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AFP

Police officers face off with protesters during a 'Enough is Enough' demonstration called by far-right activists in Weymouth, on the southwest coast of England.

UK, Musk in war of words after 'civil war is inevitable' post

6,000 specialist police officers stand ready to quell UK riots

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N.R.
Senior Associate Editor

Keir Starmer's dispute with Elon Musk has escalated, with the social media baron dubbing the British Prime Minister 'two-tier Keir' in a series of new tweets, just a day after claiming that 'civil war is inevitable' in the UK following far-right riots in several cities.

Musk's posts on X that he owns were in response to a

video showing footage of rioting and remarks from another poster that it was the result of "migration and open borders." "There's no justification for comments like that," Starmer's spokesman, Dave Pares, said on Monday.

Bot activity

Pares also said that events over the weekend — which included attacks on at least two hotels housing immigrants — require an "immediate response" from social media companies, after online forums were used to spread misinformation and organise anti-immigration protests. He added that "state actors" may have been involved in "bot activity" used to propagate the posts.

"Anyone who stokes this violence whether on the internet or in person can be prosecuted and face prison," Pares said.

In his tweet yesterday, Musk called the prime minister "two-tier Keir" in reference to the conspiracy theory that police are treating white far-right "protesters" more harshly than minority groups.

He tagged Keir in several tweets, writing "Why aren't all communities protected in Britain?" and "#TwoTierKeir".

The unrest poses a major early challenge for Starmer's month-old government which yesterday said 6,000 specialist police officers were ready to deal with rioting.

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Nobel winner Yunus ready to head Bangladesh interim government

President dissolves parliament, a key demand of students

DHAKA

Nobel winner Muhammad Yunus said yesterday he was ready to head an interim government in Bangladesh after mass demonstrations forced longtime ruler Sheikh Hasina to flee the country.

"I am honoured by the trust of the protesters who wish for me to lead the interim govern-

ment," he said in a written statement to AFP.

"If action is needed in Bangladesh, for my country and for the courage of my people, then I will take it," the 84-year-old Nobel-winning microfinance pioneer said, also calling for "free elections."

Yunus, known as the "banker to the poorest of the poor", was awarded the Peace Prize in 2006 for his work loaning small cash sums to rural women, allowing them to invest in farm tools or business equipment and boost their earnings.

Earlier yesterday, student leaders in Bangladesh demanded that Yunus lead a caretaker government, a day after the military took control as demonstrations forced Hasina to flee the country.

Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman announced Monday the military would form an interim government, saying it was "time to stop the violence".

President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved parliament yesterday, a key demand of the student leaders. —AFP

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Harris names governor Walz as running mate

DUO TO HIT 5-DAY CAMPAIGN TRAIL THROUGH BATTLEGROUNDS STATES

WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris picked Tim Walz as her running mate yesterday, opting for the Minnesota governor as the partner most likely to complement her in a historic bid for the White House.

Earlier on Monday night Harris clinched the Democratic nomination for president on Monday, prevailing in a virtual roll call vote. Harris won 99 per cent of the participating delegates. She is officially the first woman of colour to win a major party's nomination.

Walz had been on a shortlist with a string of other Democratic figures seen as broadening Harris's appeal as she sprints into the contest against Donald Trump.

Aiming to make history as the first woman president, Harris — already a trailblazer as the first female and first Black and South Asian vice president — has little time before Election Day on November 5.

Balancing act

Expectations had always been that Harris would pick a white



AFP

Minnesota governor Tim Walz

man to balance the ticket — and the kind of Democrat who can help counter attacks from Republicans that she is too far to the left.

Walz fits that description as a 60-year-old Midwesterner with a folksy manner from a state that could be light years from the coastal elites of California, where Harris comes from, or the East Coast.

The duo was set to hit the campaign trail yesterday, launching an intense, five-day swing through battleground states in the biggest prize, Pennsylvania. —Agencies

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