

Monday, October 5, 2026

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Maya: Good evening, and welcome to Global Politics, the evening edition for Monday, October fifth, two thousand twenty-six. I'm Maya.

Devon: And I'm Devon. The war over the Strait of Hormuz took a major step forward today, because the American naval blockade of Iranian ports officially took effect this morning.

Maya: According to the United States Central Command, enforcement began at ten A M Eastern Time. Any vessel entering or leaving Iranian ports or coastal areas is now subject to the blockade, and CENTCOM says it will be enforced, quote, "impartially against vessels of all nations."

Devon: And the markets noticed. CNBC reports that Brent crude jumped three point six percent this morning to one hundred twelve dollars and eight cents a barrel, while American crude rose three point five percent to one hundred five dollars and fifty-five cents.

Maya: But the day wasn't just about markets. Iran's state television claimed its navy prevented what it called American-Zionist warships from entering the Strait of Hormuz, and the IRGC-aligned Fars news agency claimed two missiles struck an American warship trying to enter the strait.

Devon: Washington pushed back fast. A senior American official told Axios that the report was false no American naval vessel was hit. That one is a claim, not a confirmed fact, and we'll keep watching it.

Maya: Meanwhile the British maritime agency, UKMTO, confirmed that a tanker was hit by projectiles north of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates a real reminder of the danger commercial ships face in these waters.

Devon: Why does this matter? The strait carries roughly twenty percent of the world's seaborne oil and liquefied natural gas. Oil is now up more than fifty percent since this war began, from around seventy dollars a barrel to well over one hundred.

Maya: To Europe now, where Spain just got a political earthquake. The Associated Press reports that Prime Minister Pedro SÆnchez announced early general elections Monday after his government lost a bruising vote in Parliament last week on emergency housing measures.

Devon: The vote will be held November twenty-ninth. Right-wing opposition parties joined forces to kill two emergency decrees one with protections against evictions for vulnerable tenants, the other with automatic extensions for rental contracts.

Maya: And it was close. The outlet RusSpain, citing Reuters, reports the first decree failed by one hundred seventy-eight votes to one hundred seventy-two, with the Catalan separatist party Junts siding with the conservative Popular Party and Vox.

Devon: Why it matters: SÆnchez has been prime minister since twenty-eighteen, one of

one billion euros in new military aid plus three hundred fifty million euros to repair Ukraine's battered energy grid.

Maya: The visit was dramatic. Air-raid sirens and explosions rang out across Kyiv while Merz and President Zelenskyy visited a memorial to fallen soldiers. Russia has been escalating drone strikes on telecoms, electricity, and transport infrastructure ahead of winter.

Devon: And it wasn't just aid. German business leaders traveling with Merz signed about fourteen agreements with Ukrainian companies worth roughly six point six billion euros including IRIS-T air defense missiles from Diehl, radar equipment from Hensoldt, and jet drone interceptors from Quantum Systems.

Maya: Merz told reporters, quote, "We will not be intimidated," and said supporting Ukraine is deeply in Europe's own interest. Zelenskyy said the new package will strengthen Ukraine's armed forces immediately.

Devon: To South Asia, where Pakistan is bracing for a showdown. The Associated Press reports that more than five thousand supporters of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan began a days-long march toward Islamabad on Sunday, demanding his release.

Maya: The caravan trucks, buses, and cars set out from Lakki Marwat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Khan's party holds power. The province's chief minister, Sohail Afridi, is leading the march from a specially designed container truck.

Devon: Reuters adds that talks between Khan's party and the federal government to postpone the march fell apart over the weekend after two rounds. Authorities have erected roadblocks at the entrances to Islamabad, and the interior minister warned the march's leaders they would be held responsible for any loss of life.

Maya: Khan, a former cricket star, has been in prison since twenty twenty-three on corruption and other charges he says are politically motivated. Pakistan's last large protest by his movement, two years ago, ended in deadly clashes with security forces.

Devon: To the Horn of Africa. Reuters reports that airstrikes and artillery fire hit northern Ethiopia's Tigray region overnight into Monday morning, just days after federal forces took the regional capital, Mekelle.

Maya: According to a bulletin circulated among humanitarian groups, air attacks killed at least seventeen people northwest of Mekelle nine in Adwa and eight in Sheraro. Government forces also exchanged heavy artillery fire near the Tekeze River. Reuters could not confirm the reports independently.

Devon: And Addis Ababa is already planning the day after. Former interim regional president Abraham Belay told the state-owned Ethiopian News Agency that the federal government is preparing a new interim administration for Tigray and regional elections within months.

Maya: Why it matters: this is the worst escalation since the twenty-twenty to twenty-

Maya: And markets loved the result Brazil's currency rose about four and a half percent early Monday, as investors bet on the business-friendly challenger. Argentina's President Javier Milei and Venezuelan opposition figure María Corina Machado both publicly congratulated Bolsonaro.

Devon: Why it matters: the final surveys had Lula ahead by about three points, so the miss was enormous. The October twenty-fifth runoff is now, in the words of one analyst, a dead heat and the pollsters may be understating Bolsonaro again.

Maya: That's the picture this evening oil past one hundred twelve dollars, Spain heading for snap elections, German aid and drones for Ukraine, a march on Islamabad, fresh fighting in Tigray, and Brazil's runoff countdown. Here's what to watch overnight and tomorrow: how Iran answers day one of the blockade, whether Spain's campaign formally begins with debates, and any word from the Khan march as it nears the capital.

Devon: The morning edition returns first thing tomorrow with the overnight developments. Until then, goodnight.