Britain can embark on a shiny future of profitable trade deals with the United States and other countries.

Battle of narratives

Yet he, too, is a hostage to fortune, facing the danger that the narrative may shift unpredictably and in ways that hurt the Conservative Party. Something like that occurred in Mr. Farage's interview with Mr. Trump, when the President said that Mr. Johnson's Brexit deal would foreclose the possibility of a trade agreement with the United States. That undercut Mr. Johnson, who has made such a deal a major selling point for his plan and, indeed, the country's future.

Other dangers lurk, particularly in Britain's winner-take-all electoral system, where the small Brexit Party could act as a spoiler, draining away just enough votes in



PM goes to school: U.K. leader Boris Johnson with students at a school in Bury St. Edmunds on October 31. •GETTY IMAGES

enough closely contested districts to swing the balance of power in Parliament toward Labour.

Mr. Johnson is starting out with an undisputed advantage. A poll released Thursday by Ipsos MORI showed the Conservatives leading Labour by 41% to 24% nationally. That would translate into a 108-seat Conservative majority in Parliament, according to Tony Travers, a professor of politics and London School of Economics. These are the

kind of numbers that emboldened Mr. Johnson to call an election now.

The Conservative Party is going after a swath of Labour seats in northern England and the Midlands, where people voted for Brexit in the 2016 referendum and are frustrated that it has not happened. The party has identified a target voter, named "Workington Man," for the coastal town of Workington, in northwest England, which is surrounded by remnants of the coal and steel indus-

tries. He is older, white, not college-educated, a lover of the rugby league and a Labour voter who supported leaving the European Union and feels left behind by the Britain of today. These voters care more about economic security than individual liberty. They favour putting additional police on the streets and toughening immigration policies, according to a study by the right-wing think tank Onward, which coined the phrase Workington Man.

The problem for Mr. Johnson is that he has staffed his Cabinet with politicians who favour deregulation and free trade, viewing Britain's future less as a Tory welfare state than as an agile free agent in the global economy – Singapore-on-Thames, to use the popular shorthand. How Mr. Johnson reconciles Singapore-on-Thames with Workington Man will be one of the tensions of the election. NY TIMES