

Pakistan to stay on 'grey list'

Says terror financing watchdog FATF

NDTV ONLINE

The global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has strongly condemned the Pulwama terror attack at its plenary meeting, which just concluded in Paris yesterday.

The FATF said Pakistan has not done enough to curb the finances of terror groups like the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. This means Pakistan continues to remain in what is called the FATF "grey list", making it hard for the country to get international loans.

"The FATF notes with grave concern and condemns the violent terrorist attack last week that killed 40 Indian security forces in Pulwama," the 38-member watchdog said in a statement.

"Such attacks cannot occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters," it said.

"Pakistan does not demonstrate a proper understanding of the terror financing risks posed by JuD, LeT, JeM, and persons affiliated with the Taliban... Pakistan should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address its strategic deficiencies," the FATF said.

Pakistan has until May 2019 to complete its action plan. If Prime Minister Imran Khan's country does not meet the targets by October, it could be blacklisted.

Pakistan was placed on the 'grey list' in June last year and was lobbying hard to be removed from this list at this meeting.



Trucks loaded with civilians ride near the village of Baghouz, Deir Al Zor province, Syria, yesterday. More than 40 trucks carrying men, women and children left the enclave, but thousands of civilians are still in the enclave, Kurdish forces said. The White House said Thursday said the US military would keep around 200 troops in Syria after President Donald Trump's pullout from the war-torn country.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India to stop sharing of excess water with Pakistan

REUTERS, New Delhi/Islamabad

An Indian government minister reiterated on Thursday the country's plan to restrict the flow of water to Pakistan from its share of rivers, the latest effort by New Delhi to pressure its neighbour after a militant attack in Kashmir.

"Our government has decided to stop our share of water which used to flow to Pakistan," Nitin Gadkari, transport and water resources minister, said in a tweet. He added that the country would divert water from eastern rivers and supply it to its people in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab states.

Gadkari did not elaborate but officials from his ministry said he was re-stating decisions already taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including a dam project cleared by his cabinet last December. Officials said no new decision had been taken on Thursday.

Gadkari's comments underlined New Delhi's anger over an attack by a Pakistan-based militant group last week in the disputed region of Kashmir, which killed 40 paramilitary police. India has accused Pakistan of not

doing enough to control such groups, while Pakistan has denied involvement.

The sharing of water supplies from the Indus River and its tributaries between the two countries is regulated under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty. In recent years India has begun ambitious irrigation plans and construction of many upstream dams, saying its use of upstream water is strictly in line with the treaty.

Following an attack on security forces in the Kashmir town of Uri in 2016, India began to fast-track development of some of the dam projects, escalating tensions between the arch-rivals.

Pakistan has opposed some of these projects saying they violate the World Bank-mediated treaty on the sharing of the Indus waters, upon which 80 percent of its irrigated agriculture depends.

India's top military commander in Kashmir, Lieutenant-General KJS. Dhillon, accused Pakistan's main Inter-Services Intelligence spy agency on Tuesday of controlling those behind the bombing and warned of retribution.

Iran adhering to terms of nuke deal: IAEA

REUTERS, Vienna

Iran has remained within the key limits on its nuclear activities imposed by its 2015 deal with major powers despite growing pressure from newly reimposed US sanctions, a report by the UN nuclear watchdog indicated yesterday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, which is policing those nuclear restrictions, said in a confidential quarterly report seen by Reuters that Iran stayed within caps on the level to which it can enrich uranium, as well as its stock of enriched uranium.

The IAEA also carried out so-called complementary access inspections - which are often at short notice - at all locations in Iran that it needed to visit. President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Iran nuclear deal last May.

CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

China, Russia warn against US 'humanitarian assistance'

AFP, Beijing

China and Russia yesterday said they were against forcefully sending "so-called humanitarian assistance" to Venezuela, warning it could spark conflict in the crisis-torn country.

China has loaned billions to Venezuela and has remained committed to President Nicolas Maduro even as the country has fallen deeper into economic crisis.

Foreign aid mostly from the US has piled up on Venezuela's borders as the Maduro government refuses to let it into the country.

"If the so-called humanitarian assistance were forcefully sent to Venezuela it might trigger conflict and lead to serious consequences," said China's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

"China is against a military intervention in Venezuela and against any behaviour that might cause escalation or turmoil," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday accused the United States of using aid deliveries to Venezuela as a ploy to carry out military

action against Maduro's government.

"A dangerous provocation, instigated and led by Washington, is planned for February 23," foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, pointing to efforts by opposition leader Juan Guaido to pick up US aid being stockpiled on the Colombian border.

Opposition leader and self-declared interim president Juan Guaido has vowed to bring aid in from various points today "one way or another" despite military efforts to block it.

Shipments of food and medicine for Venezuelans suffering in the country's economic crisis have become a focus of the power struggle between Maduro and Guaido.

Maduro ordered the closure of Venezuela's border with Brazil on Thursday. Guaido set out in a convoy of vehicles to personally pick up US aid being stockpiled on the other side of the Colombian border, defying Maduro's military to stop him.

Maduro also warned Thursday he was considering "a total closure of the border with Colombia" to Venezuela's west.

NEWS IN brief

Saudi Arabia bags \$10b China oil deal

AFP, Beijing

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met China's President Xi Jinping yesterday and bagged a \$10-billion oil deal. Mohammed arrived in Beijing on Thursday following visits to Pakistan and India, showing the world that his country still has allies after the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom's Istanbul consulate.

Ninth Labour MP quits

AFP, London

A ninth lawmaker quit Britain's main opposition Labour Party yesterday, blaming leader Jeremy Corbyn's handling of accusations of anti-Semitism within its ranks. Ian Austin's resignation adds to a mounting rebellion against Corbyn after the defections earlier this week of eight Labour MPs over the issues of anti-Semitism and Brexit.

Turkey seeks arrest of 300 army officers

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey yesterday issued arrest warrants for almost 300 active military officers for alleged links to a failed 2016 coup aimed at unseating President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, prosecutors said. A total of 295 officers including two colonels are targeted in the warrants, the Istanbul prosecutor's office said. Tens of thousands of people have been arrested over suspected links to the coup.

7.5 quake hits Ecuador

AFP, Quito

An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 hit Ecuador yesterday but there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage. The quake struck before dawn in Ecuador's eastern Amazon region 17 kilometers from the town of Montalvo near the border with Peru, the US Geological Survey said. It hit at a depth of 132 kilometers.

Israel launches Moon mission

AFP, Washington

An unmanned rocket took off from Cape Canaveral in Florida on Thursday night carrying Israel's Beresheet spacecraft, aiming to make history twice: as the first private-sector landing on the Moon, and the first from the Jewish state. The 585-kilogram Beresheet, which means "Genesis" in Hebrew, lifted off at 0145 GMT Friday atop a Falcon 9 rocket from the private US-based SpaceX company. So far, only Russia, the United States and China have made the 384,000-kilometer (239,000-mile) journey and landed spacecraft on the Moon.



A wounded Palestinian is evacuated during a protest at the Israel-Gaza border fence, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

HISTORIC POWER SHIFT IN MINDANAO

Muslim rebel chief sworn in as CM

AFP, Manila

The Philippines yesterday handed over the reins of a new Muslim-led territory to rebel leaders who waged a decades-long fight for autonomy, but are now tasked with securing peace and prosperity.

President Duterte personally swore in Murad Ebrahim, leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), as interim chief minister at a symbolic Manila ceremony.

It comes after voters decisively backed in January the founding of the so-called Bangsamoro region in the south, the culmination of a peace deal to end a separatist insurgency that had killed some 150,000 people since the 1970s.

Duterte and Murad have both said they hope the pact will help head off the rise of Islamist extremism in the country's Muslim-populated southern region of Mindanao.

Murad and his transition body will form a cabinet as well as pass laws until the temporary arrangement ends with the election of a regional parliament in May 2022.

Family of IS teen to fight UK decision to strip citizenship

Father of Alabama woman who joined IS sues US

AFP, London

The family of a London teenager who joined the Islamic State group in Syria yesterday said it would challenge the British government's decision to revoke her citizenship.

Shamima Begum travelled to Syria in 2015 aged just 15 but has now fled the crumbling "caliphate" and says she wants to come home, after giving birth in a refugee camp last weekend.

A letter to interior minister Sajid Javid written by Begum's sister Renu on behalf of her family also called on the government to help bring her newborn son to Britain.

The fate of the 19-year-old has triggered fierce debate in Britain, with the government telling her family this week that it was revoking her citizenship.

International law prevents a government from rendering a person stateless, but Britain reportedly believes that Begum also has Bangladeshi citizenship due to her

Suu Kyi woos investors to Rakhine

REUTERS, Ngapali Beach

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi called for investment in the crisis-hit western state of Rakhine yesterday, saying the world had "focused narrowly on negative aspects" in the state from which some 730,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled since 2017.

On a rare visit to Rakhine, Suu Kyi emphasised responsible business practices as she addressed an investment fair sponsored by Japan in the coastal state's tourist hotspot of Ngapali beach.

She made only a brief reference to the violence that have roiled areas several hundred kilometres to the north, including a fresh conflict with Rakhine rebels that has displaced more than 5,000 since December.

Hoda Muthana, 24, says that she regrets joining the extremists and is willing to face prosecution in the United States over her incendiary propaganda on behalf of the ruthless but dwindling group.

এক নজরে ন্যাশনাল লাইফ : ১৯৮৫ - ২০১৭

কর্পোরেট তথ্য

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৩। প্রাথমিক মুদ্রণ	৩। ১১-০৫-১৯৮৫
৪। অন্যান্য মুদ্রণ	৪। ১০০,০০০ কপি টাকা
৫। প্রতিশ্রুতিমূল মুদ্রণ	৫। ১৪-৩৭ কপি টাকা*
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সাল	পরিশেল্পিত মুদ্রণ	মোট ডিভিডেন্ড

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