



Airman killed in shooting at a US Air Force base in New Mexico on Saturday



Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Dubai, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, and Washington.

Germany vote under shadow of far-right

High-stakes vote in EU's biggest economy comes amid tectonic upheaval in US-Europe relations under Trump

BERLIN

GERMANS went to the polls Sunday in a pivotal election, with the conservatives the strong favourites after a campaign rocked by a far-right surge and the dramatic return of US President Donald Trump.

Frontrunner Friedrich Merz has vowed a tough rightward shift if elected to win back voters from the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD), which is eyeing a record result after a string of deadly attacks blamed on asylum seekers.

If he takes over from embattled Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the centre-left SPD, as widely predicted given a yawning poll gap, Merz has promised a "strong voice" in Europe at a time of chaotic disruption.

Casting his ballot in Berlin, Daniel Hofmann, a 62-year-old urban planner, said it was his "civic duty" to vote as "right now we are going through very uncertain times".

"There must be a change, a transformation," Hofmann said, declining to say whom he had voted for.

More than 59 million Germans are eligible to vote and

Economy, migration top voter concerns

ANALYSTS SAY CONCERNS OVER MIGRATION COULD GIVE THE FAR-RIGHT AN EDGE IN THE POLLS

59 million people are eligible to elect the 630 members of the lower house of parliament, the Bundestag

32%

Support for centre-right opposition leader Friedrich Merz's Union bloc in the most recent surveys. The far-right, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany, or AfD, has been running in second place with around 20% of the vote, above its previous best of 12.6% in a national poll

KEY ISSUES

- 1 The contenders have made contrasting proposals to turn around the German economy, which has shrunk for the past two years and hasn't managed real growth in much longer. That's going to be a central job for the new government
2 Migration moved to the forefront of the campaign in the past month following deadly attacks committed by immigrants

first estimates based on exit polls are expected soon after polls close at 6.00 pm local time (1700 GMT).

Election officials said that by 2:00 pm (1300 GMT) around 52%



WHY GERMAN ELECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT

Germany is the most populous country in the 27-nation European Union and a leading member of NATO. It has been Ukraine's second-biggest weapons supplier, after the US

Musk backs AfD

Elon Musk, a tech billionaire and close ally of US President Donald Trump, has declared that "only the AfD can save Germany." He held a live chat on X with Weidel and appeared live by video link at an AfD campaign rally. At that rally, Weidel vowed to "make Germany great again" in an echo of Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan. Nine days before the election, V-P J D Vance met with Weidel after a speech to the Munich Security Conference in which he lectured European leaders about democracy and free speech

President Vladimir Putin over their heads to end the Ukraine war. Across Europe, NATO allies worry about the future of the alliance, nowhere more than in Germany which grew prosperous under the US-led security umbrella.

Merz, in his final CDU/CSU campaign event in Munich on Saturday, said Europe needed to walk talk to be able to "sit at the main table" of the world powers.

US govt staff must brief Musk what they did last week

WASHINGTON

HUNDREDS of thousands of federal workers have been given little more than 48 hours to explain what they accomplished over the last week, sparking confusion across key agencies as billionaire Elon Musk expands his crusade to slash the size of federal government.

Musk, who serves as President Donald Trump's cost-cutting chief, teased the extraordinary request on his social media network on Saturday.

"Consistent with President @realDonaldTrump's instructions, all federal employees will shortly receive an email requesting to understand what they got done last week," Musk posted on X, which he owns. "Failure to respond will be taken as a resignation." Shortly afterward, federal employees received a

three-line email with this instruction: "Please reply to this email with approx. 5 bullets of what you accomplished last week and cc your manager." The deadline to reply is Monday at 11.59 pm, although the email did not include Musk's social media threat about those who fail to respond.

Patel tells FBI staff to ignore Musk

The latest unusual directive from Musk's team injects a new sense of chaos across beleaguered multiple agencies. FBI director Kash Patel asked the bureau's employees to ignore

Musk's e-mails. "The FBI through the Office of the Director, is in charge of all of our review processes, and will conduct reviews in accordance with FBI procedures. When and if further information is required, we will coordinate..." he told FBI staff.



Elon Musk

Israeli tanks move into occupied West Bank for first time since 2002

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI tanks have moved into the occupied West Bank for the first time since 2002, shortly after the defense minister said troops will remain 'for the coming year' in parts of the Palestinian territory.

WAR WATCH ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 506. Includes a map of the region showing Tel Aviv, West Bank, Jordan, Gaza Strip, and Israel.

TOLL SO FAR 49,391

Israel delays release of Palestinian prisoners

Israel delayed the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners without explanation Saturday after Hamas released the last six living hostages expected under the ceasefire's first phase, with a week remaining in the initial stage. Israel's government didn't respond to questions

Ready to quit if Ukraine gets NATO berth: Zelenskyy

KYIV

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday he would be ready to give up the presidency if it brought peace and NATO membership.

Speaking at a forum of government officials in Kyiv marking the three-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Zelenskyy said he would step down if doing so would achieve a lasting peace for his country under the security umbrella of the NATO military alliance.

"If to achieve peace, you really need me to give up my post, I'm ready," Zelenskyy said in response to a journalist's question on whether he'd trade his office for peace. "I can trade it for NATO."

Zelenskyy's comment appeared to be aimed at recent suggestions by U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin that

elections should be held in Ukraine despite Ukrainian legislation prohibiting them during martial law.

Zelenskyy's comment comes hours after he claimed Russia launched more strike drones into Ukraine overnight on Saturday than in any other single attack of the war. Writing on social media, Zelenskyy said 267 strike drones had been sent in what he called 'the largest attack since Iranian drones began hitting Ukrainian cities and villages.' Three ballistic missiles had also been fired, the air force said. The attack came as leaders in Kyiv and across

Europe are seeking to navigate rapid changes in US foreign policy under President Donald Trump, who in a matter of days has upended years of firm support for Ukraine, leading to fears that he would join with Moscow to force a settlement to the war without involving Ukraine.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Pope receiving supplemental oxygen following respiratory crisis: Vatican

ROME

POPE Francis was conscious but still receiving high flows of supplemental oxygen Sunday following a respiratory crisis and blood transfusions, as he remains in critical condition with a complex lung infection, the Vatican said. "The night passed quietly, the pope rested," Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in an early statement.

Further clinical tests were being performed on the 88-year-old pope, who had part of one lung removed as a young man, and a more detailed medical update was expected later on Sunday, Bruni said.

On Saturday, Francis suffered a prolonged asthmatic respiratory crisis that required "high flows" of oxygen to help him breathe through a nasal tube. He also received blood transfusions after tests showed low counts of platelets, which are needed for clotting, the Vatican said.

Doctors said Saturday his prognosis was "reserved". Doctors say Francis' condition is touch-and-go, given his age, fragility and pre-existing lung disease. His condition has revived speculation about what might happen if he becomes unconscious or otherwise incapacitated, and whether he might resign.

Francis was supposed to have celebrated Mass on Sunday morning in St Peter's Basilica. The organiser of the Holy Year, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, celebrated the Mass in his place and offered a special prayer for Francis from the altar before delivering the homily the pope had prepared.

Doctors have warned that the main threat facing Francis would be the onset of sepsis, a serious infection of the blood.

ASIA MATTERS

City-state vies to become crypto hub

Singapore is the front-runner in a push by Asian governments to become cryptocurrency hubs as they look to capitalise on the global resurgence of the sector thanks to the support of US President Donald Trump. Singapore's Monetary Authority has issued "Major Payment Institution" licences in relation to digital payment tokens to 30 companies, including OKX, which it added last year.

Ex-PM apologises over massacre

Former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra apologised Sunday over the deaths of scores of Muslim protesters who suffocated in army trucks two decades ago in the country's south. Thaksin, who was premier at the time, said Sunday he wanted to apologise for any actions that may have made people "feel uneasy". "If there was any mistake or any discontent caused by me, I would like to apologise."

The Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank Ltd., [Scheduled Bank] "UTHUNGA", NO.1, PAMPAMAHAKAVI ROAD, CHAMARAJPET, BENGALURU - 560 018. Includes details about a tender for Oracle ATS renewal.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK [A Scheduled Commercial Bank] Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Includes an E-Auction Notice for the sale of secured assets.

NLC India Limited Notice for EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES. Includes details about the tender process and contact information.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE WORLD GLOBAL EXPRESS. Includes a QR code and information about Neena Gopal's analysis of Bangladesh's political situation.