

# Germany's AfD party: EU is a 'failed project'

The far-right Alternative for Germany declared the European Union a "failed project" in its current form as it adopted its program for next June's European Parliament election at its party convention in the eastern city of Magdeburg on Sunday, the German news agency dpa reported.

The text states that the EU has "completely failed" in all important areas, including its migration and climate policy, and it rejects the Euro as a currency.

However, the party stopped short of demanding Germany's exit from the EU. Instead, the AfD is calling for the EU to be re-founded as a "federation of European nations," dpa reported.

According to the election

program, the main tasks of the new federation should be the protection of external borders against migration, strategic autonomy in security policy, and the preservation of "different identities" in Europe.

Recent polls put support for the AfD at 19-22%, behind only the main conservative opposition bloc. AfD candidates recently won elections in eastern Germany to lead a county administration for the first time since the 1930s and now holds the mayoralty in a town with a population of 56,000.

The program adopted in Magdeburg Sunday takes a softer line towards the EU than the draft program from June, in which the AfD said it would seek the "orderly dissolution of



Maximilian Krah, the AfD's top candidate for the European elections, addresses the media during the European election meeting in Magdeburg, Germany, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023.

● KLAUS-DIETMAR GABBERT  
DPA VIA AP

the EU." Several AfD officials had previously voiced their desire for Germany to exit

the EU altogether, in what is called "Dexit." However, the new program says the AfD supports the idea of

a "Europe of fatherlands, a European community of sovereign, democratic states."

## At least 28 killed after train derails in southern Pakistan

At least 28 people were killed Sunday when an express train derailed in southern Pakistan, the railway minister said, with an emergency declared at local hospitals struggling to deal with dozens of injured. Accidents and derailments occur frequently on the country's antiquated railway system, which has nearly 7,500 kilometres (4,600 miles) of track and carries more than 80 million passengers a year, according to AFP.

"This is quite a big acci-

dent," railway minister Khawaja Saad Rafique told reporters. "According to the information so far, 28 passengers have been killed and many are injured."

Rafique said at least 1,000 passengers were aboard the Hazara Express when it derailed on a section of track where no faults had been reported.

"There can be two reasons: first that it was a mechanical fault, or the fault was created -- it might be a sabotage. We will investigate

it." The derailment happened near Sahara railway station close to Nawabshah city in the southern Sindh province.

"Eight coaches have derailed," Mohsin Syal, a railway official, told local HUM News.

There were chaotic scenes at the Nawabshah Trauma Centre as ambulances and private cars ferried the injured for treatment.

The Hazara Express is a daily passenger train that leaves the port city of Ka-



Police officers gather at the site where a train derailed in Sarhari town in district Sanghar, Pakistan, on August 6, 2023.

● YASIR RAJPUT/REUTERS

rachi in the south and takes around 33 hours to reach Havelian in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, some 1,600 kilometres north.

In June 2021 two trains collided near Daharki in Sindh, killing at least 65 people and injuring about 150 others.

## Russia says Ukraine hit Donetsk university with cluster shells



● DMITRY YAGODKIN/TASS

Flames engulfed a university building's wooden roof in Donetsk following Ukrainian shelling on Saturday, said an emergency official in the Russia-controlled city in eastern Ukraine.

"As a result of the latest attack on Donetsk, the first building of the University of Economics and Trade is on fire," Alexei Kulemzin, the Russia-installed mayor, said on Telegram.

"We are using 12 water tanks, three ladders and 100 fire fighters," said Alexei Kostrubitsky, the Russia-installed emergency minister for the region that Moscow calls the Do-

net'sk People's Republic. Kostrubitsky said Ukrainian forces used cluster munitions in the shelling that caused the blaze. Both sides have used cluster munitions in the course of Russia's 17-month military operation in Ukraine.

Ukraine, which received supplies of US cluster munitions last month, has vowed to use them only to dislodge concentrations of enemy soldiers.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine on the alleged shelling. Both sides deny targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Kostrubitsky said there were no people inside the building during the shelling.

"The most difficult thing is that the roof is wooden, so the fire spreads fast."

Russia's RIA state news agency cited Kostrubitsky and emergency services as saying the fire spread to an area of about 1,800 sq m (19,400 sq ft) before being contained early on Sunday.

## US calls Israeli ...

The Israeli attacks ranged from direct assaults on Palestinian people, vandalism of property, razing lands, storming villages, uprooting trees and seizing property.

The commission further noted that most of the 897 attacks were carried out in the occupied Al-Quds with 148 cases, followed by Nablus with 140 and Al-Khalil with 113 attacks, the Palestinian Wafa news agency reported on Sunday. The commission also pointed out that Israeli settlers conducted 202 attacks in various parts of the occupied West Bank, but mainly in Nablus, Ramallah and Ramallah.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

The monthly report goes on to underline that 139 orders for demolition, stop construction, and evacuation of Palestinian facilities were issued by the Israeli regime in July, describing them as "a record rise that warns of many more demolitions in the next period."

The occupation forces demolished 41 homes and commercial structures, mainly in Al-Khalil and Al-Quds, the commission said, adding that Israeli forces and Zionist settlers also vandalized a total of 2,552 trees by cutting and uprooting them, mainly in Nablus.



### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### N Korea leader tells arms factories to boost capacity

REUTERS - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has instructed factories making missile engines, artillery and other weapons to boost capacity as an important part of bolstering the country's defense capabilities, state media said on Sunday. Kim's inspections from Thursday to Saturday included the production of engines for strategic cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as shells for super large-caliber multiple-rocket launchers and transporter-erector-launchers, said state news agency KCNA.

His unusual visits to multiple arms production facilities over several days come as Pyongyang pushes to develop various strategic and conventional weapons and holds prominent displays of a range of arms.

#### Pence may testify against Donald Trump



REUTERS - Former Republican Vice President Mike Pence on Sunday did not rule out being a prosecution witness if his ex-boss Donald Trump goes to trial on charges of orchestrating a criminal conspiracy to try to reverse his defeat in the 2020 presidential election. Asked on Sunday on CBS's Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan if he would be a witness against Trump if the case goes to trial, Pence said he had "no plans" to testify, but did not rule it out.

"But people can be confident we'll obey the law, we'll respond to the call of law, if it comes, and we'll just tell the truth," said Pence, who is running against Trump in the 2024 Republican presidential nominating contest.

#### Morocco minibus plunge kills 24

A minibus carrying market-goers in Morocco plunged into a ravine on Sunday, killing 24 people in one of the North African country's worst-ever road accidents, officials said.

The passengers were travelling a mountainous route to a weekly market in the town of Demnate, in the central province of Azilal, when the minibus overturned on a bend, the local authorities said.

Images on public broadcaster 2M showed the vehicle crushed at the bottom of the ravine.