

QUICK HITS

France Supports India's Claims for Permanent Seat at Security Council

United Nations: France, which assumed the March Presidency of the United Nations Security Council, has reiterated its support for India as the permanent member of the powerful UN organ, saying the UNSC's enlargement is the "first crucial part" towards its reform. India has been calling for the reform of the UN Security Council along with Brazil, Germany and Japan for long, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member. France, a veto-wielding permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council, last month moved a fresh proposal in the UNSC along with the US and the UK to designate Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. Reiterating its support for India, France said that enlargement of the powerful UN organ in both permanent and non-permanent categories is the "first crucial part" towards UNSC reform. **PM**

Ghosh's Lawyer Steps Up Calls for His Release

Tokyo: Carlos Ghosn's new lawyer escalated his public appeal to release the former Nissan Motor chairman from prison by hinting at the involvement of a "higher power" in the case and questioning why only Ghosn and an associate have been accused of crimes so far. Junichiro Hironaka, the lawyer hired by Ghosn last month, also said on Monday his team is bringing new ideas and strategies after Ghosn's previous legal representatives twice failed to win bail for him. Hironaka filed another request last week as Ghosn's detention surpassed 100 days. Prosecutors made some evidence available to defence lawyers on Thursday, and Hironaka said his team is examining it. **Bloomberg**

US Consulate in Jerusalem Will Merge with Embassy

Jerusalem: The United States lowered the flag on Monday at the Jerusalem consulate that had served as its diplomatic channel to the Palestinians, merging the mission with the new US Embassy to Israel in the contested city. The Palestinians, who have boycotted the Trump administration since it shifted long-standing US policy in December 2017 by recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital, voiced anger at what they see as Washington's latest move against them. Whereas previously the consulate reported on Palestinian matters directly to Washington, its staff have now been repurposed in the embassy as a "Palestinian Affairs Unit" under the US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman. **Reuters**

Huawei CFO Sues Canada for Alleged Wrongful Detention

Claims her constitutional rights were breached and seeks damages for 'false imprisonment'

Vancouver: The Huawei Technologies chief financial officer whose detention in Canada has sparked a diplomatic standoff has filed a civil lawsuit against Canadian authorities, alleging she was wrongfully detained and searched. Meng Wanzhou claims that her constitutional rights were breached and is seeking damages for an ordeal she says amounted to "false imprisonment". The suit was filed March 1 in the Supreme Court of British Columbia against the Canadian Border Services Agency, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer and the Canadian government.

The notice alleges that the police officer and several border guards detained, searched and interrogated Meng under the guise of a routine customs or immigration case, and used "that opportunity to unlawfully compel her to provide evidence and information". It alleges they did so without immediately arresting her under the warrant to avoid affording Meng her constitutional rights. Instead, according to the complaint, the officers detained the Huawei CFO on the jetway Dec. 1 as she was getting off a flight, took away two phones, an iPad and a computer, then got her to surrender the passwords to those devices. She was formally arrested only about three hours after her initial detention, the claim says.

The claim was filed the same day Canada's government agreed to proceed to an extradition hearing at the request of the US, which alleges Meng lied to banks to trick



Huawei Technologies chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou

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them into processing transactions for Huawei that potentially violated Iran trade sanctions. The complaint comes as China's largest tech company is increasingly playing offense to counter accusations it aids Beijing in espionage — something it 'always denied'. In recent weeks, senior executives have taken shots at America's own surveillance efforts, invited foreign media to speak with its reclusive founder, and even tweeted directly at Donald Trump. **Bloomberg**

Huawei Reportedly Preparing to Sue US Government

Hong Kong: Chinese telecom equipment company Huawei plans to announce a lawsuit against the United States government on Thursday on grounds related to a defence bill, a source with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Huawei is preparing to announce that it is suing the US government in a court in Texas by challenging an addition to the US National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) signed last year, according to the source. The new NDAA act, which Beijing had condemned as targeting China, controlled US government contracts with Chinese companies including Huawei and strengthened the role of the panel that reviews foreign investment proposals. The New York Times first reported Huawei's planned legal move on Monday, citing two people familiar with the matter. **Reuters**

At Least 23 Dead in Alabama Tornado, Toll Expected to Rise

Sacramento: At least 23 people, some of them children, died after a tornado swept through Lee County, Alabama on Sunday, and the death toll was expected to rise as rescuers searched through the rubble of destroyed homes, authorities said.

Emergency workers faced a grim night of pulling the dead and injured from the wreckage of homes and businesses.

"The challenge is the sheer volume of the debris where all the homes were located," Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones said in an interview with CNN. "It's the most I've seen that I can recall."

Storms, including at least one apparent tornado, uprooted trees and destroyed homes in neighbouring Georgia, initially knocking out power to 21,000 customers, said Georgia Power spokeswoman Meredith Stone.

On Twitter, US President Donald Trump urged residents of Alabama and other areas affected by the storms to be "careful and safe".

"Tornadoes and storms were truly violent and more could become," Trump wrote. "To the families and friends of the victims, and to the injured, God bless you all!"

"We've still got people being pulled out of rubble," he told the Birmingham News newspaper early on Sunday evening. "We're going to be here all night." **Reuters**

Guido Risks Arrest as He Returns to Challenge Venezuelan President

Maiquetia: Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido arrived at Caracas' airport on Monday after flouting a court-imposed travel ban by touring Latin American countries to boost support for his campaign to oust President Nicolas Maduro.



Juan Guaido

Guaido kept details of his return under wraps and he appeared at Maiquetia international airport without prior notice, meeting ambassadors for European countries in the arrivals hall, according to witnesses.

He had said he would return to lead protests on Monday and Tuesday during the Carnival holiday period, and several hundred opposition supporters had already gathered in Caracas' Las Mercedes district to await him.

"Back in our beloved country! Venezuela, we just passed through immigration and we will now head to where our people are," he said on Twitter just after arriving.

His return could become the next flashpoint in his duel with Maduro as he seeks to keep up momentum and spur his international backers to further isolate the socialist government. Most Western countries recognise Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate head of state.

His possible arrest could allow the Maduro administration to repress political foes and prompt the United States to impose even

harsher sanctions. But it could also strip the opposition of a public figurehead who has brought unity after years of infighting.

"Upon my arrival, whatever path the dictator takes, we are going to continue," Guaido said earlier on Monday in a recorded voice message posted on his Twitter account.

Guaido secretly left Venezuela for Colombia, in violation of a Supreme Court order, to coordinate efforts there on Feb. 23 to send humanitarian aid into Venezuela to alleviate widespread shortages of food and medicine. But troops blocked convoys of aid trucks sent from Colombia and Brazil, leading to clashes that killed at least six people along the Brazilian border, rights groups say.

From Colombia, he traveled to Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay to shore up Latin American support for a transition government that would precede free and fair elections. **Reuters**

Google Rejects Call for Tougher Scrutiny in Oz

Sydney: Alphabet Inc's Google has rejected calls by Australia's competition regulator for tougher scrutiny of its operations, denying that it enjoys market power in online searches and advertising, documents published on Monday showed.

The global giant was responding to recommendations made late last year by the watchdog, such as increased scrutiny and a new regulatory body to monitor the dominance of tech giants in online advertising and news markets.

"The preliminary report bases many of its recommendations on the mistaken premise that Google has market power in search, search advertising, and news media referrals," Google wrote in a Feb. 18 statement published by the regulator.

"Google faces fierce competition from other providers, including vertical search sites like Amazon, Expedia, Domain and

House Panel Seeks Papers from 81 US Agencies in Trump Obstruction Probe

Washington: A US congressional panel said on Monday that it has served document requests on 81 government agencies, entities and individuals as part of an investigation into alleged obstruction of justice and other abuses by President Donald Trump and others.

Among those targeted by the Democratic-led House Judiciary Committee are the president's sons Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, WikiLeaks, Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner, Trump Organization chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg, former US Attorney General Jeff Sessions and former White House counsel Don McGahn.

"We have seen the damage done to our democratic institutions in the two years that the Congress refused to conduct responsible oversight. Congress must provide a check on abuses of power," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said in a statement.

Among the committee's aims is determining whether Trump may have obstructed justice by ousting perceived enemies at the Justice Department and abused his presidential power by possibly offering pardons or tampering with witnesses. **Reuters**

Cohen Hearing may have hurt N Korea Summit: Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump has raised the possibility that a congressional hearing Democrats arranged with his former personal attorney may have contributed to the lack of results of his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

After sending out his National Security Adviser John Bolton to the Sunday talk shows to describe the summit as a success, Trump showed his frustration about the results by lashing out at Democrats. In a tweet on Sunday, Trump criticised Democrats for holding the congressional hearing with his former lawyer Michael Cohen while he was in sensitive negotiations overseas. "For the Democrats to interview in open hearings a convicted liar & fraudster, at the same time as the very important Nuclear Summit with North Korea, is perhaps a new low in American politics and may have contributed to the 'walk.'" **AP**

CarSales.com, many of which users access directly through mobile apps." The regulator had said the enormous market power of firms such as Google, which has a 94% share of web searches in Australia, and their opaque methods for ranking advertisements, gave them the ability and incentive to favour their businesses over advertisers. In preliminary recommendations that are subject to change, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACC) also said the new regulator should have powers to investigate how the companies rank advertisements and news articles. **Reuters**

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

British Museum Agrees to Return Emperor's Hair to Ethiopia

The National Army Museum in Britain says it has agreed to repatriate two locks of hair belonging to a widely revered Ethiopian emperor after a request from Addis Ababa. Monday's announcement comes after last year's outcry over the display of the hair belonging to Emperor Tewodros in an exhibit by the Victoria and Albert Museum on the deadly 1868 British expedition to what was then called Abyssinia. More African countries are seeking the return of heritage items from museums overseas. The National Army Museum says the hair was donated by relatives of an artist who painted the emperor on his deathbed. It is not clear when the formal handover will occur. Ethiopians also seek the bones of the emperor's son. **AP**

Making a Splash at Malaysia's Mermaid School

Wearing tails made of plastic fins covered by shimmering fabric, five women glided through a pool at a Malaysian centre that teaches people how to swim like mermaids. The academy, in the coastal town of Klang, southwest of Kuala Lumpur, is among several that have sprung up around the world to cater to the growing popularity of swimmers emulating the mythical creatures. The students—wearing bikini tops as well as their mermaid tails—circled underwater and did somersaults, all the time trying to keep their eyes open. "It's quite tough," said Koh Yi Xuen, who is 27 and has been learning the special swimming technique for about three years. "We have to open our eyes in the water, and our legs are tied up." Lee Boon Leong said he started offering the lessons at his swimming academy after a company approached him and asked to hire someone who could swim like a mermaid for a product launch. The school, which now has five instructors, has taught about 500 women to swim like mermaids. Lee said it is possible to learn the basics in about 16 hours of classes over three months. Mermaids, which have the upper body and head of a woman and the tail of a fish, are creatures from folklore. **AFP**

Founder of Ted Baker Fashion House Quits over Harassment Claims

Ray Kelvin, the founder of British fashion brand Ted Baker, resigned as his chief executive on Monday following allegations of harassment. Kelvin stepped down "in the best interests of the company", executive chairman David Bernstein said. Kelvin was forced to take a leave of absence last year after claims that he enforced a "hugging" culture, massaged employees, kissed their ears and asked some to sit on his lap. Kelvin founded his first store in Glasgow in 1988. Ted Baker had 544 stores in August 2018, with 201 in Britain, 110 in Europe and 108 in North America. Kelvin, who denies allegations of misconduct, said stepping away was the "right thing to do". "The past few months have been deeply distressing and I'll now be taking time privately with my family to consider what my next adventure will be. Bye for now," he said. A female worker said the hugs could go on for 40 seconds and he would whisper in people's ears. "He would go in for a hug, regardless of any apparent desire from those he was hugging," she said. "Kissing necks, massaging people's ears. This would happen every day if he was in a good mood." An internal independent committee has been investigating the allegations alongside a law firm. **AFP**

Kim Jong Un's Train Makes No Stop in China

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's special train passed the Chinese port city of Tianjin on Monday, sources said, ending speculation about a possible meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Kim left Dong Dang station in Vietnam on Saturday after a failed two-day summit with US President Donald Trump and an official visit to the Southeast Asian nation, reports Yonhap news agency. His train passed through Tianjin at around 7am, according to the sources, apparently taking the same route as when he travelled nearly 66 hours by train to Vietnam. "Security was tightened in downtown Tianjin early in the morning and then eased. It seems like Chairman Kim's train has passed through the city," a source said. Despite earlier speculation, Kim did not stop in Guangzhou, a Chinese port city northwest of Hong Kong, nor in Beijing to meet President Xi on his way back home. **IANS**

Crossword 7346

Mars and Jupiter (8,4)

DOWN

- Good ways to catch first of covert peeks (7)
- Worry about early English blemish in economic system (4,6)
- Being no longer useful, did the dishes (6,2)
- Approach expert on ship rounding Cape (6)
- Serve tea perhaps in bucket (4)
- Spontaneous note (7)
- Illness, sort of 8, always follows food initially (7,5)
- Top aide, not a southpaw? (5-4,3)
- Terrapin plunged in New York for bird (10)
- Early moisture expected, I hear (3)
- Strip defective rifle? Outside help needed (8)
- State in turmoil about new universal disease (7)
- Person with his feet on the ground is later up in the air (7)
- Our lot prepare to welcome Irish crank (6)
- Optometrist's big book (4)

SOLUTION TO No. 7345

ACROSS: 1 Chamber music. 8 Pergola. 9 Lodging. 11 Close shave. 12 Bind. 14 Cash crop. 16 Follow. 17 Keg. 19 Plant. 21 Pot plant. 24 Ugly. 25 Dung beetle. 27 Evident. 28 Ikebana. 29 Ill-advisedly.

DOWN: 1 Curious. 2 Adolescent. 3 Boathook. 4 Reive. 5 Undo. 6 Initial. 7 Space capsule. 10 Go down the pan. 13 Comprehend. 15 Pep. 18 Goggles. 20 Ill will. 22 Actuary. 23 Gustav. 26 Feta.

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HIDATO FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1-49 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

www.hidato.com

Yesterday's puzzle solution.

24	26	26	28	29						
23	22	18	27	30						
36	21	19	17	32	31					
37	35	20	33	16	15					
38	39	34	1	3	5	14				
			40	2	4	6	13			
						7	8	9	12	
									10	11

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 paddles in an unsteady boat (8)
- 2 on the condition (8)
- 3 disappointment (6)
- 4 consequential (9)
- 5 indicating with a finger (8)
- 6 getting a feeling (7)
- 7 in front (5)

SOLUTIONS

SE	VID	CA	GR	ES
PRO	NT	ED	IMP	POI
RE	NS	ORT	NO	AH
ING	EAD	ING	ANT	ET

Yesterday's Answers: 1. RESPIRATION 2. MOTHERLAND 3. BEARER 4. MEASURED 5. MOBILES 6. ABSURDLY 7. TOGETHER. 3/15

Dilbert

ASOK, YOUR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT HAS BEEN A BIT SOFT THIS QUARTER.

I EXPECT A HIGHER LEVEL OF IRRATIONAL ENTHUSIASM FOR THE ENDLESS STRING OF THANKLESS TASKS YOU CALL YOUR JOB.

I ALSO WANT TO SEE AN UNNATURAL PREFERENCE FOR WORK OVER LEISURE.