

QUICK HITS

Iran Slams US as Huge Crowds Mark 40 Years Since Revolution

Tehran: Iran's president on Monday blasted a US "conspiracy" against the country as vast crowds marked 40 years since the Islamic revolution...

Toppled Malaysian Leader's 1MDB Trial Delayed

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian former premier Najib Razak's trial over the 1MDB mega-scandal was postponed on Monday to allow an appeal to be heard...

Poland to Buy US Rocket System for \$414 Million

Warsaw: Poland said on Sunday it will buy mobile rocket launchers worth \$414 million from the US...

Post-Brexit UK Ready to Use 'Hard Power'

UK is ranked 7th globally in defence spending, dwarfed by US

London: Britain will use military force to support its interests after Brexit, defence minister Gavin Williamson said on Monday...



Gavin Williamson Citing Russia as a danger to the international order, Williamson called for a tougher military stance after Brexit

Williamson outlined plans to send Britain's new aircraft carrier to the Pacific, where London has been seeking to demonstrate its influence in relation to China...

Thai Election Panel Disqualifies King's Sister as PM Candidate

Bangkok: Thailand's election panel on Monday disqualified the sister of the king from running for prime minister...

The March 24 elections are the first since a 2014 military coup toppled a pro-Thaksin government

The list excluded Ubolratana "because every member of the royal family comes within the application of the same rule requiring the application of the same rule requiring the application of the same rule...

UK Posts Slowest Growth in Six Years Ahead of Brexit

London: Britain's economy grew at the slowest pace in six years in 2018 with near-flat output in the final quarter...

GDP growth stood at 1.4% last year, down from 1.8% in 2017, while growth was only 0.2% in the last three months of 2018...

Venezuela's Guaido Warns Military on Blocked Aid

Caracas: Opposition leader Juan Guaido, recognised by some 50 countries as Venezuela's interim president...

The warning came on Sunday as international aid has taken center stage in a test of wills between Guaido and President Nicolas Maduro...

Medicine and food sent by the United States has been blocked for three days on the border in Cucuta, Colombia after Venezuelan soldiers closed a bridge linking the two countries...

On the Venezuelan side of the border, dozens of doctors protested Sunday demanding the aid be allowed in including surgeon Jose Luis Mateus de la Riva...

Pompeo Says Huawei Presence Complicates Partnership with US

Budapest: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned US allies on Monday against deploying equipment from Chinese telecoms gear manufacturer Huawei...



Mike Pompeo

Hungary is the first stop in Pompeo's trip to central Europe that also includes Slovakia and Poland, part of an effort to make up for a lack of US engagement in the region...

The US and its Western allies believe Huawei's gear could be used for espionage, and see its expansion into central Europe as a way to gain a foothold in the EU market.

Huawei denies engaging in intelligence work for any government. It says its technologies serve 70% of Hungarians and that it cooperates with most telecom providers in Hungary...

He is also expected to voice concerns about energy ties with Moscow, and urge Hungary not to support the Turk Stream pipeline...

Trump Defends Work Ethic After Private Schedules Leak

Washington: Donald Trump pushed back on Sunday at the suggestion he spends much of his work day taking it easy, as the White House kept up the hunt for the person behind an embarrassing leak of the president's schedule...

According to details published last week by Axios, 60% of Trump's work life is categorised as "executive time", meaning unstructured time to make phone calls, read newspapers, tweet and watch television...

such free time should be viewed as "positive, not negative". "When the term Executive Time is used, I am generally working, not relaxing," Trump tweeted...

Oz Competition Watchdog Calls for Tough Rules to Curb Power of Google, FB

Sydney: The head of Australia's competition watchdog warned on Monday that tough new regulation of tech giants like Google and Facebook was needed to protect the future of independent journalism...

Rod Sims, chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), said the market power wielded by Google and Facebook has had a devastating impact on Australian news media...

International Institute of Communications. "We cannot simply leave the production of news and journalism to market forces," added Sims...

The market power wielded by Google and Facebook has had a devastating impact on Australian news media, says ACCC

"Rather they select, curate, evaluate, rank and arrange news stories produced by third parties," he said, noting that this market power increased the "risk of filter bubbles and unreliable news on digital platforms".

Video Offers Clues to Mysterious Disappearance of Princess Latifa

Beirut: The princess known as Sheikhha Latifa had not left Dubai, the glittering emirate ruled by her father, in 18 years. Her requests to travel and study elsewhere had been denied...



Princess Latifa

In the 39-minute video, Sheikhha Latifa describes in fluent English her life of constricting privilege and stunted hopes

Like the young women who have fled Saudi Arabia's restrictive regime, Sheikhha Latifa has made sure no one can forget how few freedoms are allotted to women in the Middle East's most conservative societies...

Within a few days of settingsail on the Indian Ocean in the Frenchman's yacht, bound for India and then the US, the sheikha went silent. She has not been seen since, except in a few photos released in December by her family...

so intensified a crackdown on internal dissent.

"It doesn't matter whether you're an ordinary Emirati citizen or a member of the royal family or an expat from a close ally like the U.K.," said Hiba Zayadin, a researcher at Human Rights Watch.

Over the video's 39 stark minutes, her voice composed and forceful, Sheikhha Latifa described in fluent English her life of constricting privilege and stunted hopes.

She hoped it would change if she could win political asylum in the United States.

"I don't know how, how I'll feel, just waking up in the morning and thinking, I can do whatever I want today," she said.

Fearing for her life if she was caught, she said she was recording the video in case she failed. "They're not going to take me back alive," she said.

Sheikha Latifa first faced rigid restrictions after her sister's failed escape attempt years earlier. When she was 14, her older sister Shamsa escaped from her family's security detail on a trip to England...

TIPS, TRIVIA & TRENDS YOUR DAILY DIET OF FUN AND FACTS

London Banker Sues Singapore Lender for Race Discrimination

A former official at United Overseas Bank's London branch is suing for unfair dismissal after saying he was denied a new job because he isn't Asian...

Roma Takes Bafta Glory in Coup for Netflix

Netflix production Roma triumphed at the Baftas, boosting Oscar hopes for the US streaming giant whose rise poses a serious challenge to the conventional Hollywood business model...

Grammys 2019: It's a Woman's World

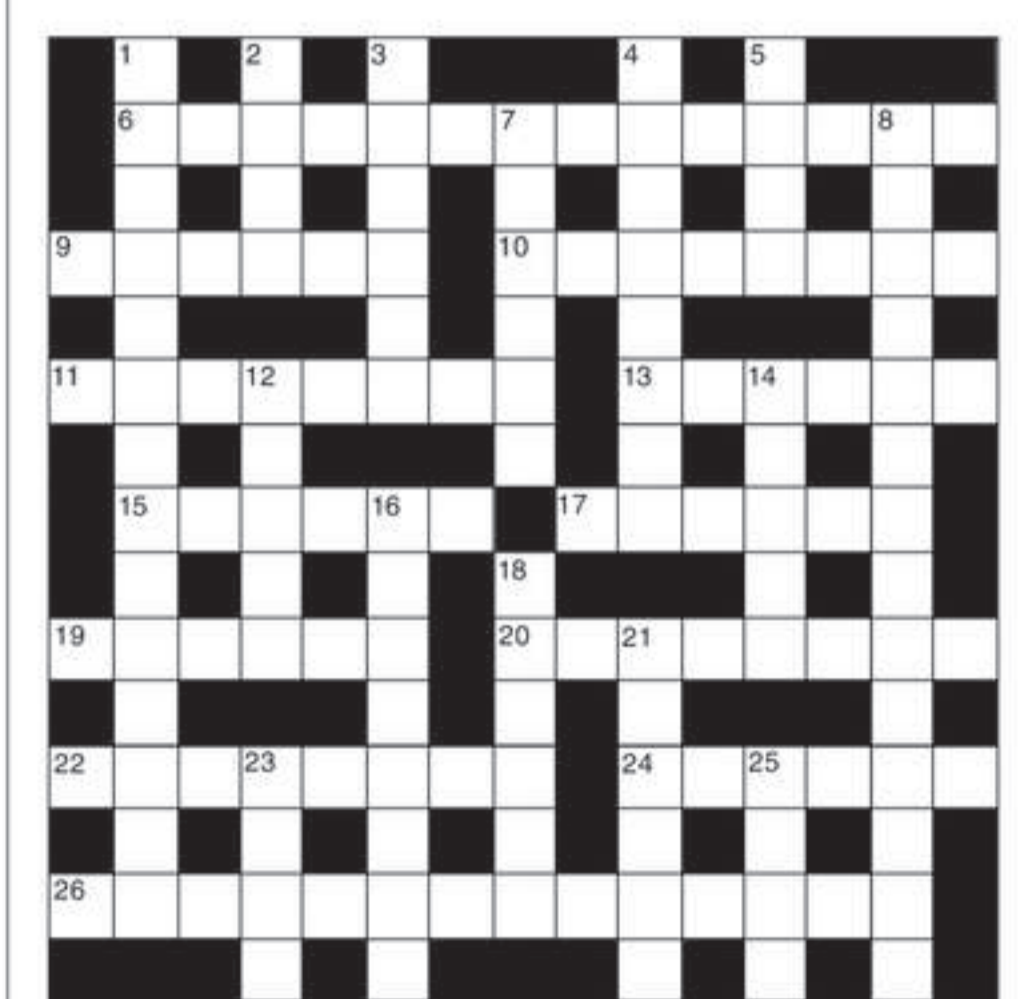


Female musicians such as Kacey Musgraves, Cardi B and Lady Gaga shone bright at the 2019 Grammys, making history by taking home top awards in categories generally dominated by male artists...

Album of the Year: Kacey Musgraves, "Golden Hour"
Record of the Year: Childish Gambino, "This is America"
Song of the Year: Donald Glover, "This is America"
Best New Artist: Dua Lipa
Best Music Video: Childish Gambino, "This is America"
Best Rap Album: Cardi B, "Invasion of Privacy"
Best Rock Album: Greta Van Fleet, "From the Fires"
Best Pop Vocal Album: Ariana Grande, "Sweetener"
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance: Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, "Shallow"
Best Spoken Word Album: Jimmy Carter's "Faith-A Journey for All"

Crossword

7328

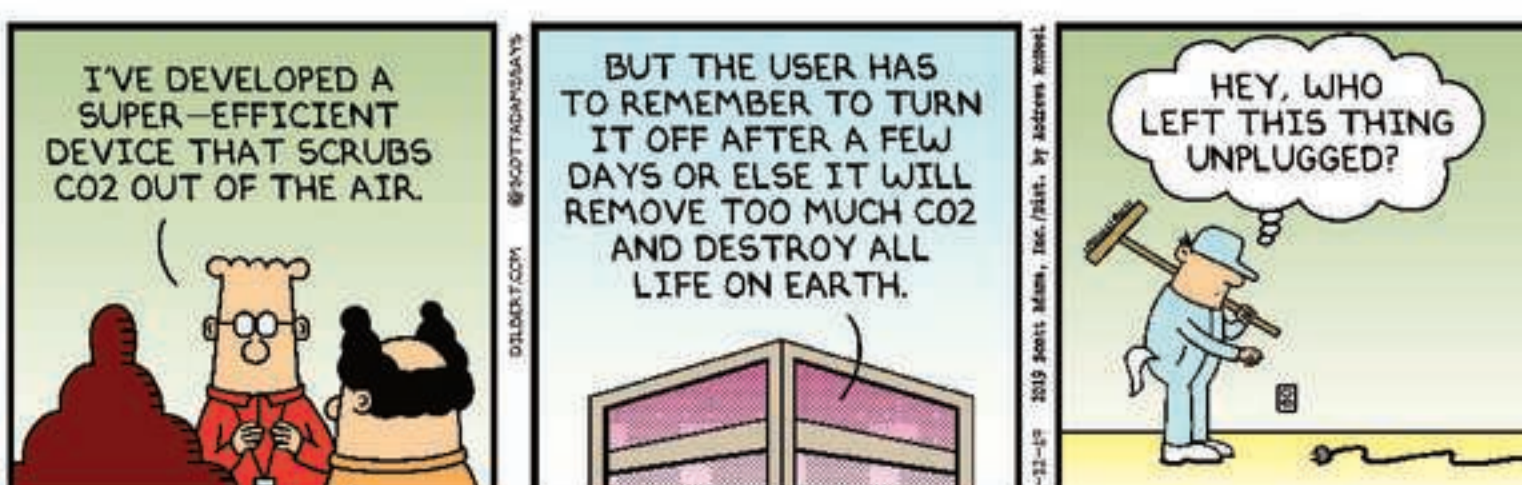


ACROSS
6 Does he mean UK is ill-prepared for burritis? (10,4)
9 Announcement contains news with a list of things to do (6)
10 Cold Asiatic winds causing type of neuralgia (8)
11 Ride about a mile to reach new plant (8)
13 Busy firm brought back trophy at end of May (6)
15 Machinist lacks training to become speaker (6)
17 Sci-fi author returns travel permit doctor sent in (6)
19 Will leaves this in Maryland, say (6)
20 Dreadful male band breaks up (8)
22 Philosopher also boxes, knocking out a student (8)
24 Incompetent boor nearly breaks into school (6)
26 IT expert sorted out nasty mess last year (7,7)

DOWN
1 Rambling tale of Scotties, perhaps blue? (6,3,5)
2 Manage to preserve one derelict building (4)
3 Make still from bits of alembic I discarded (6)
4 Counsellors put on protective headgear as discussed (8)
5 Sketch king in pose (4)
7 Missing worker controlling disease on farm (6)
8 Space rocket must reach this unusual steep icy alcove (6,8)
12 Wool supplier left monk in Tibet (5)
14 Mark upends sailor's bed after removing brackets (5)
16 Extra work finished sentence (8)
19 Part passed over to some extent, heading north (6)
21 Forget the location of island half owned by PM (6)
23 Girl hurt in various places (4)
25 Stone axes about at the front (4)

Dilbert

by S Adams



HIDATO FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1-9 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Grid with numbers and paths.

Yesterday's puzzle solution. Grid with numbers and paths.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Clues and solutions listed.