

QUICK HITS

Ex-Coca-Cola Engineer Charged with Stealing Secrets for Chinese Co

**Washington:** A former senior engineer at Coca-Cola was indicted on Thursday in Tennessee for stealing trade secrets worth an estimated \$120 million to give to a Chinese company, the justice department announced. US national You Xiaorong allegedly stole technology for valuable BPA-free packaging jointly owned by several companies, including a former "Atlanta-based" employer that was unnamed in the indictment. According to the indictment, You conspired with Chinese national Liu Xiangchen and an unnamed relative of Liu to steal formulations for food packing coatings that are free of the widely-used bisphenol-A chemical, which scientists have discovered in recent years is harmful to human health. AFP

US Investor Detained in Russia on Fraud Charges

**Moscow:** Russia has detained the US founder of the Baring Vostok private equity group in Moscow on suspicion of fraud, a Moscow court said on Friday, a move likely to concern foreign investors. Michael Calvey, a US national and senior partner at the fund, was detained on Thursday, a spokeswoman for Moscow's Basmany court said. The alleged share scam occurred in 2017 and involved Vostochny Bank, a small lender in which Baring Vostok has a controlling stake. It concerned the transfer of equity in Luxembourg-based Financial Technology Group, the Moscow court heard. Reuters

China Imposes Duty on Brazilian Chicken

**Beijing:** China announced anti-dumping duties on Brazilian chicken on Friday, saying investigations had revealed that poultry imports had done "substantive damage" to the domestic broiler industry. The tariffs—ranging from 17.8% to 32.4%—will take effect from February 17 and remain in place for five years, the commerce ministry said. AFP

# Prez Trump Declares National Emergency to Build Border Wall

Move will enable Trump to divert \$3.6 b budgeted for military construction projects to wall

**Peter Baker** **Washington:** President Trump declared a national emergency at the border on Friday to access billions of dollars to build a border wall that Congress refused to give him, transforming a highly charged policy dispute into a fundamental confrontation over separation of powers. In a televised announcement in the Rose Garden, Trump said he would sign the declaration to protect the country from the flow of drugs, criminals and illegal immigrants coming across the border from Mexico, which he characterized as a profound threat to national security.

"We're going to confront the national security crisis on our southern border and we're going to do it one way or the other," he said. "It's an invasion," he added. "We have an invasion of drugs and criminals coming into our country." The declaration will enable Trump to divert \$3.6 billion budgeted for military construction projects to the border wall, White House officials said. Trump will also use more traditional presidential bud-



A section of reinforced border fence seen from Tijuana, Mexico—AFP

etary discretion to tap \$2.5 billion from counter-narcotics programs and \$600 million from a Treasury Department asset forfeiture fund.

Combined with the \$1.375 billion authorized for fencing in a spending package passed by Congress on Thursday night, Trump would then have about \$8 billion in all to advance construction of new barriers and repairs or replacement of existing barriers along the border

this year, significantly more than the \$5.7 billion that Congress refused to give him.

'POWER GRAB'

The president's decision, previewed on Thursday, triggered instant condemnation from Democrats and some Republicans, who called it an unconstitutional abuse of his authority. "This is plainly a power grab by a disappointed president,

who has gone outside the bounds of the law to try to get what he failed to achieve in the constitutional legislative process," Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the minority leader, said in a joint statement. They vowed to try to overturn the decision, appealing to Republicans to join them. "The president is not above the law," they said. "The Congress cannot let the president shred the Constitution."

House Democrats plan to introduce legislation to block the president's move, which could pass both houses if it wins the votes of the half-dozen Republican senators who had criticized the planned declaration. That would put the president in the position of issuing the first veto of his presidency.

## FB Faces US Privacy Pact That Could Cost Billions

**Washington:** Facebook Inc. is in talks with US regulators over alleged privacy violations that could force the social-media giant to pay billions of dollars in a record-breaking settlement, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The US Federal Trade Commission's consumer-protection staff and the company are in discussions that could lead to a resolution of the agency's investigation into whether Facebook violated a 2011 settlement with the FTC, said the people, who declined to be identified because the matter is confidential.

No settlement proposal has been presented to the agency's five commissioners, according to one of the people. The commissioners have the final say over any agreement reached with Facebook. It was unclear whether the two sides have discussed details of how much Facebook would have to pay to resolve the case. The Washington Post reported earlier that they are in discussions about a multi-billion-dollar fine.

Facebook said in a statement it is cooperating with the agency and declined further comment.

The FTC investigation, opened nearly a year ago, focuses on whether Facebook failed to honour previous privacy commitments when the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica gained access to information about millions of users.

Facebook's mishaps have since increased, with disclosure of a security breach affecting 50 million accounts and news that some of the world's biggest technology companies were given more access to users' data than had been disclosed.

The agency can't impose fines on first-time offenders, only on companies that have previously agreed to settle claims. The FTC can fine Facebook up to \$40,000 per violation and it is under pressure from lawmakers and privacy advocates to impose a stiff punishment. Bloomberg

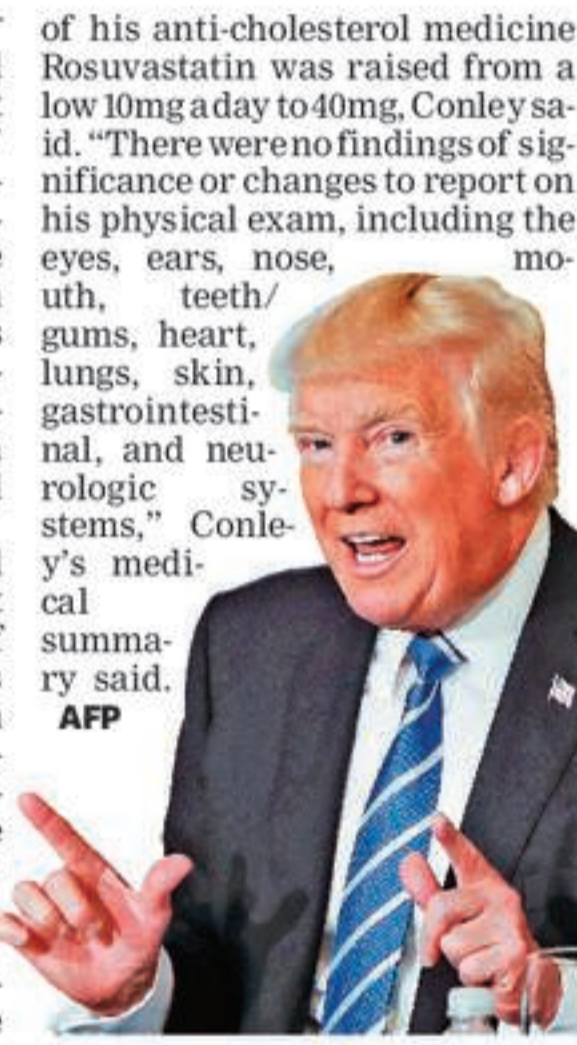
## Trump Heavier, but in 'Very Good Health': Doc

**Washington:** President Donald Trump is a little heavier than last year and needs a higher dose of cholesterol medicine, but remains in "very good health", his official doctor said on Thursday.

The presidential physician, Sean Conley, said Trump, 72, passed his medical exam last week with flying colours. "It is my determination that the president remains in very good health overall," he said in a brief statement.

Trump, who has confounded health experts with his penchant for junk food and avoidance of strenuous exercise, weighs 110kg, the report said. This is a little bulkier than the 108kg recorded last year, which was already considered too much. The resting heart rate has gone up too at 70 beats a minute, compared to 68 beats last year.

Trump has a history of high cholesterol and this year the dosage



of his anti-cholesterol medicine Rosuvastatin was raised from a low 10mg a day to 40mg, Conley said. "There were no findings of significance or changes to report on his physical exam, including the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, teeth, gums, heart, lungs, skin, gastrointestinal, and neurologic systems," Conley's medical summary said. AFP



## Britain Ready to Leave EU without a Deal: Leadsom

**London:** Britain's government is ready to leave the European Union without a divorce deal unless parliament votes for Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plan, the government's leader in the House of Commons, Andrea Leadsom, said. "Essentially that is what will happen unless we don't vote for a deal. The legal position is that we leave without a deal," Leadsom told BBC radio on Friday.

"People say extend, oh well, extend Article 50, but I have had two public meetings in my constituency in the last few weeks and people, whether they voted remain or leave, the overwhelming view is they say just get on with it."

MPs on Thursday night rejected by 303 votes to 258 a motion expressing support for Prime Minister Theresa May as she seeks changes to the Irish "backstop" in her Brexit deal.

DEFEAT A HICCUP

Leadsom dismissed the defeat as a "hiccup", saying they would keep trying to renegotiate the EU divorce deal just six weeks before exit day. "Yesterday was more of a hiccup than the disaster," Leadsom told BBC radio.

She added: "The one problem with last night's vote is that it allows the EU to continue with this pretence that they don't know what we want. And they do know what we want."

Hardline Brexit supporters in May's Conservative party believe this "no deal" scenario should remain an option, and so they abstained on Thursday evening. One of those Conservative MPs, Steve Baker, said the defeat was a "storm in a teacup", adding: "We'd like to agree to a deal." Reuters | AFP

## New Brexit Talks in Brussels Next Week

**Brussels:** Both Britain's minister for Brexit Stephen Barclay and Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn will visit Brussels next week for talks with EU negotiator Michel Barnier. "Mr Barnier's door is always open," an EU spokesman said, confirming that Barclay was expected to visit EU headquarters on Monday and Corbyn on Thursday.

Prime Minister Theresa May is also expected in Brussels next week, but her visit has not been confirmed.

Corbyn has suggested Labour MPs would rescue the withdrawal plan if EU leaders promise to allow Britain to remain in the EU customs union.

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, but Prime Minister Theresa May is struggling to persuade parliament to back a divorce deal. EU leaders

fear severe economic disruption if London leaves the bloc without a follow-on agreement providing for a transition period to negotiate a trade deal. Corbin has suggested Labour MPs would rescue the withdrawal plan if EU leaders promise to allow Britain to remain in the EU customs union. May and many of her Conservative MPs reject that idea, but Barnier and EU Council president Donald Tusk have described it as "interesting". AFP

## Amazon's Exit could Scare off Tech Cos from New York

**New York:** Amazon jilted New York City on Valentine's Day, scrapping plans to build a massive headquarters campus in Queens amid fierce opposition from politicians angry about nearly 3 billion in tax breaks and the company's anti-union stance. With millions of jobs and a bustling economy, New York can withstand the blow, but experts say the decision by the e-commerce giant to walk away and take with it 25,000 promised jobs could scare off other companies considering moving to or expanding in the city, which wants to be seen as the Silicon Valley of the East Coast. "One of the real risks here is the message we send to companies that



want to come to New York and expand to New York," said Julie Samuels, the executive director of industry group Tech: NYC. "We're really playing with fire right now."

In November, Amazon selected New York City and Crystal City, Virginia, as the winners of a secretive, yearlong process in which more than 230

North American cities bid to become the home of the Seattle-based company's second headquarters.

Opposition came swiftly though, as details started to emerge. Critics complained about public subsidies that were offered to Amazon and chafed at some of the conditions of the deal, such as the company's demand for access to a heliport. Some pleaded for the deal to be renegotiated or scrapped altogether.

"We knew this was going south from the moment it was announced," said Thomas Stringer, a site selection adviser for big companies. "If this was done right, all the elected officials would have been out there touting how great it was. When you didn't see

that happen, you knew something was wrong." Stringer said city and state officials need to rethink the secrecy with which they approached the negotiations. Community leaders and potential critics were kept in the dark, only to be blindsided when details became public. "It's time to hit the reset button and say, 'What did we do wrong?'" Stringer said. "This is fumbling at the 1-yard line."

Joe Parilla, a fellow at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, said the company's high-profile bidding process may have stoked the backlash. Companies usually search for new locations quietly, in part to avoid the kind of opposition Amazon received. AP

## Facebook Taps User Data to Defend Network, Workers from Threat

**San Francisco:** Facebook gathers intelligence from its platform to identify people who threaten the firm or its workers, the social network said on Thursday in response to media reports of the security tactic. CNBC reported that it interviewed more than a dozen former Facebook security employees, some of whom questioned the ethics of what was portrayed as an unclearly defined practice at the leading social network.

Facebook spokesman Anthony Harrison told AFP that the company's physical security team exists to

keep workers safe and that strict processes are in place to protect people's privacy. "Any suggestion our on-site physical security team has overstepped is absolutely false," Harrison said.

Facebook keeps a routinely updated list of people that members of its security team should "be on lookout" for due to threatening statements, according to CNBC.

The so-called "BOLO" list purportedly includes former employees whose actions at the social network came under scrutiny.

Facebook mines the social network

for threats against the company or its workers, and its watch list can even feature photos of people, CNBC reported. For cases in which threats against Facebook or its workers seem credible, the security team was said to be capable of tracking those behind them using location data from the social network's apps or websites.

In cases of credible threats of violence against an employee, Facebook uses publicly available data and industry practices to determine how close someone behind a threat is to the worker or company offices, according to the social network. AFP

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

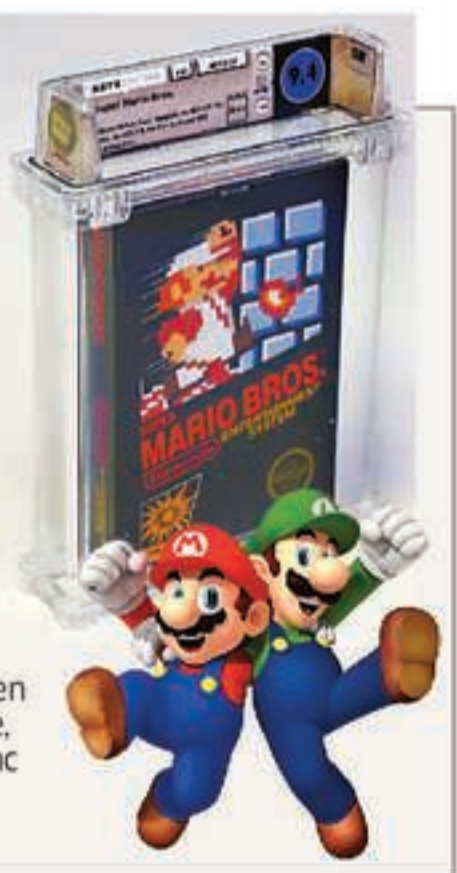
### Thai Woman with Dementia Returns Home after 640km Detour



A 59-year-old Thai woman with dementia, who left home eight months ago to see her son nearby only to apparently walk 640km to China, arrived back in the kingdom on Friday. Kaomanee Arjao, who is from the ethnic Akha hill-tribe, was reported missing on June 12 from her house in the Thai province of Chiang Rai, a zone which borders Laos and Myanmar. She was found in the southern Chinese city of Kunming in late January carrying a Thai identity card, helping officials swiftly contact the local consulate. China borders both Laos and Myanmar and it was not immediately clear which route she took across the remote frontiers or how long her journey took. "She told officials she went there by foot, she kept walking, asking for food from stalls along the way," colonel Aekhorn Butsabarbodin of Chiang Rai immigration police told AFP. On Thursday, Kaomanee's daughter Suchada, 35, flew with Thai officials to Kunming where the pair were filmed clasp hands together in an emotional reunion. In the footage, an official asks the woman where she was going when she left her daughter's home last June. "I went to see my son... I met him, then I kept walking," the woman answers. "There were no cars around." She lost 20kg along her journey, her daughter added. AFP

### Mint Copy of Super Mario Bros Sells for \$100,150

An unopened copy of Super Mario Bros, released by Nintendo in 1985, achieved a world record when it sold for \$100,150 at an auction. Kenneth Thrower, co-founder and chief grader of Wata Games, said that beyond the artistic and historical significance of the game, it is the supreme state of preservation that makes it even more valuable. Heritage Auctions said Nintendo reprinted Super Mario Bros from 1985 to 1994 numerous times, resulting in 11 different box variations. Of the sealed copies of Super Mario Bros, the one sold at a fortune is the only known "sticker sealed" one that was certified with a Near Mint grade of 9.4 and a "Seal Rating" of A++. Interestingly, the game has not been acquired by a single bidder. A group of collectors has purchased the game, including Jim Halperin, founder and co-chairman of Heritage Auctions; Zac Gieg, owner of Just Press Play Video Games; and Rich Lecce, owner of Robert B Lecce Numismatist. ANI



### Dubai Airport Briefly Halts Flights over Drone Sighting



Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest airport for international travel, briefly halted flights over an alleged drone sighting. The airport said it halted flights from 10:13am to 10:45am on Friday over "suspected drone activity". Flights were later resumed. Alleged drone sightings have previously disrupted flights into the airport, which is the base of the long-haul carrier Emirates. Drone owners are now required to register with the UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority. Authorities also ban hobbyists from putting cameras or lasers on their drones and flying in certain areas. AP

### Hollywood A-Listers' Open Letter urging Academy to Reverse Oscar Decision

George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Christopher Nolan are among the actors and directors who have urged the Academy of Motion Picture Art & Sciences to reverse their decision of presenting four categories of Oscars during commercial breaks. Directors Michael Mann, Alejandro G Inarritu, Guillermo del Toro and actors such as Brad Pitt, Robert DeNiro, Elizabeth Banks, Peter Dinklage and Kerry Washington are also the signatories to the letter by the American Society of Cinematographers. In its attempt to keep the live telecast under three hours, the academy had decided to present four categories—cinematography, film editing, live action shorts, and makeup and hairstyling—during commercial breaks with the winners' speeches set to air later in the broadcast. Academy president John Bailey, a cinematographer himself, in an email to the members had said the change would be on a rotation each year, meaning that at least four different categories would use this format in 2020 and that the four mentioned would be exempt. After the open letter, the academy assured the signatories that "no award category at the 91st Oscars ceremony will be presented in a manner that depicts the achievements of its nominees and winners as less than any others". PTI

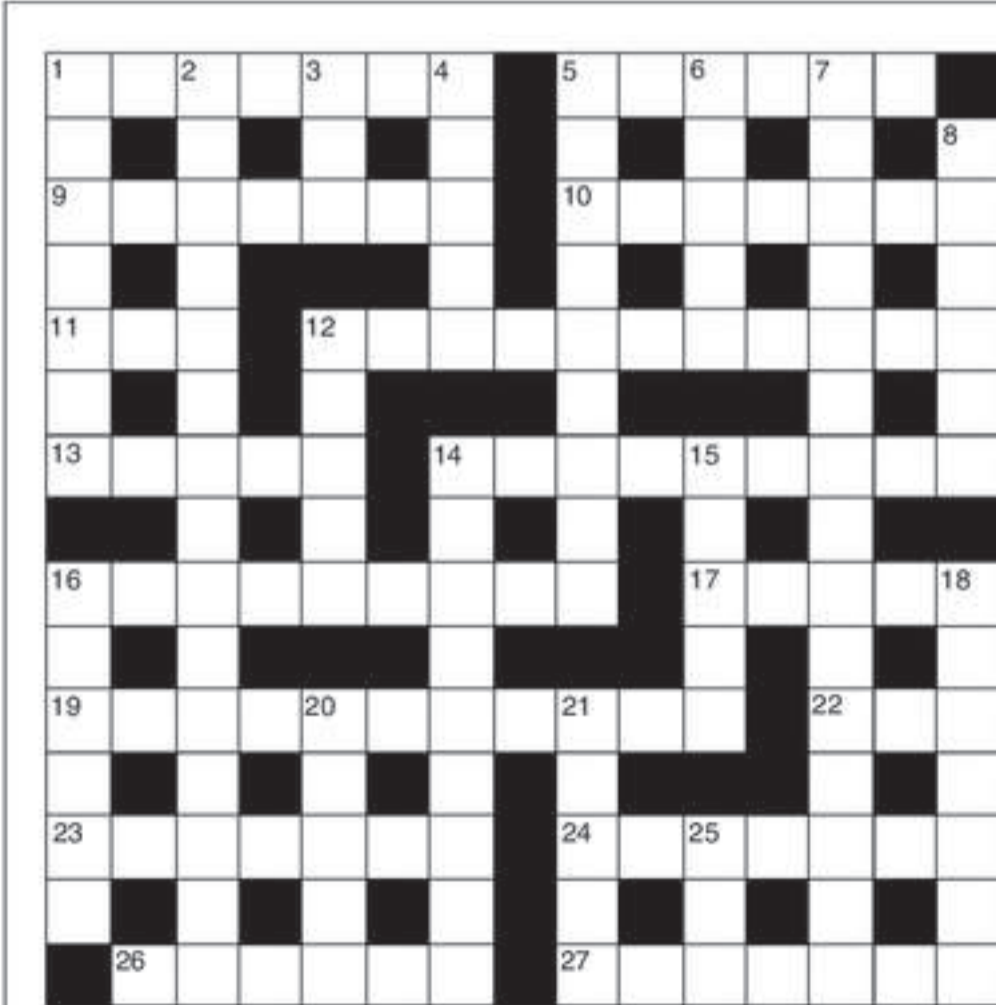
### Indonesian Firms Owe \$1.3 Billion in Forest Damage Fines: Greenpeace



Indonesian firms owe at least \$1.3 billion in unpaid fines for environmental damage caused by widespread forest clearing and deadly fires linked to tens of thousands of premature deaths, a Greenpeace study said on Friday. Citing government data, the environmental group said it examined 11 civil court cases between 2012 and 2018 where palm oil and pulp and paper companies were ordered to pay fines to Jakarta. "However, not one of these forests has resulted in compensation being paid," Greenpeace said. The cases were mostly linked to damage from fires that tore through Indonesia in 2015, causing as much as \$16 billion in damages to forestry and agriculture, as well as to tourism and other industry, it added, citing World Bank figures. The 2015 blazes destroyed some two million hectares of land and sparked a massive haze outbreak over Singapore and Malaysia, leading to diplomatic frictions. A US academic study estimated that the crisis may have led to more than 100,000 premature deaths. Most of the \$1.3 billion in penalties was attributed to the single case of a firm found to have been engaged in illegal logging that saw vast tracts of forest destroyed. AFP

Crossword

7332



more costly but faster! (5,2)

- DOWN**
- 1 What Coe did to the field over 1000m colonels do to majors (7)
  - 2 Top story by lodger about uniform for officer (5,10)
  - 3 The night before 7 stripped (3,4)
  - 4 A date in country station (5)
  - 5 Very drunk soldier left big town upset (9)
  - 6 Records place where knights jousted (5)
  - 7 Today in US, income is changing—time for new programme (9,6)
  - 8 Make amends for Royal Marines crossing English river (6)
  - 12 Bloke tucked into alcoholic drink, a sign of cold? (5)
  - 14 Traversing lake, Sea Scout prepared stew (9)
  - 15 Incentive reported to be worth its weight in gems? (5)
  - 16 Nasty guy said to be unsettled by good guy (6)
  - 18 Order to surrender and push off (5,2)
  - 20 Old sailer and swimmer (5)
  - 21 Chart shows standard is up in good hospital (5)
  - 25 Damage upended sign (3)

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unconventional, as are police doing desk jobs? (7)
  - 5 Interlop is having to accommodate Slavic language (6)
  - 9 HM's wearing different style briefly (7)
  - 10 It's awarded to winner or returned to me unfinished (7)
  - 11 Familiar Tate contents (3)
  - 12 Conductor's nearly fully exposed venomous creature (11)
  - 13 Cutter's condition in middle of Orkneys (5)
  - 14 Religious Q & A schematic needs to be adjusted (9)
  - 15 Songs display meticulousness, avoided by teens (4,5)
  - 17 Large farm controlled church (5)
  - 19 Lack of water outside Aden crippled old warship (11)
  - 22 Admit wife's engaged in broadcasting (3)
  - 23 It defends entrance to anchorage as well potentially (3,4)
  - 24 Writer's brought in poor sales, not having a target (7)
  - 26 Demonstrate where international cricket fans are? (6)
  - 27 Hot Indian dish (not starter)

**SOLUTION TO No. 7331:** 1 Burgomaster, 9 Edition, 10 Rip-offs, 11 Coo, 12 Irksome, 13 Proverb, 14 Lea, 15 Sauna, 17 Abhor, 18 Medic, 20 Dread, 22 Rap, 24 Crooner, 25 Lead-off, 26 Toe, 27 On the go, 28 Wastrel, 29 Roller-skate, **DOWN:** 1 Bricks and mortar, 2 Ruinous, 3 Ounce, 4 Aeroplane, 5 Tapoca, 6 Refresher course, 7 Genial, 8 Isobar, 16 Undertone, 18 Micron, 19 Congeal, 21 Dead Sea, 23 Piffle, 25 Limes.

Dilbert

by S Adams

