

US cop pulls man from car seconds before train hits it

AFP, Washington

A quick-thinking Utah police officer pulled an unconscious driver out of the path of a train seconds before it smashed into the man's vehicle.

A dramatic dashcam video posted by the Utah Highway Patrol on their Twitter account Wednesday showed Trooper Ruben Correa with his torch scrambling up an embankment in the dark as the train speeds towards a car parked on the tracks.

"It looks like the vehicle's on top of the tracks," Correa said into his radio as he reached the car with the train bearing down on them, its headlight shining.

"Let's go! Get out of here! We've got a train coming! We've got a train coming! We've got a train coming," he yelled at the man as the train sounds its horn.

Correa pulled the man free just seconds before the train hits the car, and two rolled down the embankment. The train then stopped.

The trooper was responding to a call about a car on the tracks early Wednesday in Centerville, Utah, when he heard the train coming.

"I heard the horn from a train, I looked to my left and I was able to observe that train was coming pretty fast, anywhere between 50 and 80 miles an hour," Correa told ABC4.

"At that point I was a little bit concerned about that... At that point I wasn't really thinking, I was just doing my job and the main concern was getting him out."

He said the man appeared to have some sort of medical condition.

"He was in danger and I had to get him out of the vehicle as quickly as possible," he Correa said.

"I got worried after I saw the train hit the vehicle and the vehicle flew about 30 feet in front of us and that's when I realized 'Oh wow. That was a lot closer than what I would have liked.'"

The video from his dashcam has already been viewed more than 250,000 times.

Correa told ABC4 he had spoken to the young man afterwards.

"I'm just very grateful that I was able to get him out and he's alive and he's back with his family now."

French FM holds Iraq talks on IS prisoners in Syria

AFP, Baghdad

France's top diplomat yesterday held talks in Baghdad about transferring foreign jihadists from northern Syria, where a Turkish offensive has triggered fears of mass jailbreaks, to be tried in Iraq.

European governments are worried that the Turkish operation will allow the escape of some of the 12,000 suspected Islamic State (IS) group fighters -- including thousands of foreigners -- held by Syrian Kurds.

The issue was top of the agenda for French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in his talks with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammed Ali al-Hakim, President Barham Saleh and Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi.

Le Drian said he had discussed with Iraqi leaders "the way to implement an appropriate judicial mechanism" to try French and other fighters "in the best conditions".

The aim is for foreign jihadists to be tried in Iraqi courts while upholding certain principles of justice and respect for human rights, a French diplomatic source said.

One issue will be Iraq's use of the death penalty, which is outlawed throughout the EU.

Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden sent officials on a technical mission to Baghdad this week to assess the situation.

"There are talks between the Americans, the British, French and Iraqis about funding the construction of prisons," Hisham al-Hashemi, an Iraqi expert on IS, told AFP.

Le Drian urged the international coalition against IS to confront the "new risks created by the Turkish intervention in northeast Syria and the risk of an IS resurgence."

Hundreds of foreigners have been sentenced to death or life imprisonment in Iraq for belonging to IS.

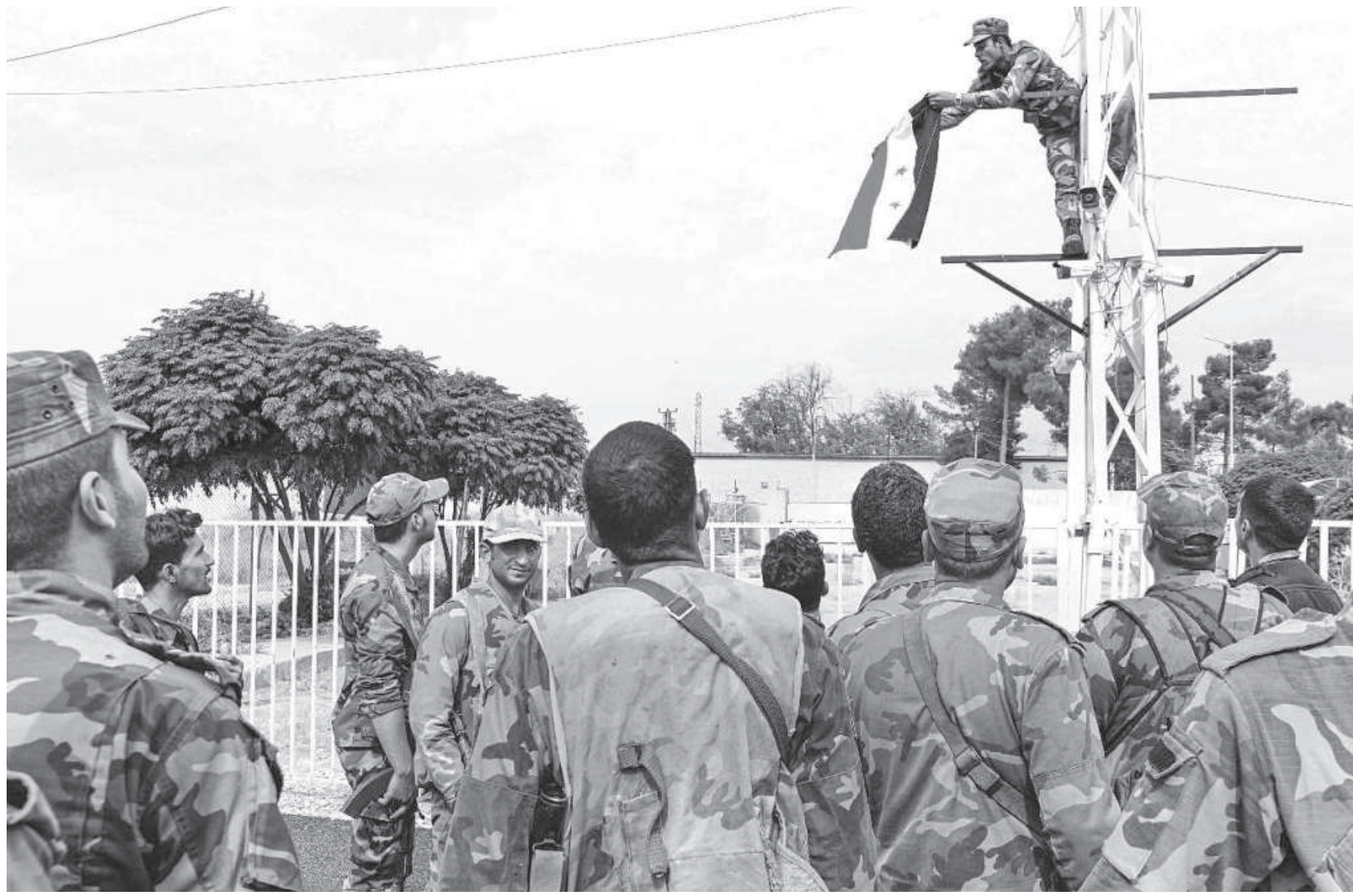
Eleven French jihadists handed over to Iraqi authorities early this year by US-backed Kurdish forces in Syria were sentenced to death by a court in Baghdad.

In April, Iraq offered to try foreign IS suspects in exchange for operational costs.

One Iraqi official said Baghdad had requested \$2 billion to put the suspects on trial.

Turkey on Monday accused Kurdish forces of deliberately releasing IS prisoners held at a prison in the Syrian border town of Tal Abyad "in an attempt to fuel chaos in the area".

Kurdish officials claimed that Turkish bombardments had allowed nearly 800 relatives of foreign IS fighters to escape from a camp for the displaced.



A handout picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) yesterday shows a Syrian government soldier raising a Syrian national flag atop an electrical wiring pole by the border with Turkey (background) in the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobane, also known as Ain al-Arab, in the north of Aleppo governorate. PHOTO: AFP

Right-wing extremist threat rising in Australia: spy agency

AFP, Sydney

Right-wing terrorists pose a growing threat in Australia, the country's spy agency has warned, describing the extremist networks as "more cohesive and organised" than ever.

The Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation's (ASIO) annual report released Wednesday said extreme right-wing networks are not only better organised now, but "more sophisticated" than in the past.

"The threat from the extreme right wing in Australia has increased in recent years," it said.

"Extreme right-wing groups in

Australia are more cohesive and organised than they have been over previous years, and will remain an enduring threat."

The Christchurch mosque attacks that claimed the lives of 50 people "brought the right-wing extremist threat back into focus", ASIO said.

Suspected white supremacist Brenton Tarrant, an Australian citizen, is accused of carrying out the rampage in neighbouring New Zealand in March.

The spy agency predicted that any future right-wing attack in Australia would likely be "low capability" and carried out by a lone wolf or small

group, though it did not rule out the possibility of a "sophisticated weapons attack".

Australia's strict gun laws have been widely credited with helping to avoid mass shootings such as the Christchurch massacre.

ASIO said the overall terrorist threat in Australia "remains elevated" on the basis of intelligence that "indicates an intention and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia".

The collapse of the Islamic State caliphate has not significantly improved threat conditions, the report said, with Sunni Islamic extremism remaining the "principal source" of

risk.

"The threat from home-grown terrorism, coupled with the anticipated attempts by some terrorist fighters to return to Australia, remains a matter of the gravest security concern," it said.

Australia introduced controversial new counter-terrorism laws in July that ban citizens who fought for the Islamic State from returning home for up to two years.

The government says 230 Australians travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight for the militant group, with 80 men and women still in active conflict zones.

One man holds 2 vital posts in 2 universities

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He also issued certificates to students at Gono Bishwabidyalay this year as the dean of the faculty.

Besides, Md Jashim Uddin, an administrative official of Gono Bishwabidyalay, confirmed that Prof Mostafizer was holding the dean's post when this report was filed.

Sources at HSTU also alleged that Prof Mostafizer mostly stayed out of

his office as he remained busy with his other duties out of the university.

He also takes classes at other private universities regularly, said Prof Dr Harun Ur Rashid, dean of Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science at HSTU.

"It is a violation of HSTU's discipline," he added.

Asked, Prof Mostafizer admitted that he still takes classes at Gono Bishwabidyalay.

"I take classes at Gono Bishwabidyalay on my day offs," he said.

Fazlul Haque, registrar of HSTU, said he was unaware of the incident.

"Nobody can lawfully hold two administrative posts at two universities at the same time," he said.

Prof Mostafizer was appointed as the chairman of chairman of Department of Microbiology at

HSTU on February 22 last year by the administration of Vice-chancellor Prof Dr M Abul Kashem. He was appointed as the director of Department of Planning, Development and Works on March 5 the same year.

VC Kashem, however, told the journalists recently that he asked Prof Mostafizer to close all sort of involvement with Gono Bishwabidyalay.

Pence in Turkey for truce talks

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calling it one of the largest upheavals since Syria's civil war began in 2011.

The monitor said nearly 500 people have been killed including dozens of civilians, the majority on the Kurdish side.

On Wednesday, Kurdish forces struck a desperate deal with Damascus and stepped aside to allow Syrian regime troops and allied Russian soldiers to enter the border town of Kobane, according to the Observatory.

Kobane is a highly symbolic town for Syria's Kurds, whose forces wrested it from the Islamic State (IS) group in an epic 2015 battle backed by the US-led coalition.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad yesterday said his forces would respond to the Turkish assault "using all legitimate means at our disposal".

The Turkish operation, now in its second week, has triggered a flurry of diplomacy among major powers.

Facing a barrage of criticism in

Washington for abandoning the Kurds, Trump has imposed sanctions on three Turkish ministers and raised tariffs on its steel industry.

Pence's office said the US would pursue "punishing economic sanctions" unless there was "an immediate ceasefire".

Erdogan told the Turkish parliament Wednesday that the only way to solve Syria's problems was for the Kurdish forces to "lay down their arms... destroy all their traps and get out of the safe zone that we have designated".

The embattled Kurdish authorities in northeastern Syria accused Turkey of resorting to banned weapons such as napalm and white phosphorus munitions, a charge Ankara has denied.

Ankara says Syria's main Kurdish force, the People's Protection Units (YPG), is a "terrorist" offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a bloody insurgency inside Turkey since 1984.

Moscow has stepped into the void left by the US withdrawal, deploying patrols to prevent clashes between Syrian and Turkish forces. Erdogan will meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin Tuesday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi as both sides seek to prevent a war between Turkey and Syria.

The Turkish government can count on widespread support for its operation at home, where a decades-long bloody insurgency by Kurdish militants has killed tens of thousands of people.

But Western powers fear it will endanger the fight against IS. Thousands of IS prisoners are held in Kurdish-run camps in the region.

Europe has taken an increasingly tough line with Turkey, and several countries including Britain, France and Germany have imposed arms embargoes on Ankara over the operation.

The UN Security Council warned in a unanimously adopted statement

of a risk of "dispersion" of jihadist prisoners, but stopped short of calling for an end to Turkey's offensive.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said Wednesday they were "freezing" operations against IS.

The force's head Mazloum Abdi told Kurdish television channel Ronahi it would make do with "defensive" operations against the group, which maintains sleeper cells and a presence in Syria's vast desert despite its territorial defeat.

Since launching their assault on October 9, Turkey and its Syrian proxies have secured more than 100 kilometres (60 miles) of the border, but Ras al-Ain has held out.

Erdogan wants to create a buffer zone stretching 30 kilometres from the border into Syrian territory.

He wants to destroy Kurdish hopes of an autonomous enclave that Turkey fears could serve as a launchpad for attacks on its soil, and to resettle some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees Ankara is hosting.

Suspects Amit, Tanvir on fresh remand

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He said the accused had already provided the law enforcers with vital information in connection with the murder and the information was being verified.

Amit was the deputy law secretary of Buet BCL. He was expelled from the organisation on October 14

for his involvement in the murder. Tanvir was also an activist of the same unit.

The same court also rejected the bail petition of another accused in the case -- Hossain Mohammad Toha of Buet's mechanical engineering department -- yesterday and sent him to jail on completion of his five-day

remand.

Abrar, a batch-17 student of electrical and electronic engineering department, was beaten with cricket stumps and skipping ropes for hours by BCL leaders at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall between October 6 night and the early hours of October 7, leading to his death.

His father filed a murder case against 19 Buet students, mostly Buet BCL leaders, and several other unnamed accused, with Chawkbazar police station on October 7.

Detectives have arrested 20 people, including 16 FIR-named accused, in connection with the murder.

15,000 kids under 5 die

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he said in a statement. "Our findings provide a platform for nations' health ministers, clinicians, and others to make focused improvements in health systems."

Globally, under-five mortality has declined by almost half since 2000, from nearly 10 million to 5.4 million in 2017.

While comprehensive data for 2018 if not yet in, the total is likely "over

five million," the authors said.

Progress made by some countries over the last 18 years shows that goals of reducing mortality are within reach.

In Rwanda, for example, the highest district-level rate of child death in 2017 was less than half that of the lowest district-level death rate in 2000. Expanding access to health insurance and boosting the number of health workers in poor districts

contributed to that outcome.

Narrowing the inequality gap within Nepal and Peru also led to lower mortality among the youngest citizens in those nations.

"Providing access to medical treatment is just one element," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and former president of Chile Michelle Bachelet said in a comment, also in Nature.

"The factors that contribute to deaths come down to failures to treat broader ills: poverty, disempowerment, discrimination and injustice."

"Tackling child mortality requires efforts across all government functions," she added.

The new study is the first to break mortality statistics down to the sub-regional levels -- 17,554 districts across 99 nations.

Malaysia held talks with Goldman over 1MDB charges: report

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia held talks with Goldman Sachs about dropping charges against three units of the Wall Street bank that prosecutors brought over the multi-billion-dollar 1MDB scandal, a report said yesterday.

Huge sums were stolen from Malaysian state fund 1MDB in a fraud allegedly involving former leader Najib Razak and his cronies, and spent on everything from high-end real estate to a luxury super-yacht.

Goldman's role has been under scrutiny as it helped arrange bond issues worth \$6.5 billion for 1MDB, with Malaysia claiming large amounts were misappropriated in the process.

Last year, Malaysia filed charges against the units of the bank and two ex-employees over the scandal. In August, charges were filed against 17 current and former executives of three Goldman subsidiaries.

The Wall Street Titan says it will fight the charges, and that former members of the Malaysian government and 1MDB lied to the bank.

Malaysian Attorney-General Tommy Thomas told the Nikkei Asian Review that officials held two sets of discussions with the bank about dropping charges and were open to more.

"A lot of cases are even settled even after the trial begins," he said. "So the doors for discussion are still open while the prosecution readies the criminal case."

Two killed

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declared them dead, he added.

Four policemen, including Nihad Adnan Taian, additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar police, were injured during the "gunfight", he said.

Police also claimed to have recovered six firearms, 36 bullets, and 5,000 yaba pills from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the police claims.

Rab takes

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of Detective Branch in Dhaka until Wednesday when the home ministry transferred the investigation to Rab.

"Samrat was brought to the custody of Rab-1 around 4:00pm (yesterday)," said Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, senior assistant director of Rab's legal and media wing.

Samrat was the former president of Dhaka South Jubo League and Amran the former vice president of the unit. Both were expelled from the organisation after their arrest.

On October 6, Rab detained them at a house in Cumilla, near Indian border, and seized two torture devices, a pistol with five bullets, two Kangaroo hides, 1,160 Yaba pills, and 19 bottles of foreign liquor from the place.

In the case statements, Rab said Samrat used to lead a large gang, who would often tortured those refusing to pay extortion money or opposing him, and electric shock devices were used for torturing. He amassed a huge amount of money through illegal casino business, tender grabbing, and extortion, read the statements.

After his arrest, Rab raided several establishments where the Jubo League leader either lived or carried out political and business activities.

On September 24, the government imposed a travel ban on Samrat. He came to the spotlight after Rab busted his illegal casino business at different sporting clubs in Dhaka since September 18.

Meanwhile, at a press briefing on October 13, Samrat's mother Sayera Khatun Chowdhury said her son was implicated in the cases out of personal and political vindictiveness.

Shipbreaking

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141.13 crore loan from the bank through an L/C in 2012 for importing MV Spring, MV Green, and MV Amber Star. Nanda Dulal helped him get the loan without verifying all the documents.

"The industrialist sold out the scrapped ships in the local market through his ship breaking yard after importing but did not pay back the money of the bank against the loan," said Lutfur.

The ACC official further said that after the ACC took notice of the matter, it launched a probe in this regard in 2016 and found that the money loaned was misappropriated.

The one

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Aniston had 9.9 million followers.

Aniston took to her new Instagram page to acknowledge the glitches with a funny video.

"I swear I didn't mean to break it..." she wrote. "Thanks for the kind, glitchy welcome everyone."

Luckily, the issue was resolved quickly and everyone will now be able to keep up with the actress.

"As of now, people should be able to access and follow her profile with no problems," a Facebook company spokesperson said.