Students stage global strikes to pressure U.N. climate summit

LISBON/SYDNEY (Reuters) - Thousands of people in Asia and Europe joined rallies demanding more action on climate change on Friday, aiming to force political leaders to come up with urgent solutions at a United Nations conference next week.

Swedish activist Greta Thunberg had been due to join a student strike in Lisbon, but her environmentally friendly voyage across the Atlantic from New York by yacht was hit by high winds, delaying her by a few days, she told social media followers.

Portugal’s student movement still expected thousands to join marches on Friday, building on the famous campaigner’s imminent arrival to mobilize ahead of the United Nations climate summit in Madrid from Dec. 2-13.

“We wish she’d been here, but the movement has to carry on without her. We’ve got to send our message and pressure politicians ahead of the climate summit,” Marianna Louca, 14, told Reuters in Lisbon.

Friday’s climate strikes were expected to take place in 2,300 cities in 153 countries around the world, according to the climate campaign group Fridays For Future (https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/).
The protests come as experts warn that global temperatures could rise sharply over this century with destructive consequences after greenhouse gas emissions hit record levels.

Outside parliament in London, protesters flew a giant blimp in the shape of a baby with “Guess my weight in CO2” written on its vest.

Other protests took place in Mumbai, Tel Aviv, Vienna and Frankfurt. In Bangkok, young people chanted: “No more coal, no more oil, keep the carbon in the soil”, and staged a “drop dead” flash mob.

In Warsaw, activists, some in gas masks, waved banners saying: “Save our planet” and “Poland without coal 2030”.

Cameroon

Bangkok
In Berlin, protesters in swimming costumes dived into the chilly river Spree, holding up a white box in a symbolic attempt to rescue the government’s climate change package.

Activists protested at Amazon (AMZN.O) sites around France in a backlash against the annual Black Friday shopping event driven in part by environmental concerns.

Several dozen protesters staged a dawn sit-in outside an Amazon building in the Clichy district of Paris, holding a sign saying: “No to Amazon and its world.”

In Australia, students in Sydney and other cities walked out of class, saying more should be done to combat
the country’s devastating bushfire crisis, which many see as a result of climate change.

Holding home-made signs, including “The climate is changing, why aren’t we?”, demonstrators in Sydney accused the government of inadequate action in addressing the bushfire crisis. Smoke from bushfires in New South Wales state formed a haze overhead.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison denies his government is not doing enough on climate change.

Millions Around The World Strike on Black Friday for Action on Climate Change

For years, Black Friday has been sold as a holiday day for the consumer. In the 2018, Black Friday resulted in $6.22 billion in online sales alone, per CNBC. This year, climate activists wants people to stop and reconsider such rampant consumption.

Climate protests are taking place around the world this Black Friday to raise awareness about the dangers of climate change. The protests are also timed to demand action during the U.N. climate negotiations, COP25, which will begin in Madrid, Spain on Dec. 2.

Climate activists say more than 80 strikes are happening in the U.S. alone. Protests have already happened in Asia and Europe. In Germany alone, activists say 650,000 turned out.

According to organizers, protesters plan to disrupt large shopping centers in Chicago and hold a march and a rally in Los Angeles called “Don’t Shop. Strike!” According to Reuters, organizers expect strikes to take place in 2,500 cities in 152 countries around the world.

Ritvik Janamsetty, a spokesman for climate coalition Earth Uprising, tells TIME he estimates around 2 million people took part in strikes Friday.
Thousands of demonstrators attend a protest climate strike rally of the ‘Friday For Future Movement’ in Leipzig, Germany, Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, Jens Meyer—AP.

“"We are striking because our leaders haven’t been listening to us. They think our voices are ones they can ignore and not take seriously,” 16-year-old American climate activist Maya Arengo said in a statement. “They don’t understand that we, the youth, are terrified for our futures and we won’t stop fighting until our futures are secure.”

Thunberg rose to prominence in 2018 when she started striking from school on Fridays to demand action on climate change in her home country of Sweden. She has since launched a movement called Fridays for Future, inspiring millions of people around the world to strike from school or work on Fridays to demand movement to fight the climate crisis.

In September, Thunberg and other activists led a global climate strike, which drew millions of people around the world to protest and demand action to fight the coming climate catastrophe. Those same organizers have planned protests around the world on Black Friday, hoping to raise awareness of the days ecological impact and demand climate action from COP25 in Spain next week.

Greta Thunberg

@GretaThunberg

In September 7,5 million people around the world took to the streets. Tomorrow we’re doing it again. Everyone’s needed. Everyone’s welcome. Join us! #FridaysForFuture #ClimateStrike #schoolstrike4climate

29.1K
9:01 AM - Nov 29, 2019
Twitter Ads info and privacy

6,799 people are talking about this

Ice Cream company Ben & Jerry’s, whose owners are known for progressive politics, tweeted out a map of strikes in the U.S.

Ben & Jerry’s

@benandjerrys

STRIKE TODAY! Climate change is the biggest threat to our future. Youth across the US will lead a #ClimateStrike today & Dec 6 to demand legislative action to combat the climate crisis.
Learn more and join a strike:
https://strikewithus.org

/
Reuters reports that thousands of people in Asia and Europe have already taken part in the protests. According to social media, protests took place across the U.K., including in London, Belfast, Bristol, Brighton and Plymouth.

Massive turnout in London for the #ClimateStrike
Bristol is out in force! #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture @BristolPost
Great energy at an @XRrebellionUK #ClimateStrike march in Plymouth today. #wakeuptoclimatchange
Climate protesters are outside Churchill Square shopping centre in Brighton. #climatestrike

Protestors in Australia have also turned out. The country has been hit by a series of devastating wildfires.

People as far as the eye can see! Thanks for showing up for those impacted by fires and the climate crisis Sydney! #ThisIsClimateChange
Fridays For Future Sydney
@fff_Sydney

Sydney, Australia Climate Strike #FridaysForFuture @GretaThunberg #ClimateEmergency #ClimateAction

292
3:29 PM - Nov 29, 2019
Twitter Ads info and privacy

98 people are talking about this

Small But Mighty Kids Change the World
@KidsOutFront

Australia is On Fire, and So Are We! #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture #SchoolStrike4Climate
https://twitter.com/claudiagallois/status/1200259664904015874

Claudia Gallois
@claudiagallois

Huge crowds at the #schoolstrike4climate on #springst Melbourne. Sitting in solidarity with bushfire survivors. They're calling on immediate action on climate change from PM @ScottMorrisonMP and Premier @DanielAndrewsMP #ThisIsClimateChange
Greenpeace Philippines tweeted video of climate protestors in Manila.

HAPPENING NOW: #ClimateStrike in Manila supporting the call for #climatejustice!
Activist Lucky Tran tweeted video of protests she says are from Tokyo:

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Dr. Lucky Tran
@luckytran
· 11h
Replying to @luckytran
#ClimateStrike in Manila, Philippines with thousands demanding climate justice
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Dr. Lucky Tran
@luckytran

The #ClimateStrike movement is growing in Japan with a big turnout in Tokyo today
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See Dr. Lucky Tran’s other Tweets
Per social media, protesters also turned out in Denmark, India, Bangladesh, Austria, Germany and Belgium.

Jumping for future in Copenhagen at the #ClimateStrike @Fridays4future

In India, the government produce energy by polluting the city. All the waste is burned to produce energy and what's leftover is waste, toxic fumes and more emissions. #FridaysForFuture outside incineration plant, New Delhi #ClimateStrike

Via @johnpauljos
Right now, in Brussels! #ClimateStrike #FridaysForFuture #ClimateEmergency
Berlin right now! We will never give up on our beautiful planet #ClimateStrike #NeustartKlima #FridaysForFuture
Thunberg has planned to take part in a student strike in Lisbon, per Reuters, although her zero-carbon emissions sailboat crossing the Atlantic from New York was slowed down a few days by high winds. Protests took place in Portugal Friday.

We are many and we traded #BlackFriday by #FridaysForFuture in the streets of #Lisbon! #ExtinctionRebellion #ClimateStrike #ClimateAction #ClimateEmergency

According to the Associated Press, protestors near Paris blocked one of Amazon's warehouses to protest over-production. They reportedly had signs that said: "Amazon: For the climate, for jobs, stop expansion, stop over-production!"
“The planet burns, oceans die, and we still want to consume, consume, and therefore produce, produce – until we eradicate all living things? … We will not betray our children for a 30% discount!” also reads the manifesto of protestors around Paris, per the AP.

Some French lawmakers have proposed banning Black Friday because it causes "resource waste" and "over consumption," the AP reports.

In an article posted on the website Project Syndicate, Thunberg, and activists Luisa Neubauer and Angela Valenzuela called for a strike next Friday as well. "To the leaders who are headed to Madrid, our message is simple: the eyes of all future generations are upon you. Act accordingly."