

Hawaii volcano lava reaches ocean



People take pictures as lava enters the ocean, generating plumes of steam

AFP | Los Angeles

Authorities in Hawaii have warned of dangerous "laze" fumes as molten lava from the erupting Kilauea volcano reached the Pacific Ocean.

Two lava flows "reached the ocean along the southeast Puna coast overnight," on Hawaii's Big Island, the US Geological Survey, which monitors volcanoes and earthquakes worldwide, said in a statement Sunday.

A crack however opened in the ground under one of the lava channels, "diverting the lava... into underground voids," the statement said.



The plume is an irritating mixture of hydrochloric acid gas (HCl), steam, and tiny volcanic glass particles

US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

When the hot lava flow hits the water it produces acid fumes known as "laze" - lava and haze.

"The plume is an irritating mixture of hydrochloric acid gas (HCl), steam, and tiny volcanic glass particles," the USGS said.

"This hot, corrosive gas mixture caused two deaths immediately adjacent to the coastal entry point in 2000, when seawater washed across recent and active lava flows."

The USGS also warned that volcanic gas emissions "have tripled as a result of the voluminous eruptions."

Moderate winds means that areas downwind from the volcano "may experience varying levels of vog," or volcanic smog, a haze created when emissions react to oxygen, moisture, dust, and sunlight, the USGS said.

One giant lava flow grew to 20 feet (six meters) in height and blocked a portion of Highway 137, seriously impacting area residents, Hawaii News Now reported.

Kilauea is the world's most active volcano and one of five on Hawaii's Big Island.

Venezuela's President faces foreign backlash after disputed election

Nicolas Maduro will continue as Venezuela's president after a vote that the opposition has dismissed as fraudulent

AFP | Caracas

Venezuela's socialist President Nicolas Maduro faced widespread international condemnation yesterday after his re-election in a weekend vote his critics denounced as a farce cementing autocracy in the crisis-stricken oil producer.

The 55-year-old successor to late leftist leader Hugo Chavez hailed his win as a victory against "imperialism." But his main challengers alleged irregularities and refused to recognize the result.

Venezuela's mainstream opposition boycotted Sunday's vote, given two of its most popular leaders were barred, authorities had banned the coalition and various of its parties, and the election board is run by Maduro loyalists.

The president took 68 per cent of votes - more than three times as many as his main challenger, Henri Falcon. However, potentially undermining his legitimacy, turnout was a low 46pc, compared with 80pc at the last election in 2013.

Thousands of Maduro supporters, many wearing red berets, hugged and danced past midnight outside the Miraflores presidential palace in the capital, Caracas, showered in con-



Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro waves to supporters after he was declared the winner of the presidential election

fetti in the yellow, blue and red colors of the Venezuelan national flag.

"The revolution is here to stay!" a jubilant Maduro told the crowd. He promised to prioritize economic recovery after five years of crippling recession that has seen many in the OPEC nation of 30 million people struggle with chronic shortages of food, medicines and other basic necessities.

"We mustn't cave to any empire, or go running to the International Monetary Fund as Argentina did," said government supporter Ingrid Sequera, 51. She wore a T-shirt with a logo

featuring the eyes of Maduro's mentor, Chavez.

The US State Department declared Sunday's vote a "sham" and repeated threats to impose sanctions on Venezuela's all-important oil sector, which is already reeling from falling output, a brain-drain and creaking infrastructure.

Spain led European Union criticism of Maduro. "Venezuela's electoral process has not respected the most basic democratic standards. Spain and its European partners will study appropriate measures and continue to work to alleviate Venezuelans' suffering," tweeted

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

In a blistering statement, the 14-nation "Lima Group" of countries in the Americas from Canada to Brazil, said it did not recognize the legitimacy of the vote and would be downgrading diplomatic relations.

The group deplored Venezuela's "grave humanitarian situation" behind a migrant exodus, and promised to help coordinate with international financial bodies to crack down on corruption and block loans to the government.

However, regional leftist allies of Venezuela, from Cuba to Bolivia, sent their congratulations.



Starting off as a bus driver, Maduro rose to become a trade union leader before being elected to the National Assembly in 2000

Mother gets replica of son's birthmark on face

Daily Mail | Rio de Janeiro

A mother has paid a touching tribute to her son by having a replica of his birthmark painted on her face so he would feel proud of his looks.

Enzo Cestari, one, was born with a dark mark covering most of his forehead and stretching down one side of his nose, a condition known as congenital melanocytic naevi.

His mother Carolina Giralddelli, 26, from Cáceres, Brazil, vowed to never hide it, and to make sure he knew he was perfect just the way he is.

The businesswoman asked a professional make up artist to replicate her son's birthmark on her own face to celebrate his uniqueness - and even wore the makeup to work.

Carolina spent the day wearing make up so she could better



Carolina Giralddelli, 26, from Cáceres, Brazil, recreated her son's birthmark using makeup

understand the prejudice her son faces.

She said: 'I confess that for some time it was very difficult to see and feel the eyes of society

flickering my son with looks of pity, contempt, scare and sometimes disgust.

'But even though it is not easy, my husband and I act normally

and we will always show him as he is.'

Carolina said she felt 'beautiful' when the makeup was finished.



Carolina spent the day wearing make up so she could better understand the prejudice her son faces



The mayor of Greece's second city, Thessaloniki, Yiannis Boutaris is helped as he is assaulted by suspected far-right supporters at a rally

Four nabbed for attacking mayor

AFP | Thessaloniki, Greece

Four men have been charged after the mayor of Greece's second city Thessaloniki was beaten up by suspected far-right supporters, a judicial source said yesterday.

Two men aged 20, one 17 and another 36, are charged with causing "dangerous bodily wounds," "material damage" and a "social disturbance," the source said. Yiannis Boutaris, 75, had to be escorted from a rally Saturday commemorating the massacre of Black Sea Greeks in Turkey during and after World War I when members of the crowd turned violent. He was then hospitalised. "They were hitting me

everywhere. Kicks, punches, the lot," Boutaris, who was discharged from hospital on Sunday, told state agency ANA. "It was a despicable attack but I am well."

The office of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said the attackers were "far-right thugs". The incident was praised however by Ourania Michaloliakou, the daughter of Greece's neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn, who accused Boutaris of being "anti-Greek". "Bravo to each and every person who did their duty in Thessaloniki today. Respect and a thousand bravos," Michaloliakou tweeted.

Protests are planned later yesterday in Athens to condemn the attack.

Nurse dead in Congo as Ebola vaccination campaign

Nurse's death brings Ebola death toll to 27

AP | Kinshasa

A nurse has died from Ebola in Bikoro, the rural northwestern town where the

outbreak began, as the country Monday begins a vaccination campaign in three health zones affected by the deadly outbreak, Congo's health minister said.

The nurse's death brings the death toll to 27. There are now 49 hemorrhagic fever cases: 22 confirmed as Ebola, 21 probable and 6 suspected, according to

Health Minister Oly Ilunga. "We have established surveillance mechanisms and are following all cases and contacts," he said. "The response is well organized because we have also put in surveillance measures at the entry and exit points of Mbandaka."

In a hopeful sign, two patients

who were confirmed as positive for Ebola have recovered, and are returning home though they will be monitored, Ilunga said. They have left the hospital "with a medical certificate attesting that they've recovered and can no longer transmit the disease as they developed antibodies against Ebola," he said.