

TOPOF THE WORLD



Recep Erdogan

TURKEY
Erdogan sues magazine over 'Eradicator' cover

Istanbul: Recep Tayyip Erdogan has launched legal proceedings against a French magazine, which branded him "The Eradicator" after he sent troops to Syria to push back Kurdish forces, media reported Friday. The complaint was filed against Le Point director Etienne Gernelle and the head of the magazine's international service Romain Gubert, the official Anadolu news agency reported. On this week's cover, Le Point published a picture of Erdogan giving a military salute with the subtitle "Ethnic cleansing: the Erdogan method".

ETHIOPIA
16 killed in violent protests against Abiy

Addis Ababa: At least 16 people were killed in Ethiopia this week in violence which began with protests against Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Abiy Ahmed, an Amnesty International researcher said Friday. "Up to now, we have confirmed 16 people dead, but the number must be more than that, because new reports are emerging, which we have not confirmed," Fisseha Tekle told AFP. He added that there had been instances of security forces opening fire on protesters, but was increasingly taking the form of ethnic and religious clashes.

RUSSIA
8 dead after soldier attacks army base

Moscow: A Russian soldier on Friday opened fire on fellow troops at a Siberian military base, killing eight and wounding two, officials said, blaming the attack on a possible "nervous breakdown". The incident took place at a military base in the Chita region in eastern Siberia. "The actions of the serviceman could be the result of a nervous breakdown caused by personal circumstances not connected to his military duty," the ministry said.

PLAN BEING IMPLEMENTED SMOOTHLY, SAYS MOSCOW

More Russian military police arrive in Syria under peace deal with Turkey

ANDREY KUZMIN & TUVAN GUMRUKCU
MOSCOW/ANKARA, OCT 25

AROUND 300 more Russian military police have arrived in Syria, the Russian defence ministry said on Friday, under an accord between Ankara and Moscow which halted Turkey's military incursion into northeast Syria.

The deal, reached on Tuesday by Presidents Tayyip Erdogan and Vladimir Putin, requires that Russian military police and Syrian border guards remove all Kurdish YPG militia from within 30 km (19 miles) of the Turkish border by next Tuesday.

The military police, from the southern Russian region of Chechnya, will patrol and help with the withdrawal of Kurdish forces and their weapons to 30 km of the Syrian-Turkish border, Interfax news agency reported the ministry as saying.

Ankara regards the YPG as a terrorist group aligned with Kurdish militants who have waged an insurgency in south-east Turkey since 1984.

Turkey launched its offensive against the YPG on October 9 after President Donald Trump ordered U.S. forces out of northeast Syria. It halted its assault under a U.S.-brokered ceasefire that called for a YPG withdrawal from the border area. The Putin-



Turkey-backed Syrian rebel fighters gather near the border town of Tal Abyad. Reuters

Erdogan deal built on and widened that agreement.

Russia said Thursday the peace plan was being implemented smoothly and RIA news agency quoted an SDF official as saying Kurdish fighters had withdrawn from the border area.

However, the YPG-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) accused Turkey of launching a large land offensive on Thursday targeting three villages in northeast Syria despite the truce, forcing thousands more civilians to flee.

Turkey's Defence Ministry has not commented directly on

the SDF report but said five of its military personnel had been wounded in an attack by the YPG militia around the border town of Ras al Ain, near where the three villages are located.

Ceasefire holding 'by and large'

The UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, told Reuters the ceasefire seemed to be holding "by and large" as major powers gather in Geneva ahead of the first meeting of Syria's Constitutional Committee next week.

James Jeffrey, US special rep-

resentative for Syria, is among the envoys who began closed-door talks in the Swiss city, diplomats said.

The so-called "Small Group" also includes Britain, Egypt, France, Germany, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

A diplomat told Reuters Germany's proposal for a security zone in northeast Syria would be among issues discussed. Turkey's Defence Minister Hulusi Akar discussed the Syria situation with his US counterpart Mark Esper at a NATO meeting in Brussels on Friday. **REUTERS**

TRUMP TURNS FOCUS TO SYRIA'S OIL FIELDS

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump spurred a fresh wave of criticism Thursday with a tweet noting he had spoken with Syrian Kurdish military chief Mazloum Abdi and observing that perhaps "it is time for Kurds to start heading to the Oil Region".

IT WAS seen as a reference to oil fields in Deir el-Zour province, an area that the US sees as critical to holding off an Islamic State resurgence

THE PENTAGON released a statement Thursday saying it is committed to sending additional forces to eastern Syria to "reinforce" the oil fields

NO DETAILS were provided on how many or what kind of forces would be sent, or whether those details have been decided. **AP**



Donald Trump

EXPLAINED
E.
Concerns of power abuse

THE US Justice Department had previously considered its review of the Russia probe to be an administrative issue. The change in designation to a criminal investigation will allow officials to issue sub-poenas, compel witnesses to testify and bring in federal criminal charges, as per an NYT report. This is likely to add to claims by Trump's critics that he is abusing government machinery to go after "opponents".

EU envoys agree Brexit extension necessary

REUTERS
LONDON, OCTOBER 25

THE EUROPEAN Union agreed to London's request for a Brexit deadline extension on Friday but set no new departure date, giving Britain's divided parliament time to decide on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's call for a snap election.

"There was full agreement on the need for an extension," an EU official said after ambassadors to the 27 other EU member states met to discuss postponing Britain's exit from the bloc, less than a week before the current deadline of October 31.

"Work will continue over the weekend," he said, adding that the envoys would meet again in Brussels on Monday or Tuesday.

There was full agreement on the need for an extension... We will come back to this discussion on length after the weekend"

- EU OFFICIAL

Johnson has admitted that he will not meet his "do or die" deadline of October 31 and has demanded a vote in parliament on Monday on whether to have a snap election on December 12.

The EU envoys, who met for about two hours, had been due to discuss the length of a third delay to Brexit but diplomats said they were reluctant to set a date because it could dictate the direction of political events in London.

Truck deaths: UK arrests two for human trafficking

REUTERS
GRAYS, OCTOBER 25

POLICE INVESTIGATING the deaths of 39 people, believed to be Chinese nationals, found in a truck near London said they had arrested two people on Friday on suspicion of human trafficking and continued to question the driver as a murder suspect.

As China called on Britain to seek "severe punishment" for those involved, police said they detained a man and a woman, both aged 38, in Warrington,

northwest England, on suspicion of conspiracy to traffic people and of 39 counts of manslaughter.

The 25-year-old truck driver remains in custody after being arrested following the grim discovery of the bodies in the back of his refrigerated truck in the early hours of Wednesday.

He has not been formally identified but a source named him as Mo Robinson from the Portadown area of Northern Ireland. Detectives will decide later whether to charge him with an offence, release him or ask a court for more time to question him.

23 KILLED IN IRAQ AMID ANTI-GOVT RALLY



Demonstrators disperse as Iraqi forces fire tear gas in Baghdad on Friday. Reuters

■ Iraqi police fired live shots into the air as well as rubber bullets and dozens of tear gas canisters Friday to disperse thousands of protesters

■ Twenty-three protesters were killed and dozens were injured, security officials said

■ The protests began October 1 over corruption, unemployment and lack of basic services but quickly turned deadly as security forces cracked down, using live ammunition for days

■ After a week of violence, a government-appointed inquiry determined that security forces had used excessive force, killing 149. **PTI**

Lahore High Court grants bail to ailing Sharif

M ZULQERNAIN
LAHORE, OCTOBER 25

A PAKISTANI court on Friday granted bail to jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif who was undergoing treatment after being diagnosed with an acute immune disorder.

The 69-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme was rushed to the Services Hospital in Lahore from National Accountability Bureau (NAB) office late Monday.

A two-member bench of the Lahore HC, headed by Justice Baqar Najafi, heard the petition



Nawaz Sharif. File

of PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif seeking the release of his elder brother from the custody of NAB on medical grounds in the money laundering case and accepted it.

The NAB's prosecutor did not challenge the defence's plea, saying since it is a matter of serious health issue of the former premier, it does not oppose his bail. **PTI**

Pak PM issues orders to keep Maryam with father in hospital

Lahore: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has issued directives to keep Maryam Nawaz with her father and former premier Nawaz Sharif at a leading hospital here after the federal government faced criticism for shifting her back to jail, according to a report.

Maryam was admitted to the Services Hospital in Lahore on Wednesday where she was rushed from the high security Kot Lakhpat jail to meet Sharif on account of his deteriorating

health on the directives of Khan and felt sick.

The leader was admitted to VVIP-II, while her father is admitted in VVIP-I. She underwent some tests after which she was shifted back to jail. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's vice president was sent to jail on a 14-day judicial remand last month by an accountability court in a money laundering case. Her remand was further extended by two days Wednesday. **PTI**

‘SOME PEOPLE COME ONLY TO CLIMB... WE WANT TO TEACH THEM HOW WE LIVE, LEARN HOW OUR TRADITIONS WORK’

Australia’s Uluru closed to climbers in ‘unimaginable’ victory for aboriginals

JAMIE TARABAY & MATTHEW ABBOTT
ULURU, OCTOBER 25

THE CREATION stories of the Anangu people are sacred. Some can be shared only with men, some only with women. Some are revealed, layer by layer, as an Anangu grows and matures. Outsiders can be told only what a tjiti, or child, would hear.

Many of those stories reside in the geology of Uluru, the otherworldly red rock in the heart of Australia. For years, the Anangu have asked those who trek to the giant monolith to take them at their word that it is a holy place and should not be climbed. "This

is our home," a sign at the base says. "Please don't climb."

On Saturday, that gentle plea will give way to an official ban on ascending Uluru, a national symbol whose auburn folds have graced countless postcards, tourism ads and selfies. It is a spiritual and psychological victory for an aboriginal people who waged a decadeslong campaign, anguished over the physical danger and cultural harm of the climb.

It is also a once-unimaginable act of deference to a marginalized population, one with potential effects for the vital tourism industry in one of the country's most famous national parks.

But, as with much of indigenous life in Australia, there are

two sides to the climb's closing.

While most Australians support the Anangu's decision, climbers have flocked to Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, in recent months in numbers not seen for more than 15 years. The flood of climbers is a reminder that a segment of the population remains resistant to some of the decisions indigenous people make when ownership of land is returned to them.

"The question that hovers over all of this is why should the Anangu have to justify their rules," said Tim Rowse, a historian and emeritus professor at Western Sydney University. "People who say they accept ownership without accepting control have not re-



A view of Uluru in Australia. NYT

ally considered what the word 'ownership' means."

Many of the Anangu themselves live in a trash-strewn community near the rock that is closed to visitors, a jarring contrast to the exclusive resorts that surround the monolith, where tourists seated at white tablecloths drink sparkling wines and eat canapés as the setting sun turns Uluru a vivid red.

Those tourists point to other dualities, too. While Uluru is so sacred to the Anangu that there are certain parts that they do not want photographed or even touched, they welcome the visitors who tool around its base on camels or Segways, or take art lessons in its shadow.

Sammy Wilson, an Anangu who recently stepped down as the chairman of the board that manages Uluru's national park, explained the situation with a modern analogy. "It's like a big house," he said in a recent interview at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. "If you open the door, you come into the lounge, come and learn. We can talk about anything. But you can't come into my bedroom. That's sacred."

Wilson said he did not want people to stop visiting Uluru, just to leave its sacred sites alone. "Some people come only to climb," he said. "We want to teach them how we live, learn how our traditions work, see how it's about the wide-open country and

how it's all connected."

Some people who say the rock should remain open to climbing argue that it is part of a national park and therefore should belong to everyone.

While the victory on the climb may have little bearing on the material well-being of the Anangu, the last day that the gate is open to climbers will be an emotional one for all indigenous people from central Australia, said Donald Fraser, who was raised by white missionaries in the late 1940s.

"We've done it very carefully; it took a long time," he said. "Most people respect it; only a bunch of people worried about money don't. We're not worried about the money." **NYT**