

US-CHINA TRADE WAR

Beijing to create blacklist of foreign firms

China yesterday said it would release a blacklist of "unreliable" foreign companies and individuals, hitting back after the United States targeted telecom giant Huawei in their escalating trade war.

The announcement was made a day before Beijing is due to increase tariffs on \$60 billion in US goods, capping a week marked by rising Chinese threats of retaliation after President Donald Trump blacklisted Huawei. A 90-day reprieve was later issued.

China's commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said the list will include "foreign enterprises, organisations or individuals that do not comply with market rules, deviate from a contract's spirit or impose blockades or stop supplies to Chinese enterprises for non-commercial purposes, and seriously damage the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises".

Modi to face foreign pressures

AP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi won a second term in office after responding to a suicide attack on Indian paramilitary forces in troubled Kashmir with an airstrike inside Pakistan, allowing him to turn voters' attention away from the country's highest unemployment rate in decades.

Now, after his swearing-in on Thursday, he will need to deftly navigate a trade war between the United States and China as well as rising tensions between the U.S. and Iran, an important source of cheap oil for India's fast-growing economy. Modi will also face pressure to protect India's traditional sphere of influence in South Asia.

Lalit Mansingh, a former Indian ambassador to Washington, said foreign policy has been one of Modi's most pronounced achievements, as he pursued it with vigor "that we have not seen in any other prime minister so far."

As Modi returns to power for another five years, global leaders are looking to India to take on a larger burden of responsibility in the world, acting as a security buffer in the Indo-Pacific, opening its markets and responding to climate change, even though Modi struggled to manage many of India's domestic issues in his first term.

"Maneuvering in the current international situation will be quite a challenge for Modi," said Dilip Sinha, a retired Indian diplomat.

The US wants India to act as a counterweight to Beijing to prevent the rise of Chinese hegemony in Asia but it also wants the Modi administration to lower barriers to trade.

At the same time, with the Trump administration scaling up sanctions on Iran and ending waivers for countries that import Iranian goods, including India, India must replace its third-largest source of imported oil.

The fear of a further conflagration in the Persian Gulf region could make



This photo taken on Thursday night shows India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rajnath Singh greets Amit Shah during the swearing-in ceremony of India's new government at the presidential palace in New Delhi. PHOTO: REUTERS

oil more expensive and threatens the security of 7 million Indians working as migrant laborers. "It's an extremely difficult and challenging position for India," Sinha said.

During the Cold War, India didn't have open relations with Israel, leaning heavily in favor of the Palestinians. But over the last 25 years, ties between the two countries have warmed. Trade between them has skyrocketed from \$200 million in 1992, when India and Israel established diplomatic ties, to \$4.16 billion in 2016. The growing

ties risk upsetting India's long-standing relationship with other Middle Eastern countries.

The US weapons purchase agreements, coupled with Russia's improving ties with Pakistan and China, also pose a challenge to Russia-India relations, which date back to the Cold War.

"India's Russian ties are also beginning to fray. The recent fighter aircraft deals with France and other military hardware purchases from the USA have resulted in sidelining India's usual defense partner," the opposition Indian National Congress party said in a statement.

India faces perhaps its biggest challenge with China at its northeastern border as Beijing invests billions in infrastructure development in South Asia.

India takes years to execute projects, whereas China delivers quickly on what it promises. India needs to maintain close ties with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives, its traditional sphere of influence. But delays by Indian companies have led to cost overruns, prompting India's neighbors to look toward China for speedy development.

With Pakistan, India's relationship is going to be a problematic one. Modi's campaign rhetoric leading to the polls made it more difficult. And with unrest in Kashmir, relationship between the nuclear powered neighbours may take a ugly turn.



N Korea 'executed' officials after failed Trump summit

North Korea executed its special envoy to the United States following the collapse of the second summit between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump, a South Korean newspaper reported yesterday. The Chosun Ilbo said Kim Hyok Chol, who laid the groundwork for the Hanoi meeting and accompanied Kim on his private train, was executed by firing squad for "betraying the supreme leader" after he was "won over to the US" during pre-summit negotiations. The other officials were not named. Asked about the account, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington was trying to verify it. Kim Hyok Chol was the North's counterpart of US special representative Stephen Biegun in the run-up to the Hanoi summit in February. Some previous South Korean reports of North Korean purges and executions have later proved inaccurate.

UN expert: Assange facing 'psychological torture'

Julian Assange has been subjected to draw-out "psychological torture," a UN rights expert said yesterday, accusing the United States, Britain, Ecuador and Sweden of "collective persecution" of the WikiLeaks founder. The United Nations special rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, Nils Melzer, also warned that if London agrees to an extradition request from Washington, Assange risked the death penalty. Melzer visited the Australian whistleblower in a London prison on May 9, nearly a month after his arrest at Ecuador's embassy where he had been holed up for seven years.



UN names Russian diplomat to lead European HQ

Russian diplomat Tatiana Valovaya has been named the next director-general of the UN office at Geneva, making the former journalist the first woman appointed to run the world body's European headquarters. The appointment by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres restores Russian leadership to a role held by Russian diplomats for nearly two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union (1993-2011). Her nomination comes at a time when Russia is bolstering its influence within the UN in Geneva, filling some of the void left by Washington, which under President Donald Trump has increasingly disengaged.



Iranians attend a parade marking al-Quds (Jerusalem) International Day in Tehran, yesterday. An initiative started by Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Quds Day is held annually on the last Friday of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and calls for Jerusalem to be returned to the Palestinians. PHOTO: REUTERS

Modi holds talks with Bimstec leaders

PTI, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday held separate meetings with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, exploring ways to further strengthen bilateral ties.

A day after taking charge as prime minister for a second term, Modi also held extensive talks with Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth.

In the meeting between Modi and Sirisena, both leaders noted that terrorism and extremism continue to pose threat to humanity and expressed commitment for closer bilateral cooperation for peace and security in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region, the external affairs ministry said. Sri Lanka was hit by a wave of bombings last month in which over 250 people were killed.

Modi also held talks with his Nepal counterpart KP Sharma Oli during which both leaders expressed their commitment in further deepening relations.

On Modi's talks with Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering, the MEA said the two leaders discussed bilateral commitments and agreed to further solidify the traditionally strong ties.

The PM also held a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh president Abdul Hamid during which they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Besides India, Bimstec comprises Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

NEWSIN brief

Sudan shuts down Al Jazeera office

Sudanese authorities on Thursday shut down news broadcaster Al Jazeera's Khartoum office, as thousands of protesters gathered outside the country's military headquarters to pressure the ruling generals to cede power. Late Thursday, the Qatari television channel said its bureau was abruptly shut down and its journalists banned from reporting in the country with immediate effect, without being given a reason.

Taliban blast kills 4 in Afghanistan

At least four Afghans were killed and four US troops lightly wounded when a car bomber attacked a US military convoy in Kabul yesterday, officials said. The blast, which was claimed by the Taliban, occurred around 8:40 am (0410 GMT) when an explosives-laden vehicle drove into the convoy that was travelling in eastern Kabul. The US troops suffered minor injuries.

Palestinian teen shot dead by Israeli forces

A Palestinian teenager was shot dead by Israeli border police as he tried to enter Jerusalem from the occupied West Bank on Friday, Palestinian and Israeli officials said. Another man, 21, was shot in the stomach at the same location and was being treated in hospital, the ministry said. Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said border police had been trying to stop people breaking into Jerusalem.

Saudi rallies allies against Iran in Makkah summits

AFP, Makkah

Gulf and Arab allies rallied around Saudi Arabia yesterday as it ratcheted up tensions with regional rival Iran after a series of attacks, drawing accusations from Tehran of "sowing division".

Tehran, which has strongly denied involvement in any of the attacks, expressed disappointment that Riyadh plans to level the same "baseless accusations" at a summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) early today.

King Salman called on Gulf and Arab leaders to confront Iran's "criminal acts" after still unexplained sabotage attacks damaged four vessels, two of them Saudi oil tankers, in the Sea of Oman and twin Yemeni rebel drone attacks shut down a key Saudi oil pipeline.

His remarks came at the start of two back-to-back emergency summits in the Muslim holy city of Makkah that drew near-unanimous support for the Sunni kingdom from Gulf and Arab states -- with the notable exception of Iraq.

A joint statement issued by Arab leaders condemned "acts by the terrorist Huthi militias supported by Iran who (sent) aircraft that crossed into Saudi Arabia to two oil pumping stations and acts of sabotage that affected commercial ships in territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates".

They said Iran's behaviour "poses a

direct and serious threat" and called on "the international community to take a firm stand to confront Iran and its destabilising acts in the region".

A joint statement issued by Gulf leaders went further, echoing criticism of a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between major powers and Iran voiced by US President Donald Trump when he abandoned the agreement in May last year.

It expressed "support for the US strategy towards Iran" that has seen Washington tighten the screws on Iran's economy with crippling unilateral sanctions and deploy an aircraft carrier task force, B-52 bombers and an amphibious assault ship to the Gulf, along with additional troops.

Gulf leaders called on Iran to "stay away from hostile, destabilising acts".

But Iraq, caught in the middle of its two allies, the US and Iran, opposed the final statement released by Arab countries.

Through the summits, Saudi Arabia has sought to project a unified Arab front against Tehran in the face of a bitter rift with neighbouring Qatar.

Qatar was represented at Friday's meetings by PM Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Thani, Doha's highest-ranking official to visit the kingdom since the start of a Saudi-led boycott in 2017. Appearing tense, the Qatari official shook hands with the Saudi king but there was no indication of a thaw.

Joint statement by Gulf leaders supports US actions over nuke deal

Saudi king demands firm Arab stand on Iran's 'criminal' acts

Iran accuses Saudi Arabia of 'sowing division'



Students holding placards take part in a rally during the World No Tobacco Day in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Construction of Dhaka Central Jail, Keraniganj Project
Prisons Directorate, Bakshi Bazar, Dhaka-1211

Memo No. 58.04.0000.037.02.001.2019-126 Date: 30.05.2019

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing, closing date & time
1	323092	Ambulance for Dhaka Central Jail, Keraniganj	26 May 2019 17:00:00 11 June 2019 12:15:00
2	323093	Office Equipment for Dhaka Central Jail, Keraniganj	26 May 2019 17:00:00 11 June 2019 12:45:00
3	323864	Security Equipment for Dhaka Central Jail, Keraniganj (Package-1)	26 May 2019 17:00:00 11 June 2019 12:30:00
4	323865	Security Equipment for Dhaka Central Jail, Keraniganj (Package-2)	26 May 2019 17:00:00 11 June 2019 12:00:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further informational and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Memo: 1286 Dated: 27/05/2019

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works given below:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
01	320945	Bari/pwd/Staggig/Hut-204/2018-2019	Repair & renovation works in/c. Civil and Sanitary repair works of 2 units Staff Quarter Supervisors Quarter ASI Quarter and Repair works in/c. raising of existing bituminous carpeting road to ASI Quarter at Shagordi Staggig Hut Barisal and Palisading work in/c. earth filling works of the pond of 3rd class Staff Quarters at Chandmari Barisal.	10-06-2019 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Gerald Oliver Guda
Executive Engineer
Barisal PWD Division, Barisal

GD-1028