

US 'isolated' on sanctions: Iran

AFP, Tehran



The United States is increasingly isolated in its move to reimpose sanctions on Tehran after quitting the international nuclear deal, President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday, vowing to resist American "plots".

"The path chosen by the Islamic Republic of Iran is perseverance, resistance", Rouhani said in televised remarks. "Each time that we were able to thwart the plots, the people and the government were side by side."

Over the objections of allies, Trump in May pulled the United States from the nuclear deal signed between Tehran and world powers in 2015.

He re-imposed US sanctions that had been suspended in return for controls on Tehran's nuclear programme, effectively barring many multinational firms from doing business in Iran.

"The United States is more and more isolated on the subject of sanctions," said Rouhani. "The illegal logic of the United States is not supported by any of the international organisations."

Iran has faced mounting economic woes since Trump's announcement, which added to pressure on its currency. The rial has lost around half its value against the dollar in nine months.

Many importers and exporters have complained they do not have enough currency to enable trade with foreign countries.

But Rouhani said Iran would ensure exporters and importers have "the necessary currency".



Smoke rises above buildings during an Israeli air strike on Gaza City, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Rescued Thai cave boys to leave hospital Thursday

AFP, Bangkok

Twelve young footballers and their coach rescued from a Thai cave will be released from hospital yesterday, a health official said, offering psychological support and urging the group to avoid media interviews despite huge interest in their against-the-odds survival story.

The group, called the "Wild Boars" after their football academy, went into the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand on June 23 to celebrate a birthday, but became trapped as floodwaters poured in.

They were all extracted on July 10, ending an ordeal that had the world holding its breath for their safe return.

"All 13 Wild Boars are in good physical health... all are in good spirits," public health minister Piyasakol Sakolsattayatorn told reporters on Saturday.

"They will be discharged altogether,

initially on Thursday."

The children -- and their parents -- have been advised to spend time with friends and family and not to give media interviews as that could "trigger post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms," the minister added.

The boys appeared well in short video message recorded from their hospital ward in Chiang Rai.

The disappearance of the young footballers and their protracted, daring rescue captivated the world.

Hollywood producers are already jockeying to make the film of a saga whose twists and turns are ready made for drama.

In a meticulously planned extraction, the boys donned wetsuits and diving gear before being sedated, put on stretchers and pulled or carried out through submerged passageways and up steep slopes inside the mountain.

Israeli air raids pound Gaza

2 teens killed, 15 injured; protest at border kills 2 more, hundreds hurt

AFP, Gaza City

Two Palestinians were killed yesterday as Israel unleashed a wave of air strikes against the Gaza Strip, while scores of rockets were fired back from the Hamas-run territory.

The Palestinian teenagers, aged 15 and 16, were killed when an Israeli strike hit a building they were near in the west of Gaza City, the enclave's health ministry said.

Fifteen people have been wounded across Gaza, the ministry said.

The flare-up came after Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians, including a teenager, and wounded hundreds of others in border clashes on Friday, the latest in months of protests.

The Israeli raids yesterday involved the "largest daytime operation" carried out by its air force in Gaza since a war in 2014, Israel's military spokesman

Jonathan Conricus told journalists.

Israel's armed forces said dozens of strikes targeted military facilities belonging to the Gaza Strip's Islamist rulers Hamas, against which it has fought three wars over the past decade.

In the other direction "more than



60 rockets" were fired at southern Israel from Gaza, the Israeli military said, of which "approximately 10 rockets were intercepted".

The Israeli military said it was conducting strikes against Hamas "in response to the terror acts instigated

during the violent riots that took place along the security fence" the day before.

Among the main targets was the "Hamas Battalion HQ in Beit Lahia, which includes urban warfare training facilities, (a) weapon storage warehouse, training compounds, command centres, offices and more", the Israeli army said in a statement.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said the group was responsible for yesterday's barrage against Israel and that it was carried out "in response to the Israeli air strikes".

In fresh violence Friday, a 15-year-old and a 20-year-old were shot dead during the demonstrations, the Gaza health ministry said.

Since the protests and clashes broke out along the border on March 30, at least 141 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire. No Israelis have been killed, but officials said one soldier was injured by a grenade on Friday.

Now is the time for Johnson to challenge May

Says Steve Bannon

REUTERS, London

US President Donald Trump's former adviser Steve Bannon believes now is the time for Boris Johnson to challenge British Prime Minister Theresa May for her job, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported yesterday.

Johnson, who led the main Brexit campaign in the 2016 referendum, resigned as foreign minister on Monday over May's strategy which he said was killing the "Brexit dream" with self-doubt.

"Theresa May has got a lot of great qualities - I am not sure if it is the right leader at the right time," Bannon, Trump's former strategist and a key player in his 2016 election campaign, was quoted by



A flooded village is seen Zoige County, Sichuan, in this still image taken from a video obtained from social media. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are wreaking havoc across China, with floods along major rivers destroying bridges, blocking roads and railways and forcing thousands of residents to evacuate, state media reported yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Syria rebels surrender heavy arms in Daraa city: report

AFP, Damascus

Syrian rebels in the southern city of Daraa were surrendering their heavy weapons to government forces yesterday, state media said, under a deal brokered by regime ally Russia.

State news agency SANA said opposition fighters in the neighbourhood of Daraa al-Balad, a district in the city's rebel-held southern half, handed over heavy ammunition and other equipment.

It came a day after the regime and rebels began dismantling the dirt barriers that had divided the city for years, AFP's correspondent said.

The agreement reached on Wednesday will see Daraa city -- the cradle of Syria's seven-year uprising -- fall back into government control.

Negotiated by Moscow, it provides for rebels to hand over heavy- and medium-duty

weapons and to "reconcile" legally with the government, according to state media.

Those who rejected the deal would be allowed safe passage out of the city.

The terms mirror a broader deal announced on July 6 for the entire province of Daraa, which would be implemented in three stages: the eastern countryside first, then the city, and finally the province's west.

While rebels have handed over weapons to government forces in dozens of towns, no transfers of fighters or civilians to the opposition-held north have taken place yet.

After using the strategy to secure Damascus and other strategic parts of Syria since 2015, President Bashar al-Assad turned his attention to the south. Beginning on June 19, Syrian and Russian bombardment pounded rebel areas in Daraa and the neighbouring province of Quneitra, ostensibly protected by an internationally agreed ceasefire.



the Daily Telegraph as saying.

May's government was rattled by the departures of Johnson and her chief Brexit negotiator David Davis just days after she appeared to have gained the support of her cabinet for her strategy at a meeting at her Chequers country residence.

"Now is the moment," The Telegraph quoted him as saying. "If Boris Johnson looks at this... There comes an inflection point, the Chequers deal was an inflection point, we will have to see what happens."

Trump plays golf in Scotland ahead of Putin summit

REUTERS, Turnberry/Glasgow

US President Donald Trump played golf yesterday at his course on the western coast of Scotland ahead of a summit with Kremlin chief Vladimir Putin that could be overshadowed by accusations that Russians meddled in the US 2016 election.

In an uproarious trip to Europe, Trump harangued members of the Nato military alliance, scolded Germany for its dependence on Russian energy and shocked Britain by publicly criticising Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit strategy.

Trump apologised to May for the furore over his withering public critique, blaming "fake news" and promising instead a bilateral trade agreement with Britain after it leaves the European Union in March.

While Trump took tea with Queen Elizabeth, a US federal grand jury charged 12 Russian intelligence officers with stealing data from the campaign of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Trump has repeatedly said the investigation into suspected Russian interference in the 2016 US election - which he casts as a "rigged witch hunt" - makes it hard for him to do substantive deals with Moscow.

After meeting the queen at Windsor Castle, Trump headed to Scotland, where

his mother, Mary Anne, was born. Trump, wearing a baseball cap emblazoned with "USA", was seen by two Reuters reporters playing golf on his Turnberry Trump course.

Describing golf as "my primary form of exercise," Trump wrote on Twitter: "The weather is beautiful, and this place is incredible! Tomorrow I go to Helsinki for a Monday meeting with Vladimir Putin."

After tens of thousands of people marched peacefully against Trump in central London, more protests are planned yesterday. A blimp depicting Trump as an orange, snarling baby was raised in the Scottish capital where hundreds protested.

Trump and Putin, who control the world's two biggest nuclear arsenals, are due to meet in the Finnish capital, a venue that evokes memories of Cold War showdowns between the Soviet Union and the United States.

In the most detailed US accusation to date that Moscow meddled in the presidential election, a federal grand jury said Russian military intelligence agency officers covertly monitored computers of Clinton's campaign and Democratic campaign committees, and stole large amounts of data.

The charges shine an even greater spotlight on Trump's treatment of Putin, who has repeatedly denied Russia sought to intervene or skew the US election that Trump, a Republican, unexpectedly won.



www.pubalibangla.com

High Profile Vacancy

Pubali Bank Limited having largest online network in Private Sector Banking with **465 online branches** is looking for highly experienced professionals for the following positions.

- Deputy Managing Director
- Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) IN THE RANK OF GENERAL MANAGER

For details, please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/career.asp>

Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should apply by **30 August 2018.**

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

PUBALI BANK LIMITED

Human Resources Division

Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka