

CLIMATE CHANGE EU eyes new green energy targets

BBC ONLINE

An EU summit yesterday was scheduled to get under way in Brussels aiming for agreement on carbon emissions cuts that could make Europe a global leader again in climate policy.

The European Commission has proposed a 40% cut in CO2 emissions by 2030. The EU also aims to boost the use of renewable energy to 27% in the total energy mix.

Europe's reliance on Russian gas has become a hot topic because of the Ukraine crisis, besides the climate impact of CO2.

EU officials say the 28-nation bloc aims to have an "ambitious position" to take to the UN climate change conference in Paris in December 2015.

But many European politicians want their countries to retain flexibility in meeting energy targets, without having strict rules imposed at EU level. There are particular worries about the impact of energy costs on small and medium-sized businesses amid widespread economic stagnation in Europe and high unemployment.

The Commission has also set an energy efficiency target for 2030 - a 30% cut in energy use.

Globally the EU does not want to be at a competitive disadvantage compared with rising powers - especially China and India - which have not signed up to Europe's green agenda.

The environmental group Greenpeace argues that the EU targets are not ambitious enough, because energy use has already dropped with the closure of industrial plants and drastic cuts in government spending.

It wants a 45% target for renewables in the energy market and says such a goal would provide businesses with incentives to invest in new, cleaner technologies, which could also create more jobs.



Militants of Islamic State (ISIS) stand just before explosion of an air strike on Tilsehir hill near Turkish border, at Yumurtalik village, in Sanliurfa province, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

US, Iraq draw up ground attack plan against ISIS

Coalition air strikes kill 553 militants, 32 civilians in Syria

AGENCIES

FIGHT AGAINST ISIS

Jihadists mount new assault on Iraq's Mount Sinjar

Turkey to allow 200 Iraqi Kurds to cross into Kobane

Jihadists order female genital mutilation in Iraq

has concentrated largely on defence and efforts to prevent ISIS from claiming more territory since early June when the militant group took over Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, and began moving south.

Despite some government gains, aided since early August by US air strikes, the militants control about one-third of Iraq, stretching from near Baghdad to the northwest, and across western Anbar province to the Syrian border.

On the ground, an AFP correspondent across the frontier in Turkey reported fierce clashes in several parts of Kobane early yesterday, with heavy gun and mortar fire.

The town's Kurdish defenders have been holding out against an assault by the ISIS militant group for more than a

month, buoyed in recent days by a promise of Iraqi Kurd reinforcements and by US air drops of weapons.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said that 200 Iraqi Kurd peshmerga fighters would travel through Turkey to join the battle in Kobane, where about 1,000 ISIS militants are believed to be fighting.

Iraqi Kurdish lawmakers in their capital Arbil agreed on Wednesday to send their peshmerga fighters, after Turkey this week said it would allow them to travel to Kobane.

In Iraq, airstrikes hit ISIS targets including a large "unit" and a training centre. ISIS had again surrounded Mount Sinjar in the country's north where they had trapped thousands of civilians this summer, commanders in the area said.

The first siege of Sinjar was a key moment in the conflict with ISIS, with the plight of the people trapped on the mountain helping to prompt US to begin air strikes against the ISIS.

Meanwhile, the United Nations yesterday said ISIS has ordered all girls and women between the ages of 11 and 46 in and around Iraq's northern city of Mosul to undergo female genital mutilation. The "fatwa" would potentially affect 4 million women and girls, it added.

CANADA PARLIAMENT SHOOTING Sergeant-at-arms hailed as 'hero'

MAIL ONLINE

Just moments after he gunned down Canadian Parliament shooter Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, heroic sergeant-at-arms Kevin Vickers was seen calmly walking through the halls, gun in hand.

The 58-year-old RCMP veteran has been hailed a hero after putting a swift stop to the attacker's hail of gunfire after he shot dead a soldier and then stormed the building on Wednesday morning.

Vickers serves a largely ceremonial role at the House of Commons, carrying a scepter and wearing rich green robes, white gloves and a tall imperial tricorn hat.

A fit, tall 6-foot-4, Vickers spends many of his lunch breaks running in order to stay fit. He also carries a 9mm pistol while at work. Both things appeared to come in extremely handy while Vickers took down the parliament terrorist Wednesday.

Vickers has been the House of Commons' head of security since 2005 and will now go down in history as one of its most memorable after he bravely pursued and took down Zehaf-Bibeau.

Canada's parliament reopened yesterday and gave a hero's welcome to Vickers.

"MPs and Hill staff owe their safety, even lives, to Sergeant at Arms Kevin Vickers who shot attacker just outside the MPs' caucus rooms," tweeted New Democrat MP Craig Scott.

Matt Miller, the Vancouver Observer's parliamentary bureau chief, concurred.

Another man tries to breach White House
AFP, Washington

A suspect who climbed over the White House fence Wednesday was nabbed by Secret Service agents and dogs, a spokesman for the elite agency said.

The individual was immediately taken into custody on the north lawn of the White House by Secret Service officials.

The fence climber was identified as 23-year-old Dominic Adesanya from Marlyand. He was unarmed at the time of his arrest.

Video on local media appeared to show a man being intercepted by officers before he had a chance to reach the White House.

On September 19, another man, Omar Gonzalez, jumped the White House fence and allegedly sprinted across the lawn and entered the building with a knife in his pocket. This and other security lapses sparked withering criticism of the Secret Service and led to the resignation of the head of the elite presidential protection agency.

Nigeria's Boko Haram 'abduct more girls'

BBC ONLINE

Dozens of women and girls from two villages in Nigeria's north-eastern Adamawa state have been abducted by suspected militants, residents said.

The abductions have not been confirmed by the authorities, but residents say they took place a day after the military announced it had agreed a ceasefire with the Boko Haram group.

The government hopes the Islamist group will free more than 200 girls seized in April as part of negotiations. Boko Haram has not confirmed the truce.

Following Friday's ceasefire announcement, the government said further talks with Boko Haram were due to be held this week in neighbouring Chad.

In a separate incident, at least five people were killed in a bomb blast at a bus station in a town in the northern state of Bauchi. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The abduction of the schoolgirls from their boarding school in Borno state sparked a global campaign to pressure the government to secure their release.

Borno is the group's stronghold. It has been under a state of emergency, along with neighbouring Adamawa and Yobe states, for more than a year.

The villages that were attacked on Saturday - Waga Mangoro and Garta - are close to Madagali and Michika towns, which have been under the control of the Islamist militant group for several weeks.

According to people in the area, a large group of insurgents attacked the villages, rounding up women and girls.

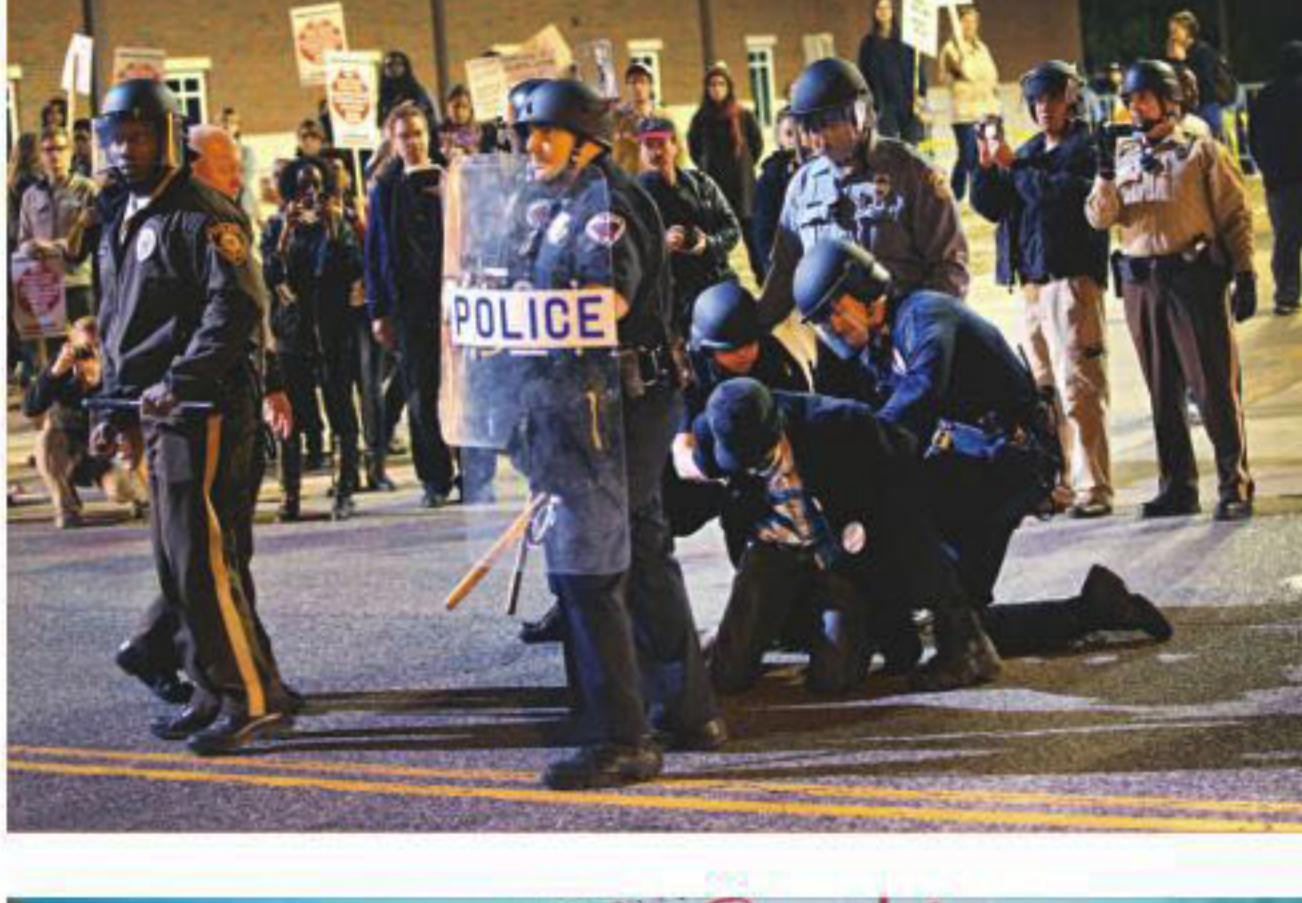
They forced them to harvest groundnuts on a farm, then abducted those who were teenagers or in their early 20s.

Communication with the affected area is difficult, which is why it takes time for news of attacks to filter out.



From left, clockwise, Demonstrators protest outside the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters during their annual 'National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality', in Los Angeles, California, yesterday; police in Ferguson, Missouri, arrest a demonstrator outside a police station as protests continue in the wake of 18-year-old Michael Brown's death; and a woman holds a placard in Ferguson during the protests. The Ferguson protest coincided with the day of action planned to take place nationwide to draw attention to police brutality in USA.

PHOTO: AFP



Somalia gets its first ATM

CNN

Somalia's capital Mogadishu now has its first-ever ATM bank machine -- and it dispenses U.S. dollars.

The machine was installed in late September in the upscale Jazeera Palace Hotel, which is located 300 meters from Aden Adde International Airport in the south-west of the city.

The hotel's general manager said that he had seen people using the new machine but it had not been widely adopted. "Most of the customers were not aware there is an ATM in Somalia".

While a great many obstacles still exist for Somalia, it is projects like this ATM that illustrate how business confidence is slowly returning to the war-ravaged city.



because she 'needed time to think'.

She said: 'I was walking around feeling miserable and decided to stop off at the KFC at the train station. I hadn't planned on staying there long, I just wanted some chicken wings. But once I got in there and started eating I decided I needed time to think.'

After a week Shen decided she'd had enough when local media turned up and decided to write about her.

She stopped off at a KFC near a train station by her home, but ended up staying for a whole week



MFF Bangladesh Medium Grants (2014-15) Call for Project Concept Notes

Mangroves for the Future
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

MFF Bangladesh Secretariat under the guidance of National Coordinating Body (NCB) is pleased to announce the launch of a Medium Grant Facility (MGF) to develop and demonstrate ecosystem based approaches to build coastal community resilience to climate change and other related areas.

For detail, please visit our website at:
<http://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/what-we-do/work-with-us/call-for-proposals/bangladesh/mff-bangladesh-medium-grants-2014-15/>

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Deadline of submission is
6 November 2014