

# War of words between U.S. and Iran intensifies

Trump threatens to 'obliterate' parts of the Islamic Republic after Tehran says new sanctions mean end of diplomacy

REUTERS  
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump threatened on Tuesday to obliterate parts of Iran if the Islamic Republic attacked "anything American", as Iran said the latest U.S. sanctions had closed off any chance of diplomacy.

"Any attack by Iran on anything American will be met with great and overwhelming force," Mr. Trump tweeted just days the U.S. came within minutes of bombing Iranian targets. "In some areas, overwhelming will mean obliteration," the U.S. President tweeted.

Mr. Trump on Monday signed an executive order imposing sanctions against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior figures. Sanctions against Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif are expected later this week.

"Imposing useless sanctions on Iran's Supreme



Talking tough: Iran President Hassan Rouhani speaking at a meeting with officials in Tehran on Tuesday. AP

Leader and the commander of Iran's diplomacy is the permanent closure of the path of diplomacy," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi tweeted. "Trump's desperate administration is destroying the established international mechanisms for maintaining world peace and security."

The moves came after Iran

shot down a U.S. drone last week and Mr. Trump called off a retaliatory air strike minutes before impact. It would have been the first time the U.S. had bombed Iran in decades of hostility between them. Mr. Trump said last week that he had decided at the last minute that too many people would die.

In a televised address on

## Russia backs Iran claims

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

The U.S. drone shot down by Tehran last week was in Iranian airspace, the head of Russia's Security Council said on Tuesday, despite U.S. claims to the contrary.

"I have information from the Defence Ministry of the Russian Federation that this drone was in Iranian airspace," Russian news agencies quoted Nikolai

Patrushev as telling reporters in Jerusalem. He was in Jerusalem for talks with U.S. and Israeli officials.

Meanwhile, Moscow accused Washington of being reckless with new sanctions on Iran, saying it stood in solidarity with Tehran. "U.S. authorities should think hard about where this reckless course of action can lead," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Tuesday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said sanctions against Mr. Khamenei would have no practical impact because the cleric had no assets abroad.

### Desperate move

Mr. Rouhani, a pragmatist who won two elections on promises to open Iran up to the world, described the U.S.

moves as desperate and called the White House "mentally retarded" — an insult that other Iranian officials have used in the past about Mr. Trump, but a departure from Mr. Rouhani's own comparatively measured tone. "The White House actions mean it is mentally retarded," Mr. Rouhani said. "Tehran's strategic

patience does not mean we have fear."

### 'Will breach deal'

Meanwhile, a top Iranian security official said the country will "resolutely" abandon more commitments under a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers on July 7, Fars News Agency reported on Tuesday.

"As of July 7, Iran will forcefully take the second step of reducing its commitments" to the nuclear deal, Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, was quoted as saying by Fars.

This was so "countries who interpreted Iran's patience with weakness and inaction realise that Iran's answer to the American drone's violation of its airspace will be no different than its reaction to devious political efforts to limit Iranian people's absolute rights," he added.

# Trump denies sexual assault allegation

She's not my type, says U.S. President

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that writer and columnist Jean E. Carroll was lying about him sexually assaulting her and that she was not his type.

"I'll say it with great respect," Mr. Trump said to *The Hill*, a media outlet that covers Capitol Hill. "No. 1, she's not my type. No. 2, it never happened. It never happened, OK?"

Mr. Trump went to say Ms. Carroll was "totally lying" and added that he did not know her.

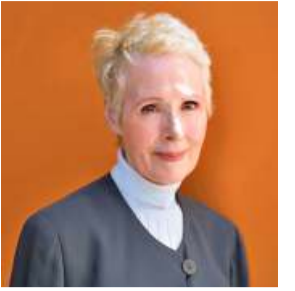
Ms. Carroll, 75, a writer and columnist for *Elle* magazine, said Mr. Trump had assaulted her in 1995 or 1996, in the dressing room of Bergdorf Goodman, a high-end store in New York City. Ms. Carroll had run into Mr. Trump there, she said, and agreed to help him shop for a gift. Her story was first published last week by *New York* magazine, as part of excerpts from Ms. Carroll's new book.

She told two of her close friends, as per what she says in the book excerpt. One friend asked her to go to the police and the other said that Mr. Trump would "bury" her with his "200 lawyers".

The *New York Times* reported that it had confirmed with both friends that Ms. Carroll had spoken to them about the incident.

Mr. Trump has used the explanation of someone not being his type or his "first choice", when confronted by sexual assault allegations.

A total of 16 women, including Ms. Carroll, have publicly accused Mr. Trump of sexual misconduct. The President has denied all allegations. Hours before Mr.



Writer and columnist Jean E. Carroll

Trump's interview with *The Hill*, Ms. Carroll had said that nothing had come of all the earlier assault allegations.

### Sick of it: Carroll

"With all the women, it's the same: He denies it, he turns it around, he attacks, and he threatens — and then everybody forgets it until the next woman comes along," Ms. Carroll told CNN. "I am sick of it. I am sick of it."

"I love that I'm not his type. Don't you love that you're not his type?" Ms. Carroll told CNN's Anderson Cooper on Monday night.

Ms. Carroll, a registered Democrat, told the *Washington Post* on Friday that she had voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Last Saturday morning, Mr. Trump compared his situation to Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's. "It's a total false accusation and I don't know anything about her. And she's made this charge against others," Mr. Trump said, drawing a parallel between the current situation and the Kavanaugh case.

The Supreme Court justice was publicly accused by three women of sexual assault in his younger years but was not disqualified from the confirmation process and eventually got confirmed.

# 'Lanka gearing up to hang drug offenders'

Official says President Maithripala Sirisena has signed papers for execution

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Following up on his earlier pledge to hang drug offenders, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has recently signed papers for the execution, according to a top government source.

The move is in connection with the 'National Drug Prevention Week' being observed from June 23 to July 1, the senior official source told *The Hindu*, on condition of anonymity.

The government or the President's office has so far not officially commented on the development, which comes three months after

President Sirisena announced that he had fixed a date to hang convicted drug traffickers, effectively lifting a four-decade-old moratorium on capital punishment.

### Call for halt

Rights watchdog Amnesty International on Tuesday said it was "alarmed to learn" that the Sri Lankan government was preparing to execute at least 13 prisoners convicted in drug-related crimes.

In a statement, Amnesty urged Mr. Sirisena to immediately halt his "plans to resume executions" for drug offenders, referring to earlier

media reports suggesting "preparations are under way".

However, Sri Lanka's Commissioner General of Prisons T.M.J.W. Thennakoon dismissed the reports as "completely wrong". "As of June 25, 8 p.m., I have received no official communication from the Presidential secretariat regarding this," he told *The Hindu*, when contacted on Tuesday.

### Govt. ad

Last week, local media reported that President Sirisena was considering signing papers to execute drug offenders. In a full-page go-

vernment advertisement on the 'National Drug Prevention Week', carried in the state-run *Daily News* on Monday, the words 'Death penalty for drug dealers' were highlighted in bold, red font within a circle, resembling a stamped seal.

Sri Lankan courts have sentenced many convicts to death in the past, but no one has been executed since 1976, with their sentences invariably commuted to life. The most recent verdict came last week, when the Colombo High Court awarded death sentence to a man found guilty of possessing 4.40 gm of heroin in 2013.

# Next British PM to be announced on July 23

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

The winner of the contest to replace Theresa May as leader of Britain's ruling Conservatives and Prime Minister will be announced on July 23, the ruling party said on Tuesday.

Former Foreign Minister Boris Johnson is the favourite in the race, battling Britain's current top diplomat, Jeremy Hunt. The two candidates will seek to woo an estimated 1.6 million party members who will make the final choice. "The announcement of the next leader of the Conservative party will be made on Tuesday 23 July," the statement said.



Boris Johnson

Meanwhile, Mr. Johnson said on Tuesday it would be "bizarre" if the EU opted to impose tariffs on British goods in the event of a no-deal Brexit. "It would be a return to Napoleon's continental system," he added, invoking the 19th-century French emperor, who attempted to blockade Britain in the Napoleonic Wars.

# Stephanie Grisham is new White House Press Secy.

Was spokeswoman for Melania earlier

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Tuesday named Stephanie Grisham — until now spokeswoman for his wife Melania — the chief White House Press Secretary, taking over an office that has seen sharply deteriorating relations with the media.

The appointment, announced by Melania Trump on Twitter, replaces the outgoing Sarah Sanders, who oversaw the near ending of once traditional daily White House press briefings and fought repeatedly with journalists who accused her of lying.

Ms. Grisham will also hold the more strategic post of Communications Director, the first lady tweeted.

"I am pleased to announce @StephGrisham45



Stephanie Grisham

will be the next @PressSec & Comms Director!" Melania Trump wrote. "She has been with us since 2015 - @POTUS & I can think of no better person to serve the Administration & our country."

Ms. Grisham is a Trump loyalist, having joined his presidential campaign back in 2015 and winning a reputation as a tough operator in the first lady's office.

# Sherin case: father pleads guilty to lesser charge

Mathews had been charged with murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HOUSTON

In an unexpected turn, the Indian-American father, accused of killing his 3-year-old adopted daughter Sherin Mathews and hiding her body in a culvert in suburban Dallas, has pleaded guilty to a lesser charge, according to media reports.

Wesley Mathews, 39, pleaded guilty to injury to a child by omission even before his capital murder trial opened at a Dallas district court on Monday. The lesser charge comes with a lighter possible sentence.

Mathews had been charged with capital murder of a person under the age of 10 in the death of his special needs adoptive daughter, Sherin, in October 2017. If convicted, Mathews would face life in prison



Wesley Mathews

without the possibility of parole.

Now, with the charge of first-degree injury to a child by omission, Mathews could get probation or face prison and life with the possibility of parole after serving 30 years, a local news site reported. Entering the guilty plea immediately moved Mathews' trial into the punishment phase on Monday, it said.

## IN BRIEF



### U.S. border agency acting head to leave on July 5

WASHINGTON The acting Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, John Sanders, is resigning and will leave his post on July 5, the agency said on Tuesday, a move that coincides with an outcry over the treatment of 250 detained migrant children at a Texas border patrol station. REUTERS

### Police kill 3 suspected Rohingya traffickers

COX'S BAZAR The Bangladesh police killed three people suspected of trying to smuggle 15 Rohingya Muslim refugees to Malaysia on Tuesday near the main refugee camp, an official said, the second such incident in as many months. REUTERS

# India-Pak. clash over Nizam of Hyderabad's funds in U.K.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

A decades-old legal dispute between India and Pakistan over around £35 million belonging to the Nizam of Hyderabad at the time of Partition and deposited in a London bank account has reached an important stage in the U.K. High Court.

The Nizam's descendants, Prince Mukarram Jah — the titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad — and his younger brother Muffakham Jah, have joined hands with the Indian government in the legal battle against the Pakistan government over the funds lying with the NatWest Bank plc in London.

The dispute revolves around £1,007,940 and nine shillings that were transferred in 1948 from the then Nizam of Hyderabad, Osman



Prince Mukarram Jah — the titular Nizam.

Ali Khan, to the High Commissioner in Britain of the newly-formed Pakistan. That amount has since grown into millions.

"His Exalted Highness Nizam VIII and his younger brother have waited decades to receive what their grandfather gifted them. Pakistan has blocked access for 70 years and we hope the recent trial will mean a final resolution at last," said Paul Hewitt, partner at Withers law firm, which is represent-

ing the eight Nizam in the Royal Courts of Justice in London. Justice Marcus Smith has been presented with arguments from both sides in the case listed as — The High Commissioner for Pakistan in the U.K. versus seven others, including the Union of India and the President of India. The judgment is expected in six weeks.

The late Nizam Osman Ali Khan, who faced the quandary of joining Pakistan or staying with India at the time of the funds transfer back in 1948, had later reportedly sought the return of the funds. NatWest Bank has since held on to the funds deposited into the account of then Pakistan High Commissioner Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola in safekeeping until its rightful legal owner is established.

## Number of prepositions in English

200
  150
  250

## Number of words in the Oxford dictionary

1,71,476
  81,476
  2,51,456

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