

QUICK HITS

Ghosh's New Lawyer Says Jailed Titan is a Victim of Conspiracy

Tokyo: Carlos Ghosn is not guilty of the crimes he is accused of and his arrest was the result of a conspiracy at Nissan Motor, the jailed car titan's new lawyer said as he kicked off his defence campaign in Tokyo. Nissan's internal problems are the reason behind Ghosn's jailing in Japan, and the carmaker should have dealt with its issues within the company rather than involve prosecutors, Junichiro Hironaka, Ghosn's newly appointed defence lawyer, told reporters in Tokyo on Wednesday. He didn't name any company officials. The lawyer's comments echo those previously made by Ghosn and his family, who have suggested that Ghosn's plans for a merger between Nissan and its French partner Renault SA were a reason some within Nissan wanted him out of the picture. Bloomberg

Senior Chinese General Jailed for Life for Graft

Beijing: A Chinese military court sentenced a senior general who had been chief of a top defence department to life in prison on Wednesday after finding him guilty of corruption, state news agency Xinhua reported. China's military has been an important focus of President Xi Jinping's battle to stamp out corruption. The senior general, Fang Fenghui, who had accompanied President Xi Jinping to his first meeting with US President Donald Trump in 2017, was replaced as chief of the Joint Staff Department of the People's Liberation Army later that year with no explanation. The government later confirmed he was being investigated on suspicion of corruption. Fang was subsequently replaced as a member of the Central Military Commission as part of a sweeping military leadership reshuffle. AFP

French Court Fines UBS €4.5 B in Tax Fraud Case

Paris: A French court on Wednesday found Swiss bank UBS AG guilty of illegally soliciting clients in France and laundering the proceeds of tax evasion, and ordered it to pay 4.5 billion euros (\$5.1 billion) in penalties. Shares in UBS fell 2%. UBS, which has denied any wrongdoing, said it would appeal the ruling. The ruling will be closely scrutinised by European bankers who have come under pressure from regulators to tighten compliance with anti-money laundering rules since the financial crisis. The penalties, which exceed the bank's net profit last year, included a 3.7 billion euro fine and additional damages of 800 million euros to the French state. UBS last month reported a 2018 net profit of \$4.9 billion. AFP

Democrats Warn Trump May Rush Nuclear Transfer to Saudis

US cannot legally transfer nuke tech to countries without reaching Section 123 agreements

Washington: US lawmakers said on Tuesday they were probing whether President Trump is rushing to sell sensitive nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia to please corporate supporters who stand to profit handsomely. The House of Representatives committee in charge of investigations, led by the rival Democratic Party since last month, said that "multiple whistleblowers" warned of conflicts of interest "that could implicate federal criminal statutes."



When his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Saudi Arabia's powerful Mohammed bin Salman, who shortly afterward became crown prince.

An initial report by the committee said that "strong private commercial interests have been pressuring aggressively" to transfer sensitive technology to Saudi Arabia.

"These commercial entities stand to reap billions of dollars through contracts associated with constructing and operating nuclear facilities in Saudi Arabia -- and apparently have been in close and repeated contact with President Trump and his administration to the present day," the report said.

The US cannot legally transfer nuclear technology to countries without reaching so-called Section 123 agreements, which provide assurances of peaceful energy use.

The House committee voiced fear that Saudi Arabia could convert US knowhow into making a nuclear bomb, heightening already severe tensions with regional rival Iran. AFP

Trump Nominates Rosen to Replace Rosenstein at DOJ

Washington: President Trump nominated Jeffrey Rosen, a longtime litigator and deputy transportation secretary, to replace Rod Rosenstein as deputy attorney general. In his current post, Rosen serves as the Department of Transportation's chief operating officer and is in charge of implementing the department's safety and technological priorities. He rejoined DOJ in 2017 after previously serving as general counsel from 2003 to 2006.

From 2006 until 2009, Rosen was the general counsel and a senior policy adviser at the White House Office of Management and Budget. He also worked as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. The current deputy attorney general, Rosenstein, is expected to leave his post in mid-March. Rosenstein began overseeing Robert Mueller's investigation after then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself from the investigation. AP

Trump Wants California to Pay Back Billions for Bullet Train

Sacramento: The Trump administration said on Tuesday that it plans to cancel \$929 million awarded to California's high-speed rail project and wants the state to return an additional \$2.5 billion that it has already spent.

on President Donald Trump's threats to claw back \$3.5 billion that the federal government gave to California to build a bullet train between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Gov. Gavin Newsom vowed a fight to keep the money and said the move was in response to California again suing the administration, this time

over Trump's emergency declaration to pay for a wall along the US-Mexico border. "This is clear political retribution by President Trump, and we won't sit idly by," Newsom said in a statement. "This is California's money, and we are going to fight for it." It's the latest spat between the White House and California. Bloomberg

UK Bans Drones from Flying Within 5 Km of Airports

London: Britain will impose a 5 kilometre drone exclusion zone around its runways as the government responds to illegal incursions that closed London Gatwick airport for 36 hours in December, disrupting travel for more than 120,000 people.

The measures, taking effect March 13, extend the current 1-kilometre no-fly zone for unmanned and model aircraft, the Department for Transport said. Police will also gain new stop-and-search powers to help clamp down on violations.

"The law is clear that flying a drone near an airport is a serious criminal act," Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said in the release. "We're now going even further and extending the no-fly zone to help keep our airports secure."

Recklessly endangering an aircraft can mean a five-year prison term, rising to a potential life sentence for intentional acts of violence. The government is drawing up a Drones Bill to grant police additional powers, such as the right to access electronic data stored on a drone without a search warrant. Operators of drones weighing more than 20 kg must register as of Nov. 30 and take an online competency test. Bloomberg

Putin Says Russia Will Target US If Washington Puts Missiles in Europe

Moscow: President Vladimir Putin signalled Russia will aim new weapons at the US if it stations missiles in Europe after quitting landmark Cold-War-era treaty, amid growing fears of a new arms race.

Still, the tone of Putin's annual state-of-the-nation speech was less belligerent than a year ago, when he showed computer-graphics demonstrations of a series of new missiles and other high-tech weapons that appeared to target the US with its only graphic displays focused on economics, this year's address was devoted primarily to pledges to improve living standards and boost welfare benefits.

Russia doesn't plan to deploy missiles banned by the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty that the US has said it plans to abandon, Putin said. But if the US does, "Russia will be forced to produce and deploy weapons that



can be used not only against the territories from which we face this direct threat but also those where the decision is made to use these missiles," he said.

The US and its allies are laying the groundwork to deploy new intermediate-range missiles in Europe for the first time since they were banned by the treaty. With a second pact covering nuclear weapons likely to expire in two years, the risks of confrontation are growing.

RUSSIAN HACKERS TARGETED THINK TANKS IN EU; MICROSOFT

Microsoft uncovered cyber attacks targeting European think tanks by hackers linked to the Russian government, underscoring concerns of potential interference in EU elections this May.

The US company said it was "confident" that attacks targeting employees of organisations including the German Council on Foreign Relations, The Aspen Institute and The German Marshall Fund, originated from a group called Strontium, also known as Fancy Bear or APT 28. The announcement by Microsoft comes as EU officials are bracing for attempted meddling online by Russia-backed operatives ahead of the bloc's elections. Officials are concerned about potential attacks targeting voting technology and those designed to try to manipulate voting behaviour. Bloomberg

Three UK MPs Resign from Conservative Party

London: Three pro-EU lawmakers from Britain's governing Conservatives quit over the government's "disastrous handling of Brexit" on Wednesday, in a blow to Prime Minister Theresa May's attempts to unite her party around plans to leave the European Union.

The lawmakers, long critical of May's Brexit strategy to leave the EU which they believe is being driven by Conservative eurosceptics, said in a statement they would join a new group in parliament set up by seven former opposition Labour politicians.

May said she was saddened by the resignations, but signalled she would press on with her attempts to win a deal before Britain is due to leave the bloc on March 29.

But the resignations put May in an even weaker position in parliament, where her Brexit deal was crushed by lawmakers last month when eurosceptics and EU supporters voted against an agreement that both sides say offers the worst of all worlds. They could also undermine May's negotiating position in Brussels, where she is going later on Wednesday for talks with Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to try to secure an opening for further technical work on revising the agreement. Reuters



Honda Plant Closure Can't be Blamed on Brexit, Says May

London: British PM Theresa May said Honda's announcement that it would close its factory in England in 2021 was deeply disappointing, but could not be blamed on the country's upcoming departure from the EU. "The decision this week by Honda is one that is deeply disappointing. They have made absolutely clear this is not a Brexit-related decision. This is a decision about the change that is taking to the global car market," May told lawmakers. Honda said on Tuesday that it needed to focus manufacturing in regions where it expects to sell most cars. Reuters

Glencore Plans to Cap Coal Output in Climate Shift

Melbourne: One of the world's biggest sellers of coal is yielding to investor pressure on climate change, the clearest sign yet that movement is sweeping the natural resources industry.

In a surprise announcement, Glencore Plc promised to limit coal production as part of a broader move to align the business with Paris climate targets. The company won't carry out major acquisitions if it would materially add to total production, according to people familiar with the plans.

The move shows that even a company like Glencore, which has spoken glowingly about the importance of coal, isn't immune to the power of investors who want action on climate change. The anti-coal movement has led the biggest miners in the world to exit the business or pledge not to invest, and oil producers have vowed to cut greenhouse gas emissions. "We've been going through all the

issues, it's been a lengthy period," said Glencore Chief Executive Officer Ivan Glasenberg. "We have found a resolution where both parties are happy, it makes sense, we think we're doing the right thing."

For Glasenberg, the 62-year-old billionaire South African who runs Glencore, coal is personal. He started his career arranging coal shipments in Johannesburg in the early 1980s, when the company was called

Marc Rich & Co AG. He rose through the trading ranks to eventually run the coal book. However, Glencore is far from abandoning the dirtiest fossil fuel. In fact, coal remains the chief money maker among its industrial assets. In recent years, as other companies retreated from coal, Glencore ramped up the business by picking up mines in Australia.

"Limiting ourselves with no further growth will tighten up supplies. It should bode well for prices," Glasenberg said. Bloomberg

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

IS Teen 'Shocked' after UK Revokes Citizenship

A British teenager who joined the Islamic State group in Syria in 2015 said on Wednesday she was shocked by a government decision to revoke her citizenship. Shamima Begum, who now wants to return home after giving birth in a refugee camp in Syria last weekend, said the order was "unjust". "I am a bit shocked," she told ITV News after learning of the move which was announced in a letter on Tuesday from Britain's interior ministry to her mother in London. "It's a bit upsetting and frustrating. I feel like it's a bit unjust on me and my son." Begum's fate has stirred controversy since she and two friends fled her east London home to join the terror network four years ago when she was just 15. AFP

US Teen Sues Washington Post for \$250 Million

A high school student from Kentucky sued the Washington Post for defamation on Tuesday, claiming the newspaper falsely accused him of racist acts and instigating a confrontation with a Native American activist in a January videotaped incident at the Lincoln Memorial. The lawsuit, filed in US District Court in Kentucky by Covington Catholic High School student Nicholas Sandmann, 16, seeks \$250 million in damages, the amount that Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, paid for the Post in 2013. The lawsuit claims that the newspaper "wrongfully targeted and bullied" the teen to advance its bias against President Donald Trump because Sandmann is a white Catholic who wore a Make America Great Again souvenir cap on a field trip to the March for Life rally in Washington on January 18. In a photo that went viral from the incident, Sandmann stares smiling at Native American activist Nathan Phillips while he sings and plays his drum. The incident sparked outrage on social media. A private investigation firm retained by Covington Diocese in Kentucky found in a report released last week no evidence the teenagers provoked a confrontation. The students were met at the Lincoln Memorial by offensive statements from members of the Black Hebrew Israelites, the report said. The investigation also determined that the students did not direct any racist or offensive comments toward Phillips although several performed a "tomahawk chop" to the beat of his drum. Phillips claimed in a separate video that he heard the students chanting "build that wall", during the encounter, a reference to Trump's pledge to build a barrier along the US border with Mexico. The investigators said they found no evidence of such a chant. Reuters

Statue of Sailor Kissing Nurse Vandalised



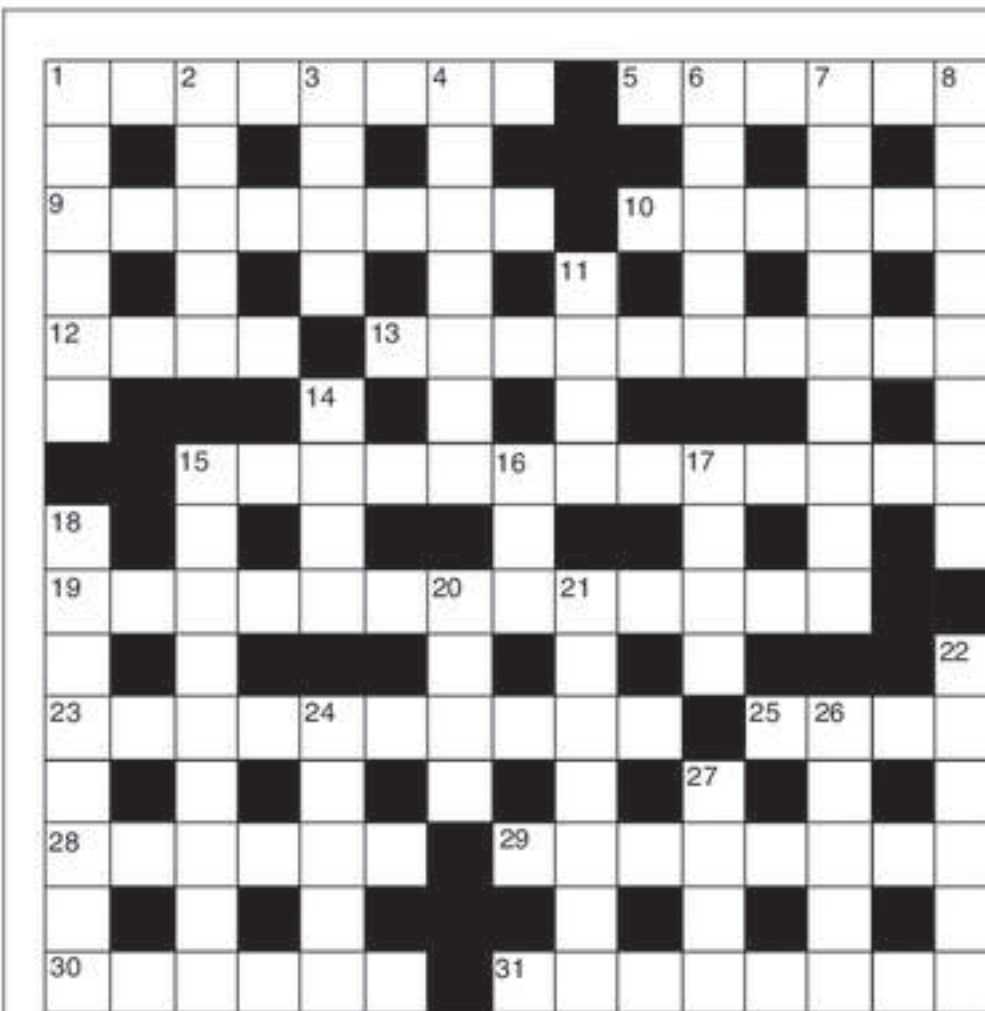
A statue depicting the famous scene of a sailor kissing a woman in New York's Times Square as people celebrate the end of World War II has been vandalised with red spray paint spelling out #MeToo. The graffiti covers the ankle-to-knee area of the left leg of the woman being kissed, said police in Sarasota, Florida where the statue is on loan to the city. The vandalism is believed to have been committed on Monday, a day after the death of the sailor in the iconic photo, George Mendonsa, at the age of 95. In that image, taken by photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt for Life magazine, Mendonsa is seen kissing a woman in a nurse's uniform. Eisenstaedt described watching the sailor running along the street and grabbing any girl in sight. The #MeToo arose to defend victims of sexual assault, harassment and abuse. Police said there is no surveillance video from the area of the vandalism and, or, known witnesses. It will cost \$1,000 to fix the damage. AFP

Burberry Apologises for Hoodie with Noose

British luxury fashion brand Burberry has apologised for showcasing a hoodie outfit with a noose around the neck. The outfit was showcased in Burberry's Autumn/Winter collection, "Tempest", during the London Fashion Week. The brand was blasted for glamourising suicide. Taking to Instagram, model Liz Kennedy said she had voiced her disapproval of the outfit but was ignored by the fashion house. "Suicide is not fashion. It is not glamorous nor edgy and since this show is dedicated to the youth expressing their voice, here I go... How could anyone overlook this and think it would be okay to do this especially in a line dedicated to young girls and youth," she wrote. Burberry CEO Marco Gobbetti said the brand was "deeply sorry for the distress". The brand said it has removed the outfit from the collection, along with all images featuring the look. PTI

Crossword

7336



- DOWN**
- 1 A big bank in need of guidance (6)
 - 2 £1000 piano (5)
 - 3 Cut machine for shaping strip of wood (4)
 - 4 Firm accepts blame, having broken harpsichord (7)
 - 5 Green area supported by National Trust was on slope (5)
 - 6 Sound producer's outspoken on several notes I hear (5,4)
 - 7 Pilot keen to stock pink aircraft fuel (8)
 - 11 Court order son to avoid joint (4)
 - 14 Slight speech defect (4)
 - 15 It's complicated fixing chain etc. on wheel finally (9)
 - 16 Cook small fish (3)
 - 17 Dash in final event, falling over (4)
 - 18 American female left angry, attracting much interest (8)
 - 20 Neighbour upended big instrument (4)
 - 21 Look better with these German girls (7)
 - 22 Guy sits on large prickly plant (6)
 - 23 Spooky European lake (5)
 - 26 Like warm coat, light in parts (5)
 - 27 Leave quietly? I'm surprised (4)
- SOLUTION TO No 7335:**
- ACROSS:** 6 Archiepiscopal. 9 Brunei. 10 Illusion. 11 Egg white. 13 Opener. 15 Bleary. 17 Bygone. 19 Sialom. 20 Analysts. 22 Condemns. 24 Legion. 26 Unintelligible. **DOWN:** 1 Barrage balloon. 2 Scan. 3 Bikini. 4 Psalmody. 5 Moss. 7 Primer. 8 Aforementioned. 12 Wheel. 14 Epoxy. 16 Remember. 18 Vassal. 21 Allegre. 23 Dent. 25 Gibe.

Dilbert

by S Adams



HIDATO FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE



Complete the grid so that numbers 1-30 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

Yesterday's puzzle solution.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete this puzzle.

CLUES

- 1 where two things meet (8)
- 2 most plucky (9)
- 3 enjoys, in old slang (7)
- 4 give approval (10)
- 5 where ID may be stored (6)
- 6 dull surface (5)
- 7 cleverly inventive (9)

SOLUTIONS

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| OO | JU | EN | STI | WAL |
| LET | LIG | ION | OUS | VES |
| NCT | ING | MAT | GRE | EST |
| TE | FEI | HT | GR | ENI |

Yesterday's Answers: 1. ADMIRERS 2. AERIALISTS 3. DISHEVEL 4. SEVERAL 5. CLAVIER 6. LOYALTY 7. PATELLA