

U.S. will target 52 sites if Iran retaliates: Trump

U.S. President ups the ante as mourners across the country pay their respects to Soleimani after his body reached home

REUTERS
DUBAI
President Donald Trump warned on Saturday that the U.S. would hit dozens of targets in the Islamic Republic if it retaliates for the killing of the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, Qassem Soleimani, in Iraq.

Showing no signs of seeking to reduce tensions raised by the strike on Friday that he ordered, the U.S. President issued a stern threat to Iran on Twitter.

Mr. Trump wrote in a series of tweets that Iran "is talking very boldly about targeting certain USA assets" to avenge Soleimani's death. Mr. Trump said the U.S. has identified "52 Iranian sites" and that some were "at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture, and those targets, and Iran itself, WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD."

"The USA wants no more threats!" Mr. Trump said, adding that the 52 targets represented the 52 Americans, who were held hostage in Iran after being seized at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Raised concerns
Mr. Trump's suggestion that the U.S. could strike targets of importance to Iranian culture raised eyebrows.
Colin Kahl, a former Obama administration national security official, wrote on Twitter that he found it "hard to believe the Pentagon would provide Trump targeting options that include Iranian cultural sites. Trump may not care about the laws of war, but DoD (Department of Defense) planners and lawyers do... and targeting cultural sites is war crime."

Downplaying the comments, the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has de-



Tension escalates: A large crowd surrounding the coffin of slain top commander Qassem Soleimani during the funeral procession in southwestern city of Ahvaz, Iran, on Sunday. •AP

nied that Mr. Trump said he would target Iranian cultural sites if Tehran retaliates against the killing of Soleimani.

"President Trump didn't say he'd go after a cultural site – read what he said," Mr. Pompeo told Fox News.

Former Vice-President Joe Biden and other Democrats criticised Mr. Trump's tweets, with some including U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren saying the President was threatening to commit a war crime. "The more the walls close in on this guy, the more irrational he becomes," said Mr. Biden.

Meanwhile, the body of Soleimani was returned to Iran on Sunday, the official IRIB news agency reported.

While many Iranians have rallied in to show grief over the death of Soleimani, regarded as the country's second most powerful figure after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, others

worry his death might push the country to war with a superpower.

Soleimani's body was flown to the city of Ahvaz in southwest Iran.

IRIB posted a video clip of a casket wrapped in an Iranian flag being unloaded from a plane as a military band played.

Thousands of mourners marched through the streets of Ahvaz, beating their chests in live footage aired on state TV. Soleimani's casket was driven amidst the large crowds on the back of a truck.

Mourning in Iraq
The body of Iranian-backed Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who was killed in the attack with Soleimani, was also flown to Ahvaz, according to IRIB.

Tens of thousands of people marched in Iraq on Saturday to mourn Soleimani and al-Muhandis, chanting

"Death to America".

Iranian parliamentarians also chanted "Death to America" in a parliamentary session shown on state TV on Sunday.

Oman has called on the U.S. and Iran to seek dialogue to ease tensions, Oman News Agency reported on Sunday.

Oman, which maintains friendly ties with both the U.S. and Iran, has previously been a go-between for the two countries.

Iran summoned the Swiss envoy representing U.S. interests in Tehran on Sunday to protest against Mr. Trump saying Washington would target Iranian sites if Tehran attacks Americans or U.S. assets.

On Saturday evening, a rocket fell inside Baghdad's Green Zone near the U.S. Embassy, another hit the nearby Jadriya neighbourhood and two more were fired at the Balad air base.

Donald Trump is just a terrorist in a suit: Tehran

REUTERS
DUBAI
Iran condemned Donald Trump on Sunday as a "terrorist in a suit" after the U.S. President threatened to hit 52 Iranian sites hard if Tehran attacks Americans or U.S. assets in retaliation for the killing of military commander Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad.

As the two countries assailed each other in a war of words, the European Union, Britain and Oman urged both to make efforts to defuse the crisis. Heightened fears of war drove Gulf stocks sharply lower on Sunday.

"Like ISIS, Like Hitler, Like Genghis! They all hate cultures. Trump is a terrorist in a suit. He will learn history very soon that NO-

BODY can defeat 'the Great Iranian Nation & Culture'," Information and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi tweeted.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Iran's Foreign Minister to work to de-escalate the situation and invited him to Brussels to discuss ways of preserving 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

Iran has said it will decide about its next step to further roll back its commitments to the nuclear containment deal, Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi was quoted as saying.

Iran's Army chief, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, said the U.S. lacked courage for military confrontation with Iran.

Iran dumps nuclear pact, says it won't respect limits

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iran's state television reported that the country will no longer abide by any of the limits set under the nuclear deal signed with six major powers in 2015.

The station cited a government spokesman as saying Iran would not respect any limits set in the pact on the number of uranium enrichment centrifuges it could use, which meant there would be no limits on its enrichment capacity, the level to which uranium could be enriched, or Iran's nuclear research and deve-

lopment. These would from now on be based on Iran's technical needs.

It did not elaborate on what levels it would immediately reach in its programme.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations watchdog observing Iran's programme, could not be immediately reached for comment.

However, Iran said that its cooperation with the IAEA "will continue as before." The statement said Iran's steps could be reversed if Washington lifted its sanctions on Tehran.

Military base used by U.S. forces in Kenya attacked

'Aircraft, choppers & vehicles destroyed'



A file photo of U.S. troops at Camp Simba in Kenya. •AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NAIROBI

Jihadists from Somalia's Al-Shabaab group on Sunday stormed a military base used by U.S. forces in Kenya's coastal Lamu region, destroying several aircraft and military vehicles, according to Kenyan police and army officials.

Attackers breached heavy security at Camp Simba at dawn but were repelled and four jihadists were killed, said Army spokesman Colonel Paul Njuguna.

Al-Shabaab has launched regular cross-border raids since Kenya sent troops into Somalia in 2011 as part of an African Union force protecting the internationally backed government – which the jihadists have been trying to overthrow for more than a decade.

The Lamu region, which includes popular tourist beach destination Lamu Island, lies close to the Somali frontier and has suffered frequent attacks, often carried out with roadside bombs.

Njuguna said "an attempt was made to breach security at Manda Air Strip" at 5:30am but it was repulsed.

"Four terrorists' bodies have so far been found. The airstrip is safe," he said, adding that a fire had broken

out but had since been dealt with.

Kenya's Inspector General of Police Hilary Mutiyambai said officers were "on high alert" after the attack.

An internal police report seen by AFP said two aircraft, two American helicopters and "multiple American vehicles" were destroyed at the airstrip. The type of aircraft involved was not immediately clear.

US military officials confirmed the attack and said U.S. and Kenyan forces had repelled the Al-Shabaab fighters.

"Working alongside our Kenyan partners, the airfield is cleared and still in the process of being fully secured," said the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) in a statement.

The nearby civilian airport at Manda Bay, which brings tourists visiting Lamu Island – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – was closed for several hours after the incident, according to the civil aviation authority.

Al-Shabaab said in a statement it had "successfully stormed the heavily fortified military base and have now taken effective control of part of the base".

AFRICOM accused Al-Shabaab of lying in order to create false headlines.

ELSEWHERE



6 German tourists killed by drunken driver in Italy

ROME
A drunken driver speeding on a mountain road plowed into a group of young German tourists in northern Italy early on Sunday, killing six people and injuring 11 others, Italian authorities said. The deadly crash occurred in a village of Valle Aurina, northeast of Bolzano in the Alto Adige region, shortly after 1 a.m. as the Germans gathered near their tour bus. They were between the ages of 20 and 25. The largely German-speaking autonomous region, with its ski resorts in the Dolomites, of northern Italy is popular with German tourists. •AP

Bangladesh orders arrest of 'fugitive' former Chief Justice

Justice Sinha and 10 others face charges of embezzlement

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

A Bangladesh court ordered the arrest on Sunday of former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others on charges alleging they embezzled nearly half a million dollars, a prosecutor said.

"All of them are fugitives from justice," prosecutor Khurshid Alam Khan said, adding that Mr. Sinha was accused of embezzling money and laundering it from one bank account to another.

Justice Sinha headed the South Asian nation's Supreme Court for a landmark



Surendra Kumar Sinha

verdict on judicial independence that went against the government, but fled Bangladesh in late 2017 amid allegations he had been forced to step aside.

Opposition groups and rights activists said the departure of Justice Sinha was

a blow to the credibility of the judiciary in the Muslim-majority country. Justice Sinha, 68, now lives in North America.

He was the first Hindu to be made Chief Justice of the officially secular Muslim-majority nation of 168 million.

Justice Sinha's departure came after a rare statement from the Supreme Court in October 2017 said other judges had accused him of graft and refused to sit with him on the top bench.

Just months earlier, Justice Sinha had led the SC in a decision that scrapped Parliament's power to sack top judges.

Dozens held after protest in Hong Kong

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Petrol bombs were hurled at a Hong Kong police station and dozens of people were arrested on Sunday following a march against so-called parallel trading near the Chinese border.

The Democratic Party said about 10,000 people marched peacefully in Sheung Shui district, but violence erupted after police ordered protesters to disperse.

The marchers were protesting against parallel trading, which sees thousands of mainlanders cross the border every day to bulk-buy goods such as infant formula to sell at a profit in China.

Cambodia building collapse kills 36 people, injures 23

The seven-storey guesthouse was under construction

REUTERS
PHNOM PENH

Thirty-six people were killed and 23 more injured when a tourist guesthouse under construction in Cambodia collapsed, trapping workers under rubble, officials said on Sunday.

Officials said rescue operations ended two days after the seven-storey concrete building collapsed on Friday in the coastal town of Kep, about 160 km southwest of the capital Phnom Penh.

The 36 dead included six children and 14 women, officials said in a statement that did not detail why children were at the site.



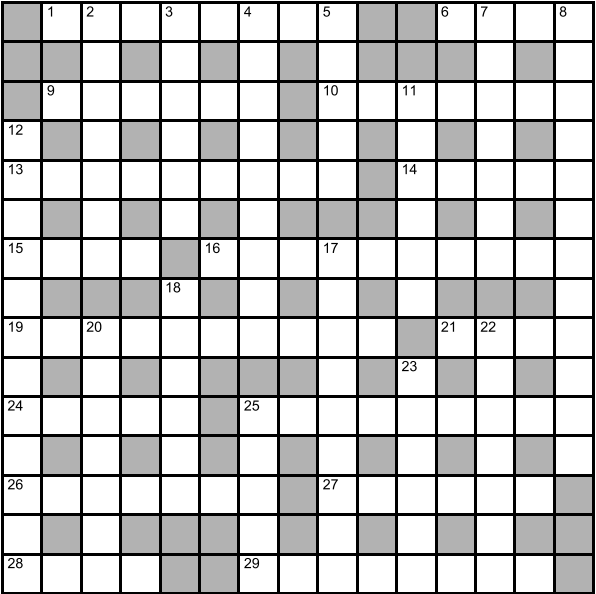
Mountain of rubble: Rescue personnel working at the site in Kep, where a building collapsed, on Sunday. •AFP

Kep Governor Ken Satha said that the owners of the building, a Cambodian couple, had been detained for questioning.

However, Prime Minister Hun Sen defended the government response and said that no officials in Kep province would be fired.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12825

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

■ ACROSS

- 1 Most clever statutes put out (8)
- 6 Do without short mast (4)
- 9 Killer necklace? (6)
- 10 Scattered coal priced with certain limits relative to heat (7)
- 13 A farm harvest by loose soil in old building (9)

(set by Gridman)

- 14 Plea from principal I bickered with (5)
- 15 Belted out – it's no good! (4)
- 16 What a newly wed couple did before moving (3,2,5)
- 19 Somehow bear speech starting late in a deviancy (10)
- 21 Information Bureau section's gone over one bloomer (4)
- 24 Government order by the bell? No, it is a famous no-show (5)
- 25 Ohio poll I conducted with ordinary people (3,6)
- 26 One may throw it in a fit (7)
- 27 Kind of game in MP town, we hear (6)
- 28 Teacher back with trick finally to take a chance (4)
- 29 Reveal information about bird that's appropriating (8)

■ DOWN

- 2 Certain African has risen for a magnificent stripping (7)
- 3 Scruffy man leaves, neglected (6)

- 4 Ron let men in a whirl for registration (9)
- 5 Amasses beheaded nails (5)
- 7 Neighbourhood is an almost clean place (7)
- 8 Set's in a state of administration after financial failure (12)
- 11 Hate the combination of two articles by incomplete bunch (6)
- 12 Charge for fellow's sound of merriment (12)
- 17 Murder of animal reared in old city – that is getting detectives in (9)
- 18 About to assess Rajasthan leader's depression (6)
- 20 Dispatching son to the South for finales (7)
- 22 Swell dance by silly person stripped (7)
- 23 Rogue head of clan dismissed to circular niche (6)
- 25 It's hard on some dilapidated residences (5)

SUDOKU

5			3	4				
	3			9			6	2
				7	2	3	4	5
	9	8					3	
3			4		8			1
	5					2	8	
2	4	3	7	8				
9	7			2			5	
				6	3			7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12824

A	T	A	F	A	I	R	C	L	I	P								
F	G	S	E	U	A	W	S											
T	A	R	S	U	P	S	O	R	O	R	A	L						
E	E	E	A	H	K	I												
R	H	E	U	M	P	O	E	T	A	S	T	E	R					
G	L	E	V	E	B	E	S											
L	E	V	E	L	R	A	T	I	O	N	I	N	G					
O	E																	
W	O	R	L	D	V	I	E	W	B	A	S	T						
I	L	I	S	A	L													
A	S	T	R	O	N	O	M	Y										
S	I	N		N	L	T	G	A	L									
P	L	E	C	T	R	A												
S	S	A	T		G	T	P	R										
					P	R	E	D	O	M	I	N	A	T	E			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	7	8	2	5	6	1	9
1	6	2	3	4	9	7	5	8
9	8	5	1	6	7	3	2	4
4	1	8	6	7	2	9	3	5
2	5	3	9	8	4	1	6	7
6	7	9	5	3	1	4	8	2
5	3	4	7	1	8	2	9	6
8	2	1	4	9	6	5	7	3
7	9	6	2	5	3	8	4	1

FAITH

Similarity to Brahman

The jivatma is not the doer of actions; it is the three gunas that cause us to act, says Lord Krishna, in the Bhagavad Gita. The atma does not inherently know grief or anger. These arise because of qualities like rajas and tamas. And his contact with prakrti is what brings him into contact with the gunas, because they are inherent in prakrti, said Valayapet Ramachariar, in a discourse. This is similar to a good man transforming into a bad one, when he falls into bad company. Even sattva guna is binding, because it makes us desire happiness and knowledge all the time. It thereby binds us to samsara. We have to, therefore, move beyond the three gunas. However, through sattva guna, we are born into families that have atma jnana, and gradually we too progress to a state where we can attain liberation.

The Lord says that the person who knows that the three gunas are the karta, that is the doers of actions, will attain His state. This is not to be taken as the jivatma merging with the Brahman. It means that the jivatma attains qualities like Ananda. Like Him, we too will not know hunger, or thirst. Like Him we too will not experience ageing. Our thoughts will be pure. Our actions will be pure. What we will have will be His svabhava, His qualities. But we do not merge with Him. Similarity to the Brahman, but not identity with the Brahman is what is to be understood here. Before one can attain liberation, one must first transcend the three gunas. Arjuna then wants to know what a person is like when he has transcended the gunas. And he also wants to know how the gunas can be transcended. The Lord replies that to obtain knowledge of atma svarUpa, we should neither like nor dislike the illumination caused by sattva, or actions caused by rajas or wrong knowledge caused by tamas.