

## Meta maps way to 'kill' online deception campaigns

AFP, San Francisco

Meta on Thursday released a framework for exposing and combating malicious online campaigns from election lies to terrorist recruitment.

A paper authored by Meta's Ben Nimmo and Eric Hutchins details how to create a "kill chain" for targeting key links in deception operations aimed at duping people online.

"Human stupidity is one of the great powers in the universe, but this kill chain is trying to identify all the different kinds of operations that can try to target human weakness," Nimmo told AFP.

"The goal is to stop the attackers before ever reaching the target."

The hacker community has long joked that there is no patch for human gullibility, such as computer users being duped into clicking on booby-trapped links or sharing login credentials at bogus websites.

Advances in generative artificial intelligence that can crank out convincing but fake profile photos, voices and written replies give hackers, criminals and con artists more ways to deceive people online.

But there are ways to see through such trickery and cyber-defense teams can be taught what to look for and where, Nimmo said.

"Yes, the threat actors have learned a new trick, but so have the defenders," Nimmo said.

The Online Operations Kill Chain framework made public on Thursday proposes a more unified approach to analyze the gamut of nefarious campaigns including espionage, human trafficking, fraud, and election interference.

"Despite their many differences, online operations still have meaningful commonalities," Nimmo said.



This handout picture provided by the Iranian Army office yesterday shows warships during a joint military drill between Iran, Russia, and China in the Gulf of Oman.

PHOTO: AFP

## UNREST OVER PENSIONS

# Pressure mounts on Macron

French unions plan more strikes; opposition files no-confidence motion

REUTERS, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday faced the gravest challenge to his authority since the so-called Yellow Vest protests after his decision to push through a contested pension overhaul without a vote prompted violent unrest overnight.

Cars were torched in Paris and other French cities in the evening during otherwise peaceful demonstrations involving several thousand people. Trade unions yesterday urged workers to step up and briefly blocked the Paris ring road.

"Something fundamental happened, and that is that, immediately, spontaneous

mobilisations took place throughout the country," hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon said. "It goes without saying that I encourage them, I think that's where it's happening."

The pension overhaul raises France's retirement age by two years to 64, which the government says is essential to ensure the system does not go bust. Unions, and most voters, disagree.

The French are deeply attached to keeping the official retirement age at 62, which is among the lowest in OECD countries.

More than eight out of 10 people are unhappy with the government's decision to skip a vote in parliament, and 65

percent want strikes and protests to continue, a Toluna Harris Interactive poll for RTL radio showed.

French opposition lawmakers yesterday filed a no-confidence motion against Macron's government.

Going ahead without a vote "is a denial of democracy... a total denial of what has been happening in the streets for several weeks," 52-year-old psychologist Nathalie Alquier said in Paris. "It's just unbearable."

A broad alliance of France's main unions said they would continue their mobilisation to try and force a u-turn on the changes. Protests took place in cities including Toulon yesterday, and more were planned for the weekend.

## Japan's PM Kishida pledges aid to boost birthrate

AFP, Tokyo



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida yesterday pledged to boost child allowances and paid parental leave as he warned the country faced its "last chance" to tackle a declining population. Like many countries, Japan has been battling a falling birth rate for years, with just under 800,000 babies born last year. The country is the world's second oldest, after tiny Monaco, and in January Kishida warned Japan was on the verge of whether "we can continue to function" as a society. "Six to seven years from now is the last chance to reverse the declining birth rate trend," he told reporters. "I want to create a society where young people can marry as they wish, and everyone who wants to can have children and raise them without stress," he said. He unveiled proposals including increased allowances for younger children, efforts to boost wages for young people and measures to tackle the cost of higher education. Kishida said the government would now have a goal of 50 percent of new fathers taking parental leave by 2025. In 2021, under 14 percent of fathers took leave. To achieve the increase, he proposed measures including offering allowances to companies encouraging paternity leave, and also pledged more pay when both parents take leave.

## Mamata, Akhilesh agree on new front

NDTV ONLINE

Three key opposition parties in India have agreed to keep both the Congress and the BJP at an arm's length, indicating they will follow a policy of treating the two parties equally. This was decided after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav met Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata yesterday. Mamata, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, will also meet Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha who heads the Biju Janata Dal, next week. The strategy is aimed at countering the BJP's attempt to portray Congress MP Rahul Gandhi as a key leader of a grouping of opposition parties. The BJP has been trying to get Gandhi to apologise after he alleged opposition leaders' microphones are muted in India's parliament during a speech in London recently. Other opposition parties now suspect the BJP has been targeting them using Gandhi.

## ICC issues arrest

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committing the acts and for "failure to exercise control properly over civilian and military subordinate who committed the acts, or allowed for their commission."

The arrest warrants are being kept secret to protect victims and witnesses, it said.

Moscow has repeatedly denied accusations of atrocities during its one-year-old invasion of its neighbour.

"The decisions of the International Criminal Court have no meaning for our country, including from a legal point of view," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on her Telegram channel. "Russia is not a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and bears no obligations under it."

Ukraine's Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin hailed the decision, reports Reuters.

"The world received a signal that the Russian regime is criminal and its leadership and henchmen will be held accountable," Kostin said in a statement on social media. "This is a

historic decision for Ukraine and the entire system of international law."

The ICC is a court of last resort for crimes that countries cannot or will not prosecute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan launched an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine just days after Russia's invasion, reports AFP.

Khan said earlier this month after a visit to Ukraine that the alleged abductions of children "are being investigated by my office as a priority."

"Children cannot be treated as the spoils of war," he said in a statement on March 7.

Posting a picture of himself alongside empty cots, Khan said he had visited a care home for children in southern Ukraine that was "empty, a result of alleged deportation of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation" or other occupied areas.

Khan also confirmed that the ICC was investigating

attacks on "critical civilian infrastructure" in Ukraine and that he had visited the sites of several such strikes.

Along with Ukraine's prosecutor general "we underlined our collective commitment to ensure that such acts are fully investigated and those responsible for alleged international crimes held to account," he added.

Russia does not recognise the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and considers its decisions null and void, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday, reports Russian news agency Tass.

"We consider the very formulation of the issue outrageous and unacceptable. Russia, as well as several other states, do not recognize the jurisdiction of this court and, accordingly, any decisions of this kind are null and void for Russia in terms of law," the Kremlin spokesman said.

"That is, in fact, the only thing I would and could tell you about this decision," he added.

## Moscow

FROM PAGE 12

International Investments BV in gas exploration in Bangladesh.

The statement said the opportunities of purchasing Russian LNG, oil and oil products, cooperation in the coal industry, joint development of green energy sources particularly nuclear and solar energy were discussed.

They also underscored promising areas for exchange of technologies, establishing joint ventures, and cooperation in railway, metallurgy, and engineering sectors.

The mutual interest in strengthening relations in the ICT field and cybersecurity was expressed. The delegations also agreed to further increase mutual supplies of agricultural products and expand their range by approving the necessary veterinary and phytosanitary documentation.

Thetwosideshighlighted the intensification of ties between the academic circles and quota increase for Bangladeshi students in Russia. The focus was also on initiatives for the development of human resources and conducting geological and oceanographic research in Bangladesh.

The participants also discussed customs cooperation, standardisation and certification, civil aviation, communications, ICT, and mutual recognition of educational qualifications and academic degrees.

## 50 hurt

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of rubber bullets to bring the situation under control, causing panic among locals.

Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Bauphal police station, said additional police personnel were deployed to ward off further untoward incident.

Md Al Amin, upazila nirbahi officer, said both groups promised to hold their events in a peaceful manner but no one kept their word despite his request.

## Days ahead to be turbulent

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On Monday, BJAIF will stage a demonstration, bring out a procession and hold a meeting on the SC premises.

BNP Law Secretary and BJAIF's Secretary General Kayser Kamal told The Daily Star that their movement will continue until a fair election is held for the SCBA.

He said, "The government is destabilising all the institutions of the country by finishing off democracy. There has been no democracy and no free and fair election at any level for the last few years. However, elections were held duly at all bar associations. Therefore, we have seen and observed that lawyers were able to cast their votes freely."

"Since supporters of this unelected government are not being elected, they have snatched away the election process and created a system where an election is no longer necessary. State mechanism, particularly, the police force is executing the decisions of

pro-Awami League lawyers in the Supreme Court Bar Association election."

Lawyer Md Abdun Nur Dulal, a leader of pro-AL lawyers and incumbent and newly elected SCBA secretary, told this correspondent that they took preparation for holding a free, fair and credible election for the SCBA. But the pro-BNP lawyers intentionally and conspiringly did not participate in the election in order to make this election questionable and they have become successful in implementing their agenda, he said.

"They [pro-BNP lawyers] did not want to win in the SCBA election with malafide intentions. We will not sit idle if they try to make the court premises unstable..." he said.

Contacted, senior lawyer of the SC Manzill Murshid said the SCBA is involved in politics and therefore, the impact of this bar's election will continue until the next parliamentary elections and even after the national

elections.

Khurshid Alam Khan, another senior lawyer, said movements and counter-movements have been taking place for a long time on the SC premises centring the SCBA elections.

"Though pro-BNP lawyers did not boycott the SCBA election, they tried to resist the election. They did not succeed. Therefore, the SCBA election cannot be termed illegal. I cannot see any immediate solution to this crisis with the SCBA election and its impact may continue till the next parliamentary election," he added.

## Movement

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chairmen elected since 1991 when the BNP was voted to power and Chairperson Khaleeda Zia was elected prime minister for the first time.

Sources said that the BNP's top leadership has sent a message to the grassroots that the government must be unseated for a free and fair election or else the party will be in serious trouble.

## Cosmic

FROM PAGE 12

"StarCrete doesn't need any of this and so it simplifies the mission and makes it cheaper and more feasible. And anyway, astronauts probably don't want to be living in houses made from scabs and urine."

The scientists calculated that a 25kg sack of crisps would contain enough starch to produce around half a tonne of StarCrete, which is roughly 213 bricks.

The salt needed to strengthen the material could also be obtained from the tears of astronauts, or from compounds found on the Martian surface.

The team has set up a startup called DeakinBio in order to continue improving and testing StarCrete, which they claim has the potential to be used for buildings on Earth as a more environmentally sustainable alternative to common concrete.

The research was detailed in a study, titled 'StarCrete: a starch-based biocomposite for off-world construction', published in the journal Open Engineering.

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Memo No. 46.02.2614.000.014.2023-350  
Date: 16/03/2023

**Corrigendum Notice No. 01/2022-2023**

This is to notify to all concern that e-Tender Notice No. 02/2022-2023 vide Memo No. 46.02.2614.000.014.2022-288 Dated: 02/03/2023 has been amended as follows due to unavoidable circumstances.

Description	As per Tender Notice	As per Amendment Notice
Number of Tender ID & Package No.	16 (Sixteen) Nos.	15 (Fifteen) Nos. (Except Tender ID No. 796843 Package No. e-Tender/Dham/UDF/2022-23/Kusura UP) SI No. 08

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. This amended notice will be treated as the part of the tender documents.

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GD-501

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Memo No. 35.01.5100.441.05.007.2022-404  
Date: 16/03/2023

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal in Bangladesh (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time
01	803977	eGP-39/OTMLRD/PMP-Minor/2022-2023	02-Apr-2023 16:00	03-Apr-2023 12:30
02	803985	eGP-40/OTMLRD/PMP-Minor/2022-2023	02-Apr-2023 16:00	03-Apr-2023 12:30
03	803984	eGP-41/OTMLRD/PMP-Minor/2022-2023	02-Apr-2023 16:00	03-Apr-2023 12:30
04	803978	eGP-42/OTMLRD/PMP-Minor/2022-2023	02-Apr-2023 16:00	03-Apr-2023 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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