

## EU approves sanctions framework for Nicaragua

AFP, Luxembourg

The European Union yesterday adopted a sanctions framework for Nicaragua over human rights abuses and repression in the Central American country under leftist President Daniel Ortega.

The move, validated in a meeting of EU foreign ministers, does not immediately enact punishment on Nicaragua but allows targeted travel bans and asset freezes to be quickly imposed at a later stage.

Europe is wielding the measure to press Ortega's government to resume talks with the opposition to resolve a political crisis that started in April 2018, when protests mushroomed into a popular uprising met with a brutal crackdown.

Political violence in Nicaragua left more than 300 people dead and 2,000 wounded, according to rights groups, while hundreds of opposition supporters were jailed and 70,000 people fled the country.

## Trudeau continues campaign after threats to safety

AFP, Montreal

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Sunday he plans to continue campaigning as normal after wearing body armour the night before, a move the CBC reported was due to threats to his security.

"This will not change at all how I campaign," Trudeau said, on the sidelines of a campaign event in York, a week ahead of Canadian legislative elections.

Trudeau was in his shirtsleeves, as he normally is when campaigning, after wearing body armor under a shirt and jacket on Saturday.

When asked to answer journalists' questions about the threats against him, Trudeau explained, "My first concern was for my family and for all the Canadians in the room," but refused to comment further.

Trudeau's main rival, Conservative Andrew Scheer, took to Twitter Saturday evening to stress that "threats against political leaders have absolutely no place in our democracy."

Jagmeet Singh, the leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP), called the threats against Trudeau "troubling" in a Saturday night tweet.

The liberal leader was more than an hour and a half late to an event Saturday in Mississauga, a city in the suburbs of Toronto, where about 2,000 supporters were waiting for him.

There was also a higher security presence than normal following a security threat, the CBC reported.

His campaign team declined to give reason for Trudeau's increased security detail.

The prime minister gave his speech without incident, surrounded by multiple police officers, and then mingled with the crowd before leaving the room.

His wife, Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau, was expected on stage to introduce him but did not appear, local media said.

## Rohingya man

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The OC said that earlier there was a feud between the victim and the suspect and this may be why Yunus was murdered.

A case will be filed in this regard, he added.

## Russia

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Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom is constructing a 2,400 megawatt nuclear power plant at Rooppur in Pabna and the first two units of the plant are expected to be operational in 2023.

The meeting has approved the draft of the policy on radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management in line with the guidelines set by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the cabinet secretary said.

He said that a company by the name of Radioactive Waste Management Company would be established under Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission to oversee the process of radioactive waste disposal.

The policy was formulated to prevent possible harm from radioactive wastes and nuclear energy, he said.

The cabinet also gave the final approval to the draft of the Bangladesh Engineering Research Council Bill 2019 to promote engineering research and ensure the standard of technology for their pragmatic uses in the country.

A 10-member governing body headed by a chairman will run the council, he said.

Besides, the Cabinet gave approval to the draft of the Bangladesh Lighthouse Bill, 2019, an updated version of the existing Lighthouse Act, 1927, said Shafiqul.



Fishermen catching brood hilsha in the Meghna in Munshiganj despite an ongoing ban against it. PHOTO: STAR

## Syria steps in to contain assault

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The United States and its partners, who spent years fighting alongside the Kurds against the Islamic State group in Syria before deserting them, have condemned the Turkish invasion, but their threats of sanctions have failed to stop it.

Washington yesterday ordered 1,000 troops - almost the entire ground force - to leave Syria's north.

The chaos in the areas targeted in the six-day-old Turkish assault has already led to the escape of around 800 foreign women and children linked to IS from a Kurdish-run camp, Kurdish authorities said.

The Kurds had repeatedly warned of that scenario when Western countries refused to repatriate their IS-linked nationals and when Trump made it clear he wanted to end the US military presence.

But Trump yesterday said the Kurds "may be releasing" IS prisoners to keep the US involved in Syria.

Wasting no time to fill the void, Moscow -- already the top broker in Syria -- clinched a deal between the Kurds and Damascus, whose ties had been icy since the minority threw its lot with Washington and unilaterally declared self-rule.

"In order to prevent and confront this aggression, an agreement has been reached with the Syrian government," the Kurdish administration said in a statement late Sunday.

By yesterday morning Syrian

government forces were already moving to within several kilometres (miles) of the border, AFP correspondents on the ground said.

Residents around the town of Tall Tamr welcomed regime forces with cheers and Syrian state television showed some of them waving national flags and portraits of President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian troops also deployed in the areas of Tabqa and Ain Issa in the northern province of Raqa, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor.

According to a newspaper close to the Damascus regime, Syrian forces were also expected to deploy in the areas of Manbij and the border town of Kobane.

The main remaining flashpoint along the border was the town of Ras al-Ain, where Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have put up stiff resistance against Turkish air strikes and shelling for almost a week.

According to Observatory, the Turkish attack -- which uses Syrian proxies on the ground -- has already left 128 SDF fighters and 69 civilians dead. On the Turkish side, four soldiers and 18 civilians have been confirmed killed in six days, either in fighting or from Kurdish cross-border fire, according to Turkish sources. The Observatory put the number of pro-Turkish Syrian forces killed in the offensive at 94.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday said the offensive

in Syria has displaced at least 160,000 civilians.

An internal document circulated by the Kurdish administration yesterday, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, stressed the deal with Damascus was purely of a military nature and did not affect the work of the semi-autonomous institutions.

But the de-facto statelet the Kurdish administration had set up in northeastern Syria has fast unravelled in recent days, with its forces losing control of a 120-kilometre-long segment of the border.

The area that is now under the control of Turkey and its proxies is ethnically Arab-dominated and some residents welcomed Turkish-backed forces.

Kurdish officials and residents alike in northeastern Syria have expressed outrage at what they call a US betrayal that shortchanges the sacrifices made in the fight against IS.

Since 2014, the SDF have been the US-led anti-IS coalition's main partner on the ground in Syria, spearheading some key battles on the way to eliminating the jihadists' self-proclaimed "caliphate" earlier this year.

"The United States has lost its defeat mechanism against the Islamic State," the Institute for the Study of War wrote in a brief.

"It took years for the US to realise that the SDF were the only capable partners. They will not partner with us again," it said.

## ATTACKS ON COPS

# 2 'Neo JMB' men held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials yesterday claimed to have arrested two "Neo JMB" operatives for their alleged involvement in recent attacks on police in Gulistan and Science Lab areas in Dhaka.

Mehedi Hasan Tamim, 25, and his friend Abdullah Azmir, 26, were arrested in Mohammadpur area on Sunday night. They were members of this "Neo JMB" group's military wing, said police.

Tamim was present at the time of both attacks while Azmir was planning and making improvised explosive devices or IEDs, said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"They targeted police to draw the attention of global terror outfit Islamic State and set up communication," he told the press at DMP Media Centre yesterday.

On April 29, two traffic police constables and a community traffic policeman were injured in an IED blast in Gulistan while two policemen were injured in a similar attack at Science Lab intersection on August 31.

Besides, on May 26, two people, including a female police officer, suffered injuries when a bomb went off near a police pickup in Malibagh intersection area. On July 24, IEDs were recovered from near police boxes in Paltan and Khamarbari areas.

Police suspected that the arrestees were also connected to these three incidents.

Monirul Islam said this group planned a similar attack on police in September but police foiled it by raiding a Narayanganj den and arresting two members on

## If ACC chief

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corruption ... was its chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bachchu," Taposh said.

"For that reason, the government removed him from the post but in all the corruption cases filed ... we have seen only some BASIC Bank officials and businessmen were implicated," he added.

According to Taposh, no corruption case has been filed against Bachchu although he was involved in the loan scam.

ACC's accountability is essential in the drive against corruption initiated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he opined.

September 23.

The arrestees were Farid Uddin Rumee, 27, a teacher of mechanical and production engineering at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology in Dhaka, and Mishuk Khan Mizan, 24, a final-year engineering student of Narayanganj Polytechnic Institute.

Rumee's younger brother Rafiq, 25, who formed the five-member military wing of the group, is on the run.

CTTC officials said Azmir was among the four youths seen in the so-called IS footage circulated recently. The video was actually captured in the Narayanganj den and three of the youths except for Rafiq were detained.

According to CTTC officials, Rafiq, Tamim and Azmir were friends and graduated in mechanical engineering from Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) in 2014. They were radicalised online during university study.

Initially, they used to write for the blogs of banned outfit Ansar al Islam. But soon they assumed IS ideology, believing it to be better and more effective.

Instead of blog writing they decided to carry out attacks and left homes in 2018. Some of them took training in a remote area of Azmir's hometown in Bhola.

This "Neo JMB" group has also prepared a bomb making manual in Bangla and posted it on different websites to encourage others, the officials said.

## Eight-yr-old reels

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"I was trying to hold myself by pushing off the wall in the boat," Jayden told Nine News.

The youngest member of the local Port Hacking Game Fishing Club, Jayden first learned how to fish at 18 months old, according to Nine News -- and the shark was his biggest catch by far. But they didn't realise quite how big until they returned to shore and weighed it.

The record for the International Game Fish Association's junior and small fry category is a 312-kilogramme (687 pounds) tiger shark caught by Ian Hissey in 1997. Jayden now needs to get his catch officially verified to set a new mark.

Tiger sharks -- among the largest sharks in the ocean, weighing up to 680 kilograms (1,500 pounds) -- are not a protected species in Australia.

## Robein started

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Islam Zion and Muzahidur Rahman Muzahid mentioned Robein's name in their confessional statements, police sources said.

In his statement, Robein also said they held a meeting at the hall canteen at the beginning of this month and decided to beat up Abrar for his alleged affiliation with Islami Chhatra Shibir. Abrar's roommate Mizanur Rahman was present in the meeting.

Police did not seek demand for Mizanur, now detained, as he was sick. Investigators said they would soon seek demand for Mizanur as his name came in the confessional statement.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday expelled its Buet unit's deputy law secretary Amit Saha for his

alleged involvement in the murder.

Amit, was arrested on October 10.

Meanwhile, Monirul Islam, an additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Abrar was called to the room and beaten to death as the accused suspecting him to be a Shibir activist.

Addressing a press conference at the DMP Media Centre, Monirul said that hopefully they would be able to complete the investigation by early November.

He added that the victim was beaten for several hours.

A total of 19 Chhatra League leaders of Buet unit have so far been arrested in the case. Fifteen of them were named in the first information report (FIR).

## Violence claims two lives in Bandarban

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Health Complex in Cox's Bazar where doctors declared him dead around 4:30pm, he added.

Contacted, BGB Cox's Bazar region commander BGB Gen Shazedur Rahman said the BGB men opened fire to defend themselves as the agitators attacked them.

Two BGB members were also injured during the clash, he added.

Mohammed Rezaul Karim, the district election officer, confirmed that two people were killed in the clash. He, however, said people continued voting despite the incident.

Meanwhile, BNP-backed candidates boycotted the upazila polls over allegations of irregularities in Chattogram and Jhenidah.

During the Satkania upazila polls in Chattogram, the presence of voters was poor in most polling centres, while BNP candidate Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury boycotted the polls over allegations of irregularities by AL men.

AL-backed candidate MA Motaleb denied the allegations.

The Daily Star correspondent visited 14 polling centres in the upazila and found only one that had a queue of voters outside it. Some 50 voters were seen in front of Chibbari Government Primary School centre around 11:50am.

No BNP polling agent was seen at any of the polling stations.

When asked, Shariful Alam, a presiding officer at the primary school centre, said no polling agent for the

BNP candidate came to report in the morning.

He added that very few voters came to vote, as only 10 percent of the votes were cast in the 125 centres till 12:00 noon.

In Jhenidah, BNP's chairman aspirants at Kotchandpur and Maheshpur upazilas boycotted the election over allegations of irregularities by AL men.

Abdur Razzaq of Kotchandpur upazila and Sahjaman Mohon of Maheshpur upazila said this during a joint press conference at Kotchandpur Press Club.

Both of them alleged that the ruling party men were preventing voters and BNP men from going to the polling centres.

water and biscuit for all the students because they may face problem inside the campus and will get a negative impression about the campus. So, we are trying our best to reduce the sufferings of the students and guardians as much as possible," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Apart from this, they also helped the candidates find their exam halls and kept their belongings, as many items were not allowed inside the venue.

Around 12,000 admission seekers sat for the three-hour long exam, while around the same number of guardians thronged the exam venue.

Different groups like Chittagong Students' Union (CSU), Greater Khulna Association of BUET Students (GKABS) and some other organisations shared their phone numbers to provide assistance to the guardians of those particular areas.

Shahinoor Miah, a government employee, came to the campus along with his younger son who sat for the test.

"This is a very good initiative. Students of Buet are not only meritorious but also gentle and polite," he said.