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Mueller clears Trump

AFP | Washington, United States

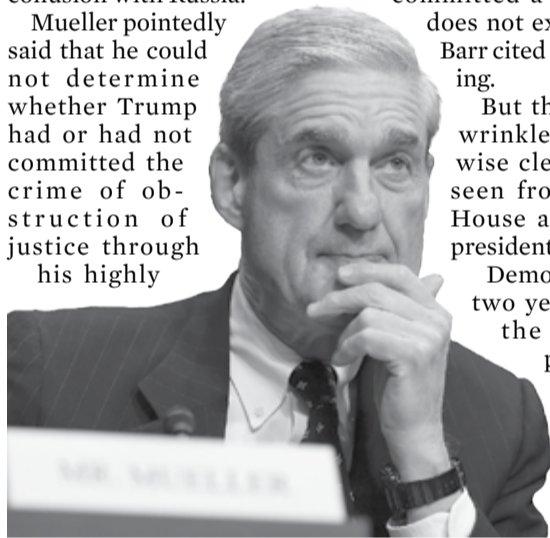
The White House was jubilant yesterday after the massive Russian collusion probe cleared President Donald Trump, freeing him to campaign for reelection -- and tell Americans that he was right all along.

"I think it's a day America's looked forward to for a long time. I think it's a great day for America," Trump's spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told CNN.

Trump has been under the cloud of potentially historic scandal for two years while special prosecutor Robert Mueller delved into allegations that his 2016 election campaign colluded with Russian agents trying to tilt the polls in his favor.

Late Sunday, Attorney General William Barr said in a brief summary of the just-finished report that Mueller had found "no collusion with Russia."

Mueller pointedly said that he could not determine whether Trump had or had not committed the crime of obstruction of justice through his highly



Former FBI Director Robert Mueller, special counsel on the Russian investigation

Trump warns of retaliation

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday that Robert Mueller, head of the two-year probe into alleged collusion with Russia during the 2016 election campaign, acted honorably, but he also threatened retaliation against his foes.

"Yes he did," Trump said after Mueller -- whom he often bitterly criticized during the investigation -- declared there was no evidence of collusion by Trump or his campaign.

"Up to the attorney general. Wouldn't bother me at all," he

said at the White House.

But Trump blasted the investigation as "a false narrative, it was a terrible thing."

"We can never let this happen to another president again," he said. "Very few people I know could have handled it. We can never, ever let this happen to another president again."

Adding to suggestions that the White House would like to retaliate now that the damaging investigation is over, Trump said "there are people out there who have done very bad things, I would say treasonous things against our country."

public opposition to the Russia probe, which he railed against as a "witch hunt."

"While this report does not conclude that the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," Barr cited Mueller as saying.

But that was only a wrinkle on an otherwise clear horizon as seen from the White House ahead of 2020 presidential elections.

Democrats, who for two years have seen the Mueller report as fuel for

potential impeachment, insist they will continue to use powerful congressional committees to probe further into Trump's business and political dealings with Russia.

Trump 'unchained'

"It was a complete and total exoneration," Trump said Sunday in brief comments from Florida, where he'd spent the weekend at his golf resort.

"It's a shame that the country had to go through this," he added with a note of anger. "This was an illegal takedown that failed."

Trump appears likely to maintain that line between declaring victory and seeking to call out his accusers -- and possibly to seek revenge.

"Hopefully somebody's go-

ing to be looking at the other side," he said, referring to investigating the origins of the probe against him.

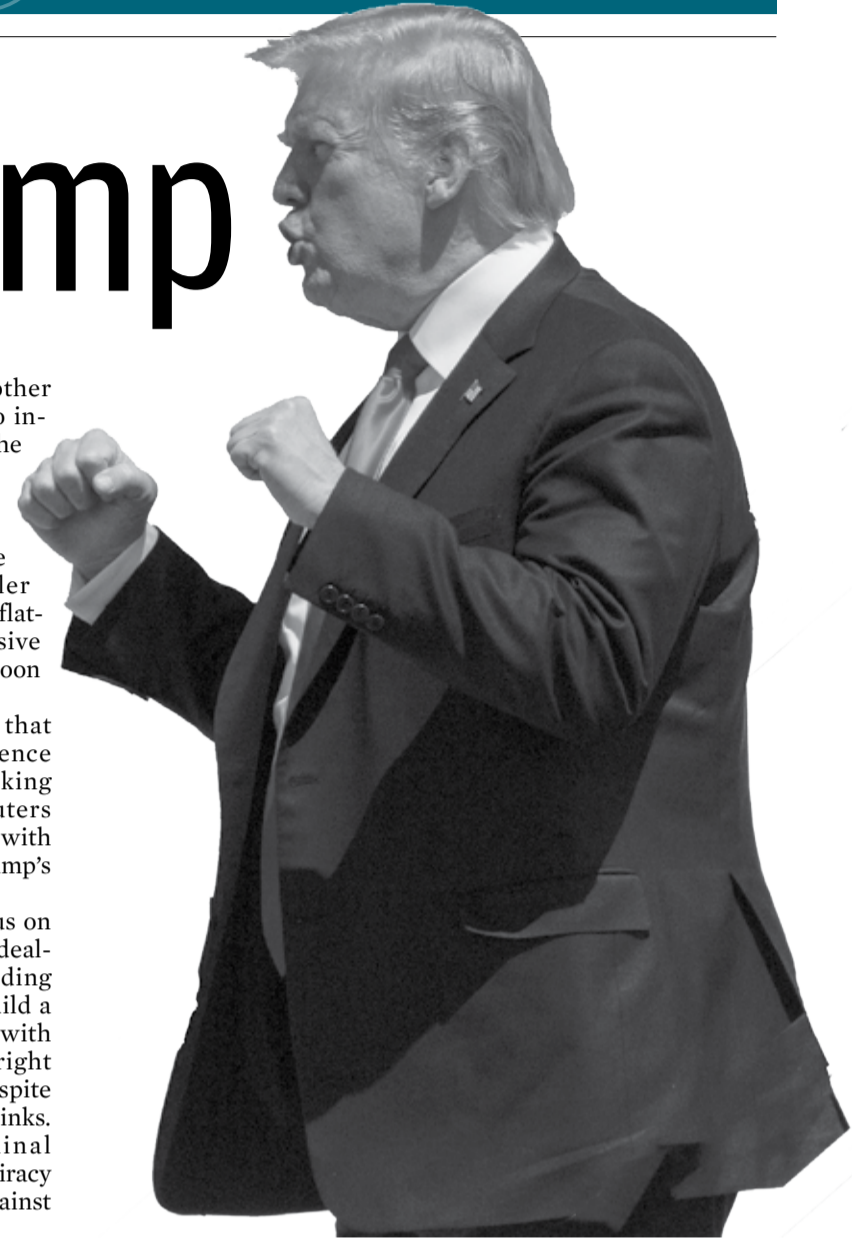
Tainted presidency

Despite the relief at the White House, the Mueller probe painted a deeply unflattering picture of the divisive and populist real-estate-tycoon turned politician.

The probe established that Russians did try to influence the 2016 election by hacking Democratic party computers and flooding social media with disinformation to harm Trump's rival Hillary Clinton.

It also brought new focus on Trump's hidden business dealings with Russians, including a long-running push to build a Trump tower in Moscow, with negotiations continuing right into his election year -- despite claims that he had no such links.

Mueller issued criminal charges ranging from conspiracy to lying to investigators against 34 individuals.



Former PM Thaksin says Thai election 'rigged'



Exiled former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra

Hong Kong, China

Thailand's election was marred by "irregularities" and "rigged" to ensure the military retain their political grip on the kingdom, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra said in an interview yesterday.

"If you look at the number of ballots and the number of voter turnout, the ballots much more exceed the number of voter turnout in many, many provinces"

THAKSIN SHINAWATRA

"Everyone knows in Thailand, everyone international that observed the election in Thailand, knows that (there) is irregularities," he said in English. "What we call, we should call, rigged elections is there. It's not good for Thailand."

The 69-year-old tycoon was ousted in a 2006 coup and has since chosen self-exile in Du-

bai, but has remained a towering figure in Thailand's decade-long treadmill of protests and coups.

In the months running up to Sunday's vote Thaksin had remained tight-lipped.

But he hit out during an interview in Hong Kong yesterday, accusing the junta of stacking the deck in its favour ahead of the vote and using dirty tricks at the ballot box.

"Any game, if the rule and the referee is not fair, the result will not be respected," he said.

Asked whether he thought the vote was rigged he replied: "Definitely".

When pushed for evidence he listed reports of suspiciously high ballots cast for the pro-military party in key provinces as well as the large number of votes that were invalidated by election officials.

"If you look at the number of ballots and the number of voter turnout, the ballots much more exceed the number of voter turnout in many, many provinces," he said.

Final Dividends' Distribution Announcement

Following the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Zain Bahrain held on March 25, 2019, we are pleased to inform you that the distribution of final cash dividends for the fiscal year 2018 (5 fils per share) will start from 4 April 2019.

Eligible shareholders who are listed in the share register as at March 25, 2019 should contact Bahrain Clear Company on the below:

Bahrain Clear Company
Bahrain Financial Harbor Complex,
4th Floor Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Phone: +973 17108833
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