

Bahrain condemns terrorist attack in Pakistan

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday condemned the terrorist attack in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The attack on a bus in the Baluchistan province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan resulted in the death and injury of a number of people, including two officers.

The ministry said that Bahrain stands by Pakistan in its "efforts to combat terrorism, affirming Kingdom's unflinching position in the rejection of terrorism of all forms, irrespective of the motives or justifications".

Saudi, UAE send relief aid to Iran

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have sent 95 tons of humanitarian aid to Iran as it reels from deadly floods, officials said yesterday.

"The Saudi Red Crescent, as part of a joint Saudi-UAE initiative to alleviate the suffering of Iranian citizens, has dispatched a relief plane to Tehran with 95 tons of humanitarian aid to support those affected by floods," the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The aid, which includes food and shelter material, was authorised by Saudi Arabia's king and crown prince, it added.

The Emirates Red Crescent was also involved in the relief operation, the UAE's official WAM news agency said.

At least 76 people have died in Iran after torrential rainfall, which has also caused billions of dollars worth of damage since March 19.

US 'encouraged' in Sudan, urges greater transition

● The military last week ousted leader Omar al-Bashir

Washington, United States

The United States yesterday praised orders by Sudan's new military leader to free political prisoners and end a night curfew but urged more action to transition to democracy.

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said that the United States will "cal-



A Sudanese protestor holds a placard during a protest outside the army complex in the capital Khartoum

ibrate our policies based on our assessment of events" but added that talks on delisting Sudan as a state sponsor of terrorism remained suspended.

"We are encouraged by the decision to release political prisoners and cancel the curfew in Khartoum," Ortagus said in a statement.

She said that the United States wanted the military council and other armed units to "show restraint, avoid conflict and remain committed to the protection of the Sudanese people."

"The will of the Sudanese people is clear: it is time to move toward a transitional government

that is inclusive and respectful of human rights and the rule of law," she said.

The military last week ousted leader Omar al-Bashir, whose three-decade tenure included welcoming Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden to Sudan and leading a crackdown in Darfur described by Washington as genocide.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the second leader to take charge after the coup, ordered the release of prisoners jailed by special emergency courts and lifted a night-time curfew.

The military rulers say they will stay in charge for two years.

Mammoth election



An Indian gypsy women with her infant stands on a queue to cast her vote at a polling station in Chennai, during the second phase of the mammoth Indian elections. More than 157 million of the 900 million electorate are eligible to cast ballots on the second of seven days of voting in the world's biggest election. (Full story on page 7)

SPACE WAR

China to launch asteroid probe, calls for partners



Representative picture

Beijing, China

China plans to launch an ambitious asteroid exploration mission and has invited collaborators to top their experiments on the probes, space agency officials said yesterday.

The 10-year mission will involve a probe sent to a near-Earth asteroid to collect samples, said Liu Jizhong, head of China's Exploration and Space Engineering Centre.

After the sample collection from the 2016 HO3 asteroid, the probe will return to Earth orbit where it will split into two.

A capsule carrying the samples will return to Earth's sur-

face, while a separate module will approach and orbit the comet 133P.

No timeline has been set for the mission.

A similar call was made for the lunar probe Chang'e-6, whose launch date will depend on the success of its predecessor, Chang'e-5, which will launch by the end of this year.

France's National Centre for Space Studies said last month that Chang'e-6 would carry French experiments.

Originally scheduled to collect moon samples in the second half of 2017, it was delayed after its planned carrier, the powerful Long March 5 Y2 rocket, failed during a separate launch in July 2017.

'Game over'

Trump declares victory on Mueller report D-Day

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump, backed by his attorney general, declared himself fully vindicated yesterday in the investigation into Russian election meddling and alleged collusion with his campaign -- before the long-awaited full probe report was made public.

"Game Over," Trump tweeted, using a "Game of Thrones" style montage that pictured him standing in dramatic fog.

Just about an hour later, the Justice Department released the full -- though redacted -- report from Special Counsel Robert Mueller, which nevertheless raised questions about Trump's actions, saying investigators were "unable" to clear him of obstruction.

Weeks ago, Attorney General Bill Barr said in a summary of the report that there was no collusion between Trump and Russians seeking to influence the 2016 presidential election in his favour.

In a nationally broadcast news conference held right before the report's release, Barr repeatedly drove that point home.

"We now know that the Russian operatives who perpetrated these schemes did not have the cooperation of President Trump or the Trump campaign," Barr told reporters, in a statement that effectively sought to spin the report before it was released.

"The special counsel found no collusion by any Americans," Barr said.

"That is the bottom line."

The extreme secrecy surrounding Mueller's nearly two-year investigation ended abruptly at about 11:00 am (1500 GMT) when the 400-odd pages of the report were made public to Congress, the media



An illustration shows a Game of Thrones-style montage from US President Donald Trump's twitter page in Washington, DC



US Attorney General William Barr

"We now know that the Russian operatives who perpetrated these schemes did not have the cooperation of President Trump or the Trump campaign"

BARR TOLD REPORTERS

and the public.

While leftist opponents long hoped that Mueller would either charge Trump with crimes or provide evidence for impeachment, the outcome so far has favoured the divisive, right-wing Republican president.

"NO COLLUSION. NO OBSTRUCTION," a triumphant Trump wrote in his "Game of Thrones" pastiche tweet.

Later, he said at the start of a speech: "I'm having a good day." At his news conference, Barr said he was standing by his own ruling, noting that Trump had no intention to obstruct and had merely been "frustrated and angered."

"The White House fully cooperated with the special counsel's investigation, providing unfettered access to campaign and White House documents,

directing senior aides to testify freely, and asserting no privilege claims," he said.

"And at the same time, the president took no act that in fact deprived the special counsel of the documents and witnesses necessary to complete his investigation."

But the report said: "If we had confidence after a thorough investigation of the facts that the president clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would so state."

"Based on the facts and the applicable legal standards, however, we are unable to reach that judgment."



03 Instagram shopping

04 Water-logging

05 NKorea wants Pompeo's removal



6 084010 110021 >