

News in brief

◆ **Danish forces evacuated**

crew member from a US submarine off the coast of Greenland on Saturday after the sailor required urgent medical treatment, authorities said. Denmark's Joint Arctic Command, which oversees Danish operations in the region, said in a post on Facebook the crew member was flown to a hospital in Nuuk after a medical emergency on board the vessel. Officials did not disclose the nature of the medical issue or give details about the submarine's mission. Images posted online appeared to show the sail of a submarine surfacing in Nuuk's bay, though AFP could not immediately verify the footage. Since returning to the White House last year, US President Donald Trump has argued that Washington needs to control mineral-rich Greenland -- an autonomous Danish territory -- for American national security.



Danish forces evacuate US submarine crew member off Greenland

◆ **'No thanks', Greenland PM says of Trump offer to send US Navy hospital ship**

◆ **Greenland's prime ministry** yesterday flatly rejected a proposal by Donald Trump to send a US Navy hospital ship to the Arctic island coveted by the US leader. "That will be 'no thanks' from us," Jens-Frederik Nielsen, who heads the government of the autonomous Danish territory, wrote on his Facebook page. "President Trump's idea to send a US hospital ship here to Greenland has been duly noted. But we have a public health system where care is free for citizens," he said.

◆ **A Pakistani security source** told AFP yesterday that airstrikes on neighbouring Afghanistan killed "more than 80" militants. The source told AFP that the death toll was expected to rise following the overnight strikes, which Islamabad said were targeting Afghanistan-based militant groups in response to suicide bombings in Pakistan. AFP journalists in Afghanistan were not able to verify the toll. The Taliban government has previously denied harbouring militants.

Pakistan killed 'more than 80' militants in strikes on Afghanistan: security source

SPOTLIGHT

New York mayor orders citywide travel ban ahead of major storm



A man shovels a pile of snow from the recent snowstorm ahead of a new major winter storm in New York, United States

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani ordered a shut-down yesterday of the city's entire traffic network to all but emergency travel ahead of a massive snowstorm expected to hit the northeast United States.

Starting at 9pm Sunday to noon Monday a "state of emergency" closes the streets, highways and bridges of New York City for all traffic, cars, trucks, scooters and E-bikes," Mamdani told reporters.

The ban will not affect essential workers or New Yorkers needing to travel due to emergencies, according to Mamdani. New York is home to over eight million people.

"We are asking New Yorkers to avoid all non essential travel," the mayor said. "New York City has not faced a storm of this scale in the last decade."

The fast-developing storm is threatening to pummel the US East Coast with a foot or more of snow beginning Sunday, just weeks after the region recovered from another devastating weather system.

Meteorologists issued blizzard warnings for New York and parts of at least six states, warning Saturday that heavy snow and gale-force winds are forecast to slam all major cities along the densely populated Interstate 95 northeast corridor, including Boston, Philadelphia, and even Washington further south.

The NWS headquarters said snowfall rates of more than one inch (2.5 centimeters) an hour will occur at times along parts of the East Coast, with huge snow totals making travel nearly impossible. Power outages are likely.

The mega-storm that swept across the eastern half of the country in late January was linked to more than 100 deaths nationwide, and slammed some cities with heavy snow and sleet that froze into rock-hard ice.

New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill declared a state of emergency beginning midday Sunday, freeing up funds and allowing the swift deployment of resources to address the weather crisis.

US envoy says Trump questioning why Iran has not 'capitulated'

The United States and Iran this week resumed Oman-mediated talks in Geneva

● **The US envoy also confirmed in the interview that he had met with Reza Pahlavi**

● **Trump said on Thursday that Iran had at most 15 days to make a deal**

AFP | Washington, United States



An F-35C Lightning II, attached to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314, as it prepares to launch from the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in the Arabian Sea. Inset, US envoy Steve Witkoff

US envoy Steve Witkoff said on Saturday that President Donald Trump is questioning why Iran has not "capitulated" in the face of Washington's military build-up aimed at pressuring them into a nuclear deal.

The United States and Iran this week resumed Oman-mediated talks in Geneva aimed at averting the possibility of military action, after Washington dispatched two aircraft carriers, jets and weaponry to the region to back its warnings.

In a Fox News interview with Trump's daughter-in-law Lara, Witkoff said the president was "curious" about Iran's position after he had warned them of severe consequences in the event they failed to strike a deal.

"I don't want to use the word 'frustrated,' because he understands he has plenty of alternatives, but he's curious as to why they haven't... I don't want to use the word 'capitulated,' but why they haven't capitulated," he said.

"Why, under this pressure, with the amount of seapower and naval power over there, why haven't they come to us and said, 'We profess we don't want a weapon, so here's what we're prepared to do?' And yet it's sort of hard to get them to that place."

Iranian students rally for second day as fears of war with US mount

AFP | Paris, France

Iranian students gathered for fresh pro- and anti-government rallies Sunday commemorating those killed in recent protests, as fears loomed of renewed conflict with the United States over the country's nuclear programme.

The initial demonstrations were sparked in December by economic hardship in the sanctions-hit country, but quickly expanded into mass anti-government protests that marked one of the largest challenges to the Islamic republic's clerical leadership in years.

Following campus rallies commemorating the protest

dead on Saturday, the Fars news agency on Sunday published videos of fresh crowds of dozens of people waving Iranian flags and carrying memorial photographs at universities in the capital Tehran.

One showed a rowdy gathering at Sharif University of Technology shouting "death to the shah" -- a reference to the monarchy ousted by the 1979 Islamic revolution -- as they faced off with another group, with men in uniforms between them.

Fars said there had been "tensions" at at least three universities in Tehran where some students chanted "anti-establishment" slogans.

The US envoy also confirmed in the interview that he had met

with Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of Iran's last shah and a critic

of the current authorities, who has not returned to the country since before the 1979 Islamic Revolution that ousted the monarchy.

"I met him at the direction of the president," Witkoff said, without providing further details. "I think he's strong for his country, cares about his country. But this is going to be about President Trump's policies."

US-based Pahlavi last week told a crowd in Munich that he was ready to lead the country to a "secular democratic future" after Trump said regime change would be best for the country.

Witkoff's comments come after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said a draft proposal for an agreement with Washington would be ready in a matter of days.

Trump said on Thursday that Iran had at most 15 days to make a deal on concerns starting with its nuclear programme.

Iran says has right self-defence if US talks fail

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned yesterday that his country would respond to any US attack, but held out hope for a diplomatic solution, saying he expected another round of talks in Geneva later in the week.

Speaking in an interview on the US network CBS, the minister said there was a "good chance" that talks with US negotiators would head off renewed military strikes.

He insisted, however, that Iran had a right to continued uranium enrichment for civilian purposes -- and to strike US interests in the Middle East in response to any aggression.

"If the US attacks us, then we have every right to defend ourselves. If the US attacks us, that is the act of aggression. What we do in response is an act of self-defence," Araghchi said.

"It is justified, legitimate. So



A woman walks across a pedestrian crossing on a main street in Tehran

our missiles cannot hit the American soil. So obviously we have to do something else. We have to hit, you know, the American base in the region."

Last year, in response to US strikes on its nuclear facilities, Iran fired missiles at the US airbase at Al-Udeid in Qatar. Iranian officials sometimes also refer to

Israel as a US base.

Araghchi, nevertheless, also said: "I believe that still there is a good chance to have a diplomatic solution which is based on a win-win game."

After a recent round of talks in Geneva, Iran said it was preparing a draft proposal for an agreement, which would be ready in a matter of days.

Araghchi said negotiations were continuing, and "we are working on the elements of a deal and draft of the text".

"I believe that when we meet, probably this Thursday in Geneva again, we can work on those elements and prepare a good text and come to a fast deal," he told CBS.

But, as for Iran's uranium enrichment, which the US opposes, Araghchi said: "As a sovereign country, we have every right to decide for ourselves, by ourselves."