

Wildfires in Greece kill 74 in deadliest blazes in decades

RAFINA, Greece (AP) — The death toll from Greece's deadliest wildfires in decades climbed to 74 Tuesday as rescue crews searched on land and sea for those who sought to escape the blazes that engulfed popular summer resort spots near Athens.

appeared set to go even higher, with crews checking charred homes and vehicles and the coast guard scouring beaches and deeper waters. There was no definitive count of the missing.

Fueled by 50 mph winds that frequently changed direction, the fires — one to the west of Athens near the town of Kineta and another to the northeast near the port of Rafina — spread at speeds that surprised

many, trapping hundreds on beaches and cutting off escape routes.

All the casualties appeared to be from the fire near Rafina, a popular seaside area that is a mix of permanent residences and vacation homes. The blaze broke out Monday afternoon during a hot, dry spell but the cause was not immediately clear. Aerial photos showed charred swathes of forest and homes.

Apart from the dead, which included children, hospitals treated 187 people, most for burns, with 10 listed in serious condition.

Argentine economy shrinks 5.8 percent

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Argentina's economy contracted 5.8 percent in May compared to the same period a year ago, the official INDEC statistics agency

said Tuesday, raising concerns the country could fall into recession in 2018.

Argentina has been hit by a recent currency crisis. That led the government to seek a \$50 billion financing deal with the International Monetary Fund aimed at strengthening the sputtering economy as the country fights double-digit inflation.

Turning to the IMF has brought back bad memories for Argentines who blame

its policies for the country's economic crisis in 2001.

President Mauricio Macri has told Argentines that they will not suffer another economic implosion. But they continue to lose purchasing power to one of the world's highest inflation rates, and many have staged protests against Macri's belt-tightening policies, which include layoffs of government workers and the slashing of subsidies.



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