

Uneasy ceasefire takes hold in Syria

Erdogan vows to crush Kurdish leadership if forces don't pull out; Kurds say Turkey is sabotaging deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RAS AL-AIN

Turkish and Kurdish leaders accused each other of violating a U.S.-brokered truce in northeastern Syria even as it appeared to be taking hold on its second day on Saturday.

The deal announced late on Thursday is intended to halt a Turkish-led offensive against Kurdish forces launched on October 9, on condition they pull out of a “safe zone” on the Syrian side of the border.

The offensive has killed dozens of civilians, mainly on the Kurdish side, and prompted hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in the latest humanitarian crisis of Syria's eight-year civil war. On Saturday, Turkey accused Kurdish forces of violating the truce. “The Turkish armed forces fully abide by the agreement” reached on Thursday with the U.S.,



Outpouring of grief: Mourners at the funeral of people killed in the Turkish offensive in Tal Tamr on Saturday. ■ AFP

the Defence Ministry said in a statement. “Despite this, terrorists... carried out a total of 14 attacks in the last 36 hours,” it said, using its usual term for Kurdish fighters.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday warned that Turkey would “crush the heads” of Kurdish forces if they did not with-

draw from a proposed safe zone along the border under the cease fire deal.

If the pullout does not happen by Tuesday evening, “we will start where we left off and continue to crush the terrorists’ heads,” Mr. Erdogan said in a televised speech in central Anatolian city of Kayseri.

Kurds, meanwhile, accused Turkey of trying to sabotage deal.

The commander of Kurdish forces in Syria said Turkey was trying to block the withdrawal of his forces from a flashpoint border town in northeastern Syria

U.S. presence

In a wide-ranging interview with AFP, Mazloum Abdi, head of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), said he still wished to see a role for the U.S. in Syria to counterbalance Russian influence, while recommitting his forces to countering the Islamic State group.

“The Turks are preventing the withdrawal from the Ras al-Ain area, preventing the exit of our forces, the wounded and civilians,” Mr. Abdi said in a phone interview from Syria.

Heavy weapons fell silent in Ras al-Ain after sporadic

clashes on Friday evening, an AFP correspondent reported.

Turkish troops and its Syrian rebel proxies seized part of the town on Thursday, hitting a hospital.

Turkey wants to push Kurdish fighters away from its southern border by establishing a 30 km deep “safe zone” on the Syrian side of the frontier.

A Britain-based war monitor said the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had yet to start pulling back on Saturday.

“The SDF have not withdrawn until now from any point,” the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

SDF commander Redur Khalil said deadly bombardments by Turkey's forces on Friday were a major breach of the truce and called on Washington to ensure Ankara honoured its side of the deal.

Trump outstrips Obama on executive orders

He has criticised use of EOs earlier

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

It wasn't too long ago that Donald Trump derided presidential executive orders (EOs) as “power grabs” and a “basic disaster.”

Back in 2012, Mr. Trump had tweeted, “Why Is BarackObama constantly issuing executive orders that are major power grabs of authority?”

That criticism continued once he entered the presidential race. At a South Carolina campaign stop in February 2016, he said, “Right now, Obama goes around signing executive orders. He can't even get along with the

Democrats, and he goes around signing all these executive orders. It's a basic disaster. You can't do it.”

But Mr. Trump appears to have learned what his predecessors discovered as well: It's easier and often more satisfying to get things done through administrative action than to get Congress to go along, said Andrew Rudalevige, a professor at Bowdoin College who studies the history and effectiveness of presidential executive actions.

Mr. Trump has so far issued 130 executive orders. Mr. Obama issued 108 in his first three years.

200 injured as protesters clash with police in Catalonia

Separatists hurled rocks at police who responded with teargas

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BARCELONA

Nearly 200 people were hurt in another night of violent clashes in Catalonia, authorities said on Saturday, after radical separatists hurled rocks and fireworks at police who responded with teargas and rubber bullets.

In Barcelona, which resembled a chaotic battleground on Friday, 152 people were injured, with dozens more hurt in the rest of Catalonia, taking the total to 182.

It was the fifth consecutive day of protests in the Ca-



Call for freedom: Protesters marching along a highway in Sant Vicenc dels Horts on Friday. ■ AFP

tal capital and elsewhere over a Spanish court's jailing of nine separatist leaders on sedition charges over a

failed independence bid two years ago. Around half a million people had rallied in Barcelona on Friday.

Tulsi Gabbard hits back at Hillary

Clinton suggested that Russia was 'grooming' the Democratic candidate

MAGGIE ASTOR
WASHINGTON

Hillary Clinton waded into the Democratic primary Friday by suggesting that Russia was “grooming” Representative Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii as a third-party candidate for president.

In response, Ms. Gabbard lashed out late in the afternoon with an extraordinary series of tweets in which she called Ms. Clinton “the queen of warmongers, embodiment of corruption, and personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long.”

On Twitter, Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Ms. Clinton, mocked Ms. Gabbard by referencing President Bashar



Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard speaking at a campaign event in New Hampshire. ■ NYT

Assad of Syria, whom Ms. Gabbard has defended.

Ms. Gabbard is averaging less than 1% in the polls but qualified for this week's Democratic debate, where she promoted her noninterven-

British MPs refuse to back Brexit deal. What next?

The vote to delay exit doesn't mean that PM's deal is dead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

British MPs have again ruptured the Brexit process by withholding their support for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new divorce deal with the EU.

The House of Commons voted for an amendment making approval for the text conditional on Parliament passing legislation to ratify the treaty before Britain leaves the EU. The failure to clearly back the deal triggered a law forcing Mr. Johnson to ask EU leaders to delay Brexit for a third time.

MPs passed the amendment claiming they fear the risk of a potentially disastrous “no deal” exit by accident on October 31. But the vote does not kill the deal, and holds out the possibility Britain could still leave the EU in an orderly fashion on October 31.

Delay request?

Legislation passed last month states that unless MPs have backed a Brexit deal by the end of October 19, Mr. Johnson must write to the EU asking for Brexit to be postponed for three months to January 2020. If the EU offers a different date, Mr. Johnson must accept it unless he can persuade the House of Commons to vote against the plan.

But the Prime Minister reiterated his stance on Saturday that he would not seek a third delay, insisting the law does not compel him to do so.

That raises the possibility he might refuse to send the letter to EU leaders – setting up a potential clash in the courts.

However, Brexit Minister Steve Barclay has insisted the government will obey



In limbo: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaking during a debate on Brexit in Parliament on Saturday. ■ REUTERS

the law, leading analysts to argue Mr. Johnson will likely capitulate and reluctantly ask for the postponement.

Deal passes?

Even if Mr. Johnson has asked the EU for a deal, and it agrees, he could still get Britain out on October 31 by swiftly ratifying his deal.

The government is expected to put forward the legislation required to do this on Monday, with the first vote likely on Tuesday.

Several of those who backed Saturday's amendment say they would support Mr. Johnson's Bill, once the threat of a “no deal” is removed.

Eurosceptic members of his Conservative party have also pledged to back the legislation.

However, there is a risk of anti-Brexit MPs hijacking the Bill, for example to make approval subject to a new EU referendum. Timing could also be an issue. Legislation of this type would normally take months but the MPs of both Houses would have less than two weeks.

'No-deal' Brexit?

The default legal position is that Britain leaves the EU on October 31 unless it asks to delay, and the other 27 member states agree.

Business and markets across Europe fear the shock of a sudden Brexit that even the government's own assessment says would cause economic damage.

After signing off on the Brexit deal this week at a summit in Brussels, EU leaders warned they did not want to see Brexit delayed again.

But confronted with a formal request – and the threat of a possible no-deal departure – they would be expected to agree.

Another election?

Mr. Johnson has already tried twice to get an early general election, to allow him to win back a majority in Parliament.

But he needs the support of the main opposition Labour party to call one.

Labour says it will back an election when the threat of a “no-deal” Brexit is off the table.

A second referendum?

Labour says any deal should be subject to a new referendum, and has promised to call one if it takes office.

Some MPs may try to force the issue during the passage of the Brexit deal legislation, although it is far from clear that they have the numbers to succeed.

FB to deliver News Corp stories

Its upcoming news tab will highlight headlines from WSJ

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook on Friday confirmed that some stories from News Corp, publisher of *The Wall Street Journal*, will be among the headlines delivered in a news tab the leading social network plans to launch in coming weeks.

Edited by seasoned journalists, the tab will be separate from the feed that displays updates from people's friends, according to the California-based tech giant.

The new feature marks a departure from Facebook's longstanding practice of letting algorithms dictate users' experiences.

“I'm excited we'll have the opportunity to include



Mark Zuckerberg

award-winning journalism from *The Wall Street Journal* – and other U.S. News Corp properties – in our news tab,” the firm's co-founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a statement.

No details were provided about the agreement, but

last month Facebook said it plans to pay only a portion of the publishers whose stories appear in the tab.

Facebook and Google currently dominate the market for online advertising, making it harder for traditional news organizations to gain traction in digital.

Mr. Zuckerberg and his social network have also come under intense pressure in recent years over the spread of so-called “fake news” and data privacy issues.

The *WSJ* has reported that Facebook plans to pay about a quarter of the estimated 200 news organisations whose articles will be featured.

MAGGIE ASTOR
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SUDOKU

					5			
3	5			7				
2	4	7			6	5		
		2					1	4
9								2
7	8				6			
		5	3		4	2	6	
			1			3	8	
		7						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	4	3	5	9	7	6	8
5	9	7	6	8	2	1	4	3
3	6	8	7	1	4	2	5	9
6	7	5	4	9	1	3	8	2
9	1	2	8	3	6	4	7	5
4	8	3	2	7	5	6	9	1
7	3	6	5	2	8	9	1	4
8	4	9	1	6	3	5	2	7
2	5	1	9	4	7	8	3	6

With escape of El Chapo's son, Mexico suffers a blow

Ovidio escaped detention, extradition to the U.S. after cartel members outpowered soldiers and forced them to let him go

AZAM AHMED
MEXICO CITY

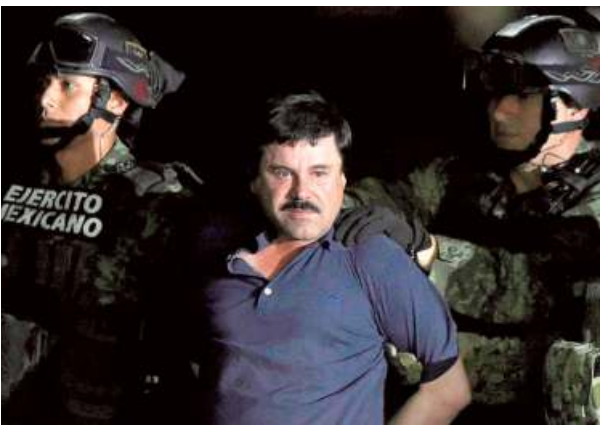
Escape, it seems, is a trait shared in the Guzmán family. So is embarrassing the government of Mexico.

Joaquin Guzmán Loera, the drug lord known as El Chapo, eluded the grasp of the government numerous times – in tunnels, behind closets, beneath bathtubs and through steep ravines in the remote mountains of Sinaloa. He even managed to escape prison, twice.

Loss of face for govt.

The latest family member to escape apprehension – El Chapo's son, Ovidio Guzmán Lopez – managed his own feat of government humiliation this week, when cartel henchmen forced a patrol of at least 30 members of government forces to release him after he had been captured.

The stunning surrender – with Mexican forces badly outmatched, taken hostage



The great escape: A file photo of Mexican drug kingpin Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman after his recapture in Sinaloa. ■ AFP

by outlaws and forced to let loose a prominent suspect in their custody – began with a siege on the city of Culiacán on Thursday by members of the Sinaloa Cartel, once headed by El Chapo.

Reports swirled that after the capture of the younger Guzmán, his cartel mounted a fierce assault to win his freedom and prevent his extradition to the U.S. But the

government remained silent, asking citizens to stay indoors and avoid being in the street throughout most of the day.

Later, it clarified, at least partially, saying a patrol had stumbled on Guzmán, but had suspended the operation when it became outnumbered and outgunned by enemy fighters. The next morning the truth came out,

pried loose by local media. The patrol was actually a planned operation to capture Guzmán and extradite him to the U.S., the government acknowledged on Friday.

Lack of plan, exit strategy

The armed forces managed to detain him, but they were forced to let him go after eight of their members were taken by force and held hostage, the government said. Surrounded by enemies, with no clear plan for backup on ground or in the air, and no clear exit strategy, the soldiers relented and gave Guzmán back.

“Decisions were made that I support, that I endorse because the situation turned very bad and lots of citizens were at risk, lots of people and it was decided to protect the life of the people,” President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said in a news conference on Friday. “You cannot value the life of a delin-

quent more than the lives of the people.”

According to a former U.S. official and another person briefed on the matter, the force behind the cartel's rapid and effective response was yet another Guzmán – El Chapo's older son, Ivan, who has taken a prominent role in the cartel since his father was caught, extradited to the U.S. and sentenced to life in prison in July on drug, murder and money laundering charges.

They said that Ivan was initially captured by the military as well, but that his henchmen quickly overpowered the armed forces and secured his release. Once free, the elder brother then orchestrated a staggering show of force to secure the freedom of his brother, Ovidio.

The effort not only included holding soldiers hostage, but also kidnapping their families, according to two people briefed on the matter.

Government press officers did not respond to requests for comment.

The cartel's victory offered a frightening glimpse into the power wielded by organised crime in Mexico, distilling in a single, eight-hour stretch the extent to which the nation is held captive by criminal networks – without a plan to combat the scourge of violence that has brought the country to its deadliest point in decades.

Some wondered whether the public overpowering of the military will become a similar turning point for López Obrador. For many, the events of Thursday unfolded as if scripted by an overzealous screenwriter pushing the bounds of believability.

“No one could imagine such a bad Netflix show,” said Alejandro Hope, a security analyst in Mexico City. “This combination of actual capturing the guy and then releasing him? That's new.” ■ NY TIMES

ELSEWHERE



Hezbollah says it does not want govt. to resign

BEIRUT
Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanon's influential Hezbollah leader, said on Saturday that he doesn't support the government's resignation amid nationwide protests. He said politicians can't shirk responsibility by quitting from Cabinet. ■ AP

15 dead in Russian dam collapse

MOSCOW
Russian emergency officials said at least 15 people are dead after a dam at a Siberian gold mine collapsed and water flooded two workers' dormitories. ■ AP