

Russia, US trade barbs over attack



■ Inspectors yet to gain access to Douma ■ Moscow blamed the delay on the Western air strikes.

The Hague

Western countries accused Moscow on Monday of preventing inspectors from reaching the site of a suspected poison gas attack in Syria and said Russians or Syrians may have tampered with evidence on the ground.

The United States, Britain and France launched air strikes on Saturday against what they described as three Syrian chemical weapons targets in retaliation for a suspected gas attack in the

"I can guarantee that Russia has not tampered with the site,"

-Sergei Lavrov

Damascus suburb of Douma on April 7.

Inspectors from the Organization for Chemical Weapons (OPCW) went to Syria last week to inspect the Douma site but have yet to gain access to the town, which is now under government control after the rebels

withdrew.

"It is our understanding the Russians may have visited the attack site," U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Ward said at a meeting of the OPCW in The Hague on Monday.

"It is our concern that they may have tampered with it with the intent of thwarting the efforts of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission to conduct an effective investigation," he said. His comments at the closed-door meeting were obtained by Reuters.

Russian Foreign Minister

Sergei Lavrov denied that Moscow had interfered with any evidence: "I can guarantee that Russia has not tampered with the site," he told the BBC in an interview.

The inspectors aim to collect samples, interview witnesses and document evidence to determine whether banned toxic munitions were used, although they are not permitted to assign blame for the attack.

"Unfettered access is essential," the British delegation said in a statement.

US envoy says Russia may tampered with evidence, Moscow denies

Get '50% cashback' on tickets at Cineco through bwallet



From left, Shiraz Ali – Director of Frictionless Payments, AFS; B Chandrasekhar - CEO, AFS; Bayalan Sunil Balan - COO, Cineco; Kunal Taneja- Head of Operational Risk and Information Security, AFS; Pranay Upadhyay – Manager of Merchant Services, AFS.

Manama

Bwallet's exclusive offer of "50% Cashback" on movie tickets at Cineco is valid until September, 2018.

The cashback offer currently available exclusively at Cineco Seef Mall, Seef District (Seef 1 and Seef 2) will be available soon across Cineco's in Bahrain, bwallet said in a statement.

bwallet, the first wallet in Bahrain to provide peer-to-peer money transfer, was launched earlier this year. Customers can scan a QR code for seamless merchant transactions and enjoy secure cashless payments with exclusive benefits through their mobile phones.

"This innovative payment service coupled with exclusive offers has placed bwallet as the

leader in the digital payments sector across Bahrain. We are proud of our partnership with Cineco and we continue to strive in providing our bwallet customers with the best offers," AFS CEO B Chandrasekhar said.

COO of Cineco, Bayalan Sunil Balan added: "Digital banking and customer centricity must add value

and satisfaction to the end customers by offering a seamless banking experience which goes far in product and service offerings. Cineco is proud to be part of the digital transformation and shift in consumer purchasing behaviours and we look forward to our continued business relationship with bwallet."

By Invitation



Dr. Jassim Haji

Mobile Data on Moon surface

Scientists teams up in Germany to bring mobile data roaming to the surface of the Moon – and the cost needn't be astronomical!

No need to worry about letting people know that you've arrived safely on the Moon – you'll be able to check in on Facebook and send a selfie from the lunar surface thanks to a new partnership between Berlin-based Scientists and international (soon to be lunar) mobile communications operator.

Pioneering new-space company, is working with Vodafone to deliver the first mobile data (4G LTE) base-station to the lunar surface. Not only will this enable super-fast data access for those of you who make it to the Moon, but it will provide essential communications support their upcoming Mission to the Moon.

This is a crucial first step for sustainable exploration of the solar system. In order for humanity to leave the cradle of Earth, they need to develop infrastructures beyond our home planet. With Mission to the Moon that will establish and test the first elements of a dedicated communications network on the Moon.

Investing in vital infrastructure is always costly, and the additional hurdle of launching equipment into space only adds to the expense. But scientists have designed their lunar lander, to double up as a communications base station in order to keep costs down.

In addition, using commercially available technology that's already in a billion mobile devices on Earth, scientists are creating a network that will be accessible to future lunar explorers – and maybe even the first settlers on the Moon.

The group aim is to be the first commercial company to land on the Moon and will be launching their mission next year. They are sending a pair of small, but sophisticated, rovers to explore the final landing site in the US Apollo programme.

Their rovers are packed with sensors and equipped with high definition cameras. They will be collecting a lot of scientific data on the Moon and the high-speed data connectivity that LTE gives us will enable the rovers to communicate with lunar lander to send that valuable data back to Earth.

The benefit of using LTE data connectivity is that it uses drastically less energy than traditional radio communications. This means that large amounts of data can be transferred from the rover, via lunar lander, and back to Earth, without the risk of draining the rovers' batteries, or requiring them to stop each time they have data to transmit. The less energy they use sending data, the more they have to do science.

Once the spacecraft has safely landed the pair of Audi lunar rovers on the Moon, it will act as a base station enabling high speed data connectivity between all vehicles. What's more, it can also be used as a navigation beacon for future missions landing on the lunar surface.

"Together with the PTScientists we are embarking on a journey to space, enabling Germany's first private Moon landing. All whilst establishing the first LTE network in space," says the CEO of Vodafone Germany, Hannes Ametsreiter. "With this this step we are laying the groundwork for all future moon missions to come. When Elon Musk sends his first private passengers to Orbit the Moon in 2018 or ESA opens the doors of its moon village our Vodafone LTE network will already be there. With our contribution, we don't just want to enable space based infrastructures but show that with bravery, pioneering spirit and inventive talent made in Germany great things can be achieved."

The consumer market for mobile data on the Moon may be some way off, but PTS scientists believe that building versatile infrastructures is the key to make humanity a fully-fledged space-faring species. Not only will they reap the benefit of connectivity during next year's Mission to the Moon, but they are delivering an important first piece of equipment for a future space communications network.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)