

Trump targets Congresswomen again

President asks the four freshman lawmakers to apologise to him and 'the people of Israel'

EILEEN SULLIVAN
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Monday increased his attacks on four first-term Democratic Congresswomen and warned the party about uniting "around the foul language & racist hatred spewed" from the American women whom he recently told to "go back" to their own countries.

Mr. Trump demanded that the four Congresswomen, Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna S. Pressley of Massachusetts, issue their own apologies to him and "the people of Israel". Ms. Omar is the only one of the four who was born outside the U.S.

"When will the Radical Left Congresswomen apologise to our Country, the people of Israel and even to the Office of the President, for the foul language they have

used, and the terrible things they have said," he wrote. "So many people are angry at them & their horrible & disgusting actions!"

"If Democrats want to unite around the foul language & racist hatred spewed from the mouths and actions of these very unpopular & unrepresentative Congresswomen, it will be interesting to see how it plays out," he wrote in another tweet. "I can tell you that they have made Israel feel abandoned by the U.S."

'Aim higher'

Few Republicans have responded to Mr. Trump's comments, widely seen as racist. On Monday, Sen. Lindsey Graham encouraged Mr. Trump to "aim higher", while also calling Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and the other three lawmakers communists.

"We all know that AOC and this crowd are a bunch of communists," Mr. Graham



(From left) Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib and Ayanna S. Pressley in Washington last week. •NYT

said on Fox News. "They hate Israel, they hate our own country." But he also pushed back against the President's suggestion that the women are not American.

"They are American citizens," he said. "Mr. President, you're right about their policies. Just aim higher."

On Sunday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., responded

to the President and suggested he was advocating white nationalism.

"When @realDonaldTrump tells four American Congresswomen to go back to their countries, he reaffirms his plan to 'Make America Great Again' has always been about making America white again," she said in a Twitter post. NY TIMES

Completely unacceptable, says May

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Outgoing British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday condemned U.S. President Donald Trump's tweets telling progressive Democrat congresswomen to "go back" where they came from as "completely unacceptable".

"Her view is that the language which was used to refer to the women was completely unacceptable," Ms. May's spokesman told reporters.

Mr. Trump and Ms. May have endured a rocky relationship, which took a turn for the worse last week following the leak of diplomatic British cables highly critical of his presidency.

'No intent to exclude India from Afghan diplomacy'

China says it is in close coordination with all stakeholders

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

China on Monday sought to reassure India that it does not intend to "exclude" New Delhi from international diplomacy on Afghanistan, following last week's quadrilateral talks in Beijing among China, Russia, the U.S. and Pakistan.

Fresh from his visit to Qatar where he held talks with the Taliban and Afghan government officials, U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad first joined his counterparts from Russia and China for the third trilateral mechanism on Afghanistan. This was followed by the first quadrilateral meeting on Afghanistan, in which Pakistan was also present.

"Last week, the U.S. special envoy Khalilzad attended the third trilateral consul-

ation of Afghan issue between China, Russia and the U.S. in Beijing. He also attended the first China, Russia, the U.S. and Pakistan meeting," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said.

'Early settlement'

Asked why India, which also has high stakes in Afghanistan, was not invited, Mr. Geng said there was no deliberate intent among the participants to exclude India from discussions.

"I think just like you said, China has been in close communication and coordination with all parties including India. You said that (at) the trilateral meeting and the China-U.S.-Russia-Pakistan meeting, these countries, they have decided to hold such meeting based on

mutual understandings. I believe China, the U.S. and Pakistan, we do not exclude India in discussing and helping the early settlement of the Afghan issue."

However, analysts say that with the institutionalisation of the quadrilateral mechanism, India is not on the table where key decisions on Afghan reconciliation will be taken.

A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting points out that a broader group that includes "other stakeholders" will meet only after an internal dialogue among Afghans has begun.

"The four sides agreed to maintain the momentum of consultation, will invite other important stakeholders to join on the basis of the trilateral consensus agreed on April 25, 2019 in Moscow..."

Pak. court grants interim bail to Saeed, three aides

Case pertains to JuD's illegal use of land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Mumbai terror attack mastermind and JuD chief Hafiz Saeed and three of his aides were granted pre-arrest bail on Monday by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in a case pertaining to the banned outfit's illegal use of land for its seminary.

The Anti-Terrorism Court in Lahore granted interim bail to Saeed and his aides - Hafiz Masood, Ameer Hamza, and Malik Zafar - until August 31 against surety bonds of Rs. 50,000 each, Dawn newspaper reported.

During the hearing,

Saeed's counsel insisted that Jamat-ud Dawah (JuD) was not using any piece of land illegally and urged the court to accept bail pleas.

Saeed-led JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The U.S. declared the LeT as a foreign terrorist organisation in June 2014.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the U.S. has offered a \$10 million reward for information that brings him to justice.

Hong Kong leader condemns 'rioters'

Lam throws her weight behind city's beleaguered police after weekend clashes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Anti-government protesters who fought police inside a Hong Kong shopping mall were "rioters", Carrie Lam, the finance hub's pro-Beijing leader, said on Monday as she threw her support behind the city's beleaguered police force following another weekend of clashes.

Hong Kong's ongoing political crisis deepened further on Sunday as riot police and protesters fought running battles inside a shopping complex packed with luxury stores.

Police used pepper spray and batons against small

groups of protesters, who responded by hurling umbrellas, bottles and other projectiles, in a night of fresh violence.

Both officers and protesters were injured in the chaotic melee which left bloodstains on the floor and at least 28 people needing hospital treatment.

Ms. Lam rounded up protesters after visiting injured officers on Monday.

"They were committed to the duties, and also very professional and restrained. But they were wantonly attacked by rioters - I think we can really describe them as rioters," Ms. Lam told repor-



Carrie Lam

ters. She said police and prosecutors will press charges following investigations.

Hong Kong has been rocked by more than a month of largely peaceful protests - as well as a series of separate violent confron-

tations with police - sparked by a law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China and other countries.

Last month, Parliament was trashed by hundreds of protesters in unprecedented scenes. The Bill has since been suspended, but that has done little to quell public anger which has evolved into a wider movement calling for democratic reforms, universal suffrage and a halt to sliding freedoms in the semi-autonomous hub.

Ms. Lam's use of the word "rioters" will likely infuriate protesters, who have balked at that description.

REUTERS
BEIJING

Chinese police have detained a Canadian citizen in relation with a drugs case involving students, China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday, an incident that comes amid a deep chill in relations between the two countries.

Canada's government said on the weekend that a Canadian citizen had been detained in Yantai in the eastern province of Shandong, though did not provide details.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that police had recently discovered a case of a Cana-

dian student being involved with drugs. The case was being processed, he added.

The issue has nothing to do with another drugs case involving foreigners, in which four British citizens were arrested in Jiangsu province last week, he said.

Relations between China and Canada nosedived last December after Vancouver police detained Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Co, on a U.S. arrest warrant. Beijing is demanding her return.

After Ms. Meng's arrest, China detained two Canadians, accusing them of stealing State secrets.

Some Iranian women take off hijabs as hard-liners push back

Debate on dress code, sparked by social media, has intensified

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

The simple act of walking has become a display of defiance for a young Iranian woman who often moves in Tehran's streets without a compulsory headscarf, or hijab. With every step, she risks harassment or arrest by Iran's morality police.

"I have to confess it is really, really scary," the 30-year-old fire-safety consultant said in a WhatsApp audio message, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But she is also hopeful, saying she believes the authorities will find it difficult to suppress protests as more women join in. "They are running after us, but cannot catch us," she said. "This is why we believe change is going to be made."



Winds of change: A file photo of women walking on the shore of the Persian Gulf Martyrs' Lake in Tehran, Iran. •AP

Women could be seen in the streets without a hijab. Many others opt for loosely draped scarves that show as much hair as they cover.

Public debate has intensified, sparked by social media. Last month, a video showed a security agent violently pushing an unveiled teenage girl into the back of

a police car, prompting widespread criticism.

President Hassan Rouhani and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have supported a softer attitude toward non-complying women. However, hard-liners opposed to such easing have become influential as the nuclear deal is faltering.

23 killed in flash flood in Pok's Neelum Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

At least 23 people were killed and several others are missing after a cloudburst caused flash flood in the Neelum Valley of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, officials said.

A large number of homes in the Laswa area of the Valley were damaged and dozens of people were swept away in the flooding caused by relentless rainfall after the cloudburst overnight.

"The Laswa area was badly hit, where many houses were swept away. There were also reports of landsliding in some areas. A total of 23 people have been killed," Syed Al-Rehman Qureshi, Director of Operations, State Disaster Management Authority, said.

He said several people, including women and children, are still missing.

Traffic flow in the area has been severely disrupted.

ELSEWHERE



Sirisena says drug gangs behind Easter bombings

COLOMBO

International drug syndicates orchestrated Sri Lanka's deadly Easter Sunday bombings, President Maithripala Sirisena claimed on Monday, despite earlier blaming the attacks on Islamists. The statement comes amid a nationwide narcotics crackdown, with Mr. Sirisena is aiming to reintroduce capital punishment for drug offences. "Drug barons carried out this attack to discredit me and discourage my anti-narcotics drive. I will not be deterred," the President said. AFP

Videos of brutal Sudan raid go viral, spark anger

Protesters were violently dispersed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KHARTOUM

Days after a blackout on mobile internet services ended, Sudanese are shocked by the content of online videos and photographs that appear to document last month's deadly raid on demonstrators.

Crowds of protesters were violently dispersed - and dozens killed - by men in military fatigues during a pre-dawn raid on protesters outside army headquarters in Khartoum on June 3.

"The brutal scenes of killings and beatings left me very angry," said Hussein Hashim, a 19-year-old university student. "The perpetrators have no mercy, religion or humanity."

Demonstrators who had



Protesters shouting slogans against the military council in Khartoum on June 30. •AP

camped at the site demanding civilian rule were shot and beaten as armed men rampaged through the area, triggering global outrage. But the carnage went largely unseen inside Sudan because of a blackout on mobile internet services. The authorities restored internet last week, paving the way for photographs and videos going viral on social media.

Indian man's body found in Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

The body of a 21-year-old Indian student in Australia who went missing was found on Monday in Victoria's Marysville region, according to the police, who also emptied a local dam during the search.

Poshik Sharma, a university student in Melbourne, was reported missing last Friday.

The body was found in bushes on the outskirts of Marysville on Monday, four days after Mr. Sharma left a Marysville pub alone following a "minor disagreement" with friends, police was quoted as saying by The Age.

The police said that the death is not being treated as suspicious.