



Forest fires rage near resorts, killing three

Fires erupted by Turkey's Aegean, Mediterranean coasts this week



burning house in a village
coasts this week, with the presi-
dency vowing to hold to ac-
count those responsible for the
"attacks".

Of those wildfires, 36 have been
contained, but firefighting efforts
for the remaining 17 continue,
with more than 140 people re-
quiring treatment or suffering
property damage, according to
AFAD.

Agriculture Minister Bekir Pak-
demirli said an 82-year-old man
had been found dead during the
evacuation of Kepezbeleni, 16
kilometres northeast of Manavgat,
and two people were found dead
in Degirmenli, 20 kilometres east
of Manavgat.

He said 18 villages and districts
had been evacuated in Antalya,
along with 16 others in neigh-
bouring provinces of Adana and
Mersin, as fires spread around
Manavgat on Wednesday, fanned
by strong winds in hot weather.
Authorities also evacuated a
Manavgat hospital.

Buildings including a hotel in
the Aegean resort of Marmaris



An aerial photo shows destroyed houses in a village

**BETTER
YOU
KNOW**

**Fires were raging with
temperatures ap-
proaching 40 degrees
Celsius (104 degrees
Fahrenheit) and wind
gusts of 50 kilometres
(30 miles) an hour**

were evacuated due to the blaze,
state broadcaster TRT Haber said.
Footage showed two separate
fires near residential areas in the
Aegean summer hotspots of Bod-
rum, where another hotel was
evacuated, and Didim.

Pakdemirli said 35 aircrafts,
457 vehicles, and 4,000 person-
nel were involved in firefighting
efforts, as separate wildfires raged
in the provinces of Osmaniye,

Kayseri, Kocaeli, Adana, Mersin
and Kutahya.

"Our struggle to contain (the
fires) continues, and surely we
will contain them. But this may
take some time," he said.

The timing of the various wild-
fires has raised concerns of ar-
son, with the presidency's com-
munications director Fahrettin
Altun saying investigations were
launched to determine the cause
of the fires.

"Those responsible will be held
to account for the attacks they
mounted on our nature and for-
ests as soon as possible," Altun
said on Twitter.

Turkey's southern Mediterrane-
an coast is known for its scorch-
ing summer heat, which often
causes wildfires. Officials have
said the latest fires are the biggest
to date.

Turkey has battled a series
of disasters caused by extreme
weather conditions this summer,
including flash floods last week
that killed six people in the Black
Sea region.

China's new ambassador arrives in US with words of optimism



Qin Gang speaking during an event in Beijing

Reuters | Washington

China's new ambassador
to Washington, Qin Gang,
wished the United States victory
against COVID-19 and said
great potential awaited bilateral
relations, striking an optimis-
tic tone as he arrived at his new
post amid deeply strained ties.

Qin's arrival comes days
after high-level talks in the
northern Chinese city of Tian-
jin between US Deputy Secre-
tary of State Wendy Sherman
and senior Chinese diplomats
ended with both sides signal-
ing that the other must make
concessions for ties to im-
prove.

Qin, 55, a vice foreign minis-
ter whose recent past portfoli-
os have included European af-
fairs and protocol, is replacing
China's longest serving ambas-
sador to the United States, Cui
Tiankai, 68, who last month
announced his departure after
eight years in Washington.

"I firmly believe that the
door of China-US relations,
which is already open, cannot
and should not be closed," Qin
told reporters at his residence
in the US capital after arriving
from the airport.

"The China-US relationship
has come to a new critical

**As two big countries
different in history,
culture, social system
and development
stage, China and the
United States are
entering a new round
of mutual exploration,
understanding and
adaptation, trying to
find a way to get along
with each other**

QIN GANG

juncture, facing not only many
difficulties and challenges, but
also great opportunities and
potential," Qin said.

He said relations kept mov-
ing forward "despite twists
and turns," and added that the
US economy was improving
under President Joe Biden's
leadership.

"I wish the country an early
victory against the pandemic,"
he added.

Qin, who did two stints as
a Chinese Foreign Ministry
spokesman between 2006 and
2014, has earned a reputation
for often pointed public de-
fenses of his country's posi-
tions.

C of 'fake news' over floods reporting



BBC Beijing bureau office in Beijing

**YOU
KNOW WHAT**

**Officials and state me-
dia have long accused
Western news organisa-
tions of anti-China bias**

as hatred without reason".

The war of words erupted after
a youth branch of China's rul-
ing Communist Party on Tuesday
posted comments online calling

on its 1.6 million followers to track
the movements of BBC reporters.

The comments by the He-
nan Communist Youth League
spurred death threats against BBC
correspondents from nationalistic
internet users.

A year's rain was dumped on the
city of Zhengzhou in just three
days last week, leaving 14 people
dead and more than 500 com-
muters trapped when the city's
subway system flooded during
rush hour.

City and provincial officials
have faced calls for accountability,
with the wife of one of the subway
victims telling local media she
would sue the metro operator for
negligence.

Palestinians clash with Israeli troops after boy's funeral

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israeli troops killed a Pales-
tinian man in clashes that
erupted yesterday during the
funeral of a 12-year-old Pales-
tinian boy shot dead by soldiers
a day earlier, the Palestinian
health ministry said.

Witnesses said hundreds of
Palestinians confronted Israeli
forces during the burial near
the town of Hebron in the oc-



People are seen during a funeral procession for Mohamad al-Alami, who died after being shot by Israeli soldiers

cupied West Bank.

The Israeli military said
troops "responded with riot
dispersal means, 22 caliber bul-
lets and live fire into the air".

The Palestinian health min-
istry said Shawkat Awad, 20,
was hit by the Israeli gunfire
and died in hospital. They said
another 12 protesters were
wounded.

Palestinian officials said the
12-year-old, Mohammad Al Ala-
mi, was fatally shot in the chest
by Israeli forces on Wednesday
as he was riding in his car with

his father.

According to the Israeli mil-
itary, a soldier shot at the vehi-
cle's wheels after concluding it
had been involved in suspicious
activity earlier in the day. The
military said the incident was
being reviewed by senior of-
ficers.

The West Bank is among
territories where Palestinians
seek statehood. Violence has
simmered there since US-spon-
sored talks between the Pales-
tinians and Israel broke down
in 2014.

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**Alami was the second
young Palestinian
killed by Israeli fire in
days, after 17-year-old
Mohammed Munir
al-Tamimi died on
Saturday of gunshot
wounds suffered the
day before in the
Palestinian village of
Beita**



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



One billion doses of
the Oxford/Astra-
Zeneca vaccine have
now been supplied to 170
countries. This British
vaccine, distributed at
cost, is saving lives across
the globe. Together we
can vaccinate the world
by the end of next year
and build back better
from coronavirus.

@BorisJohnson

02



America is on the move
again, and today's
new GDP numbers put our
economy back at pre-pand-
emic levels. Make no
mistake: this growth is
no accident, it's a direct
result of our efforts to de-
liver economic relief to
families, small businesses,
and communities across
the country.

@POTUS

03



We must remain vig-
ilant and forceful-
ly condemn hate wher-
ever and whenever we
see it. Anti-semitism and
bigotry should have no
place in our country or
in this world.

@VP

04



600 academics, artists
and intellectuals from
45 countries issue a pub-
lic declaration calling on
the Israeli government
to dismantle its regime
of apartheid.

@KenRoth

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