

MILITARY MESSAGE

Trump urges jail time for Democrats

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said late Saturday that six Democrats involved in a video calling on military officers to refuse illegal commands "should be in jail."

The Republican leader's remarks came after he accused the Democrat lawmakers on Friday of "seditious behaviour, punishable by death."

Democrats slammed Trump's comments as "absolutely vile" threats against the six senators and representatives, all of whom have served in the military or intelligence community. Trump took to social media on Saturday night, writing: "the traitors that told the military to disobey my orders should be in jail right now, not roaming the fake news networks trying to explain that what they said was ok."

Iran warns of attempts to target Khamenei

AFP, Tehran

Iran's intelligence ministry has warned of attempts by foreign adversaries, including the United States and Israel, to target Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and destabilise the Islamic republic.

The country's ISNA news agency reported on Saturday that intelligence minister Esmail Khatib cautioned "the enemy seeks to target the Supreme Leader, sometimes with assassination attempts, sometimes with hostile attacks".

While it was not immediately clear if the minister was referring to a specific incident, and Iranian officials often allege foreign plots, statements on threats against Khamenei's life had been rare prior to a 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June.

"Those who act in this direction, knowingly or unknowingly, are the infiltrating agents of the enemy," Khatib added, referring directly to Israel and the United States.

During the conflict earlier this year, Israel targeted senior Iranian military officials, nuclear scientists and sites as well as residential areas, with the US later joining with strikes on key nuclear facilities.



People hold placards during a protest against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in solidarity with the people of Kashmir, on the second day of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ukraine's drones hit Russian power station

Fire sparks, heating cut off in Moscow region; US signals room for talks on peace plan

AGENCIES

Ukraine struck a heat and power station in the Moscow region yesterday with drones, triggering a major fire and cutting off heating for thousands in one of Kyiv's biggest attacks to date on a power station deep inside Russia.

In the fourth year of the deadliest European conflict since World War Two, Russia has been pummeling Ukraine's electricity and heat infrastructure while Kyiv has up until now mostly focused on trying to knock out Russia's oil refineries, crude terminals and pipelines.

But early yesterday, Ukrainian

- **Russia's Vnukovo airport halted flights**
- **Backup power, heating units being deployed**
- **Rubio lands in Geneva; Trump says Ukraine ungrateful**

drones struck the Shatura Power Station, about 120 km (75 miles) east of the Kremlin, Moscow region governor Andrei Vorobyov said.

Unverified video footage on Telegram showed loud bangs, several balls of flames and black smoke rising into the night sky



while an unidentified observer cursed in Russian, reports Reuters. Russia's defence ministry said it had downed 75 Ukrainian drones, including 36 over the Black Sea and several over the Moscow region. Russia's Vnukovo airport halted flights yesterday.

"Some of the drones were destroyed by air-defence forces. Several fell on the territory of the station. A fire broke out at the facility," Vorobyov said.

Vorobyov said that backup power had been switched on and that mobile heating systems were being deployed to the area where the temperature was around freezing point.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Geneva yesterday morning for

discussions on a US plan to end the Ukraine war, after Washington signalled room for negotiation on the controversial proposal, reports AFP.

Ukrainian, European and Canadian officials were also gathering in the Swiss city, although the format for the talks remained unclear.

Trump has given Ukraine until November 27 to approve the plan to end the nearly four-year conflict, but Kyiv is seeking changes to a draft that accepts some of Russia's headline demands.

Trump said yesterday that Ukraine has not been grateful for American efforts related to the war with Russia even as US weapons continue to flow and Europe keeps buying Russian oil.

POST-UPRISING Over 8 lakh new voters register for Nepal polls

AFP, Kathmandu

Hundreds of thousands of new voters have registered to cast their ballot in Nepal's first polls since a mass uprising in September ousted the government, election officials said yesterday.

Election Commission spokesman Narayan Prasad Bhattarai told AFP there was "a total of 837,094 registered names" of first-time voters.

Bhattarai said that by Friday, 123 established parties had registered to take part in the March 5 parliamentary polls, while another 40 new slates await further verification to be allowed to run.

Interest in participating in the elections has surged, especially among young people who see it as a critical test of whether the demands of protesters who took to the streets against economic hardships and government corruption can translate into meaningful change.

Dikshya Poudel, a student, said the uprising had encouraged her to register her name last week.

"I am excited to cast my vote for the first time in the upcoming election. I will be voting for a new changemaker," she said.

What did nations agree to at COP30?

AFP, Belem

The COP30 climate summit has drawn to a close after two weeks in the Amazonian city of Belem where protests, street marches and even a fire caused unexpected moments of drama.

But beneath enormous tents erected over a former airport at the edge of the rainforest, nations also adopted some decisions on how to battle climate change.

Here are the main negotiated outcomes, and the voluntary commitments, made during the summit attended by nearly 200 nations:

FOSSIL FUELS

The thorniest issues were bundled into a "mutirao" pact -- the summit's slogan, drawn from the Tupi-Guarani word for "collective effort."

The agreement included an initiative for countries to collaborate on a voluntary basis to reduce carbon emissions and strive to limit global warming to 1.5C relative to pre-industrial levels.

It also noted a commitment made by all nations at COP28 in Dubai to "transition away from fossil fuels" -- but this exact phrase, which has become politically sensitive, was not included.

FINANCE

The world's poorest nations have long complained they lack the finance for "adaptation" -- measures to protect their economies from rising seas, such as building sea walls, and other impacts of climate change.

In a win for developing countries at COP30, the final agreement "calls for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by

2035."

In 2024, rich countries agreed to provide \$300 billion a year by 2035 in climate finance to developing nations, with no specific amount earmarked for adaptation.

Most of that goes to projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as renewable energy, and not to adaptation -- something developing nations have long complained puts them at a disadvantage.

TRADE

For the first time, trade has been included as a pillar of the final text, with a three-year dialogue to take place under the climate framework.

This reflected concerns from countries including China that trade measures -- like taxes on carbon-intensive goods -- could erode export revenues or throw up barriers to green technology sales.

FORESTS

At COP30, Brazil launched a new global investment vehicle that proposes paying out a share of profits to forest-rich countries for every hectare of trees they leave standing.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced during a leaders' summit in Belem last week -- even before COP30 officially started -- the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility.

The TFFF attracted \$5.5 billion in pledges from Norway, Germany, Indonesia, France and Brazil -- the biggest contributors.

Ultimately, Brazil is seeking to raise \$125 billion in public and private investment, but said the fund could start working even without the full \$25 billion in startup capital from governments.

METHANE PLEDGES

Slashing methane emissions -- the second-largest contributor to climate change after carbon dioxide -- is considered one of the fastest ways to curb global warming.

Although it remains in the atmosphere for about 12 years, the "super pollutant" is roughly 80 times more potent than CO2 over a 20-year period.

At COP30, seven countries -- Britain, France, Canada, Germany, Norway, Japan and Kazakhstan -- signed a statement vowing to achieve "near zero" methane emissions across the fossil fuel sector.

'We want to show law is equal for all'

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under heavy security involving BGB, Rab, and police personnel. They were later placed in the ICT lockup.

The officers are among 28 accused in the two cases. The other accused include deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

They were charged over enforced disappearances, secret detention, and torture under the Awami League government between 2016 and 2024.

On October 22, 15 current and former accused officers were produced before the tribunal for the first time. That day, the tribunal ordered to publish notices in two national dailies, ordering fugitive accused to appear within seven days.

As the fugitives did not appear, the tribunal yesterday fixed December 3 for charge-framing hearing against 17 accused, 10 of whom were among the officers produced, over the alleged illegal confinement and torture of 14 people in the Rab-run Task Force for Interrogation (TFI) Cell.

In the other case involving alleged torture of 24 detainees in the DGF-run Joint Interrogation Cell, the tribunal set December 7 for charge-framing hearing against 13 accused. Despite three officers linked to the JIC case were taken to the tribunal, they were not produced in the dock.

The names of Hasina and her defence adviser Maj Gen (ret'd)

Tarique Ahmed Siddique appear in both cases.

The tribunal will also hear the defence pleas for virtual appearance on the same dates.

PANNA TO 'DEFEND HASINA'

During the hearing, Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna expressed his willingness to serve as state defence counsel for Hasina.



"If you want to be appointed, we will appoint you," the tribunal chairman responded, adding that a previous attempt by Panna had not materialised because another lawyer had already been appointed and the proceedings had begun.

The tribunal also appointed M Hassan Imam as a state defence counsel for Kamal. At a press briefing,

Tajul confirmed the developments.

Regarding criticism of the trial time of a case involving Hasina, the tribunal chairman said, "Some say the proceedings are hurried; others say they are delayed. But as the saying goes, 'justice hurried is justice buried, while justice delayed is justice denied'. This court has taken the time that was required."

Meanwhile, the tribunal also ordered authorities to immediately remove defamatory comments and digitally manipulated images of its judges circulating in the media and on social platforms.

Initiating a suo moto contempt proceeding, the tribunal yesterday observed that fabricated pictures and distorted statements about its judges were spreading widely, undermining the dignity of the court.

Citizens and the media, it said, enjoy the right to speak and criticise, but only within the bounds of the law and constitution.

The tribunal directed the information secretary and the BTRC chairman to ensure the removal of all derogatory content and instructed them to submit a compliance report by December 3.

On November 17, the tribunal sentenced Hasina and ex-home minister Kamal to death in a case, while former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun was handed a five-year prison sentence.

NCP won't make

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adding that any political understanding would be openly discussed with citizens.

He alleged that a "media trial" was underway, fuelled by baseless speculation about the party's communications and motives, and urged journalists not to publish misleading analyses.

Expressing concern over the absence of a level playing field, Nahid said the environment needed for a fair election was still missing.

He warned that without firm action from the Election Commission and the government, the country risks returning to a "fascist-era" situation where voters cannot exercise their rights.

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary said the party had faced

harassment from the Election Commission and administrative offices since the start of the electoral process, including during registration and the symbol allocation stage.

He said although they accepted the "shapla koli" (waterlily bud) symbol for the sake of national interest, the EC had yet to release its design, affecting campaign activities.

The NCP has launched a two-day screening process to shortlist 300 candidates from 1,484 aspirants, with interviews running from 9:00am to 9:00pm until November 24.

The party's divisional units are conducting separate interviews with nomination seekers, and the convener said the timeframe will be extended if needed.

Aspirants are being assessed on qualifications, political vision,

organisational strength and public engagement. "A total of 1,484 forms has been collected -- 761 offline and 723 online. This averages about five candidates per constituency," said a party official.

A member of the party's election monitoring committee, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that the final nomination list will be published before November 30.

However, nomination alone will not be enough to contest the polls, as the screening criteria also include a minimum monthly income of Tk 50,000, a clean criminal record and no affiliation with the Awami League or its associated organisations.

The party also plans to nominate at least 15 to 20 women, with the number likely to be higher if more meet the requirements.

Officials debate abolishing NTMC

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agencies argued for keeping the NTMC or an equivalent body, the sources said.

One agency head questioned how they could obtain a court order at "2:00am in a national-security emergency".

Another argued that drug and smuggling interceptions often depend on immediate

intelligence, which would be impossible without an institution like the NTMC.

Sources said more than 15 officers from different forces attended the meeting, and nearly all supported retaining the NTMC in some form. Taiyeb, however, held firm.

The home adviser also leaned toward keeping the NTMC, while

the planning adviser urged further review, the sources said.

An official from the posts and telecom ministry said the draft ordinance will be sent to the Advisory Council for approval after another informal meeting today.

The meeting is also likely to consider whether the NTMC could be transformed into a research focused body under a new name.