

QUICK HITS

Softbank Launches \$5 B Fund to Invest in LatAm Tech Firms

Bengaluru: Japan's Softbank Group Corp said on Thursday it had launched a new \$5 billion in- novation fund to invest in tech- nology companies in Latin Ameri- ca. Softbank, which already has a \$100 billion investment vehicle known as Softbank Vision Fund, has made sizeable investments in ride-hailing firm Uber Tech- nologies, shared office provider WeWork, food delivery startup DoorDash and dog walking app Wag.

George Pell Sued for Alleged Child Abuse in 1970s

Melbourne: Convicted Australian Cardinal George Pell faced a fresh legal challenge on Thursday after a civil suit was filed against him for further alleged abuse in the 1970s. Pell - the most senior Vatican official to be found guilty of child sex crimes - is currently in deten- tion awaiting sentencing for assaulting two choirboys in Melbourne in the 1990s.

China Should Define Claims in South China Sea: Mahathir

Manila: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Thursday that China should define its "so-called ownership" in the disputed South China Sea so other claimant countries can start to gain benefits from the resource-rich waters.

Facebook's Zuckerberg Says He'll Shift Focus to Users' Privacy

Says the next wave in social media would be to enable private and encrypted discussions

San Francisco: Social networ- king has long been predicated on people sharing their status up- dates, photos and messages with the world. Now Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive of Facebook, plans to start shifting people toward pri- vate conversations and away from public broadcasting.

Zuckerberg, who runs Face- book, Instagram, WhatsApp and Mes- senger, on Wednesday expressed his intentions to change the essen- tial nature of social media. In- stead of encouraging public posts, he said he would focus on private and encrypted communications, in which users message mostly smaller groups of people they know.

Instead of encouraging public posts, Facebook will focus on private and encrypted communications, in which users message mostly smaller groups of people they know

Facebook's plan - in which the company is playing catch-up to how people are already communi- cating digitally - raises new ques- tions, not the least of which is whether it can realistically pull off a privacy-focused platform.



Arizona Senator Says She Was Raped While in Air Force

Washington: Arizona Senator Martha McSally, the first woman to fly in combat for the US Air Force, said on Wednesday that she had been raped by a superior officer while in the service.

The Senator made the revelation during a Senate Armed Services panel hearing on sexual assault in the military

her position of power in profound ways," the first-term Republican senator said. "And in one case I was preyed upon and then raped by a superior officer."

Russia Telecom Giant MTS to Pay \$850 M in US Corruption Case

Moscow: Russia's leading tele- com firm said on Thursday it had agreed to pay \$850 million to settle a US corruption case over huge bribes paid to the family of Uzbekistan's former president.

The case shed light on massive corruption in Uzbekistan under former president Islam Karimov, who ruled the ex-Soviet republic from 1990 until his death in 2016.

MTS, based in Moscow and listed on the New York Stock Ex- change, said the settlement had been agreed with the US Justice Department and the US Securiti- es and Exchange Commission.



"bribed an Uzbek official" re- lated to Karimov to obtain and retain business operations in Uzbekistan, a Central Asian nation of more than 32 million people.

The Thai Raksa Chart party broke rules by picking Princess Ubolratana as its PM candidate, according to a Thai court ruling

Thailand Court Bans Party for Nominating Princess for PM

Bangkok: A court in Thailand or- dered the dissolution of a party linked to exiled former Prime Min- ister Thaksin Shinawatra for conduct deemed hostile to the constitutional monarchy.

The Thai Raksa Chart party broke rules by picking Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya as its prime ministerial candidate on Feb. 8, ac- cording to a Constitutional Court ruling Thursday in Bangkok.

The court, which said its ruling was unanimous, also banned ex- ecutives of the party from politics for 10 years.

China's Huawei Sues US over Federal Ban on Its Products

Washington: Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei Techno- logies sued the US government on Thursday saying a law limiting its US business was unconstitutional, ratcheting up its fight back against a government bent on closing it out of global markets.

Huawei said it had filed a complai- nt in a federal court in Texas chal- lenging Section 889 of the National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA), signed into law by US President Donald Trump in August, which bars federal agencies and their contractors from procuring its equipment and services.

The lawsuit marks the latest con- frontation between China and the US, which spent most of 2018 slap- ping import tariffs on billions of dol- lars worth of each other's goods.

Long before Trump initiated the trade war, Huawei's activities were under scrutiny by US authorities, according to interviews with 10 peo- ple familiar with the Huawei pro- bes and documents related to the investigations seen by Reuters.



this legal action as a proper and last resort," Huawei Rotating Chair- man Guo Ping said in a statement.

"This ban not only is unlawful, but also restricts Huawei from en- gaging in fair competition, ultimate- ly harming US consumers. We look forward to the court's verdict."

In its lawsuit, Huawei said its "equi- pment and services are subject to advanced security procedures, and no backdoors, implants, or other in- tentional security vulnerabilities have been documented in any of the more than 170 countries in the world where Huawei equipment and ser- vices are used."

Manafort Faces Years in Prison in Sentencing

Alexandria: President Donald Trump's former campaign chair- man Paul Manafort will be senten- ced by a US judge in Virginia on Thursday for bank and tax fraud uncovered during Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation in- to Russia's role in the 2016 election.

The sentencing hearing is sche- duled for 3:30 p.m. (2030 GMT). Manafort was convicted after prosecutors accused him of hid- ding from the US government mil- lions of dollars he earned as a con- sultant for Ukraine's former Pro- kremlin Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's ouster, prosecutors said, Manafort lied to banks to secure loans and main- tain an opulent lifestyle.

Manafort faces sentencing in a separate case in Washington on March 13 on two conspiracy charges to which he pleaded guilty last September. While he faces a statutory maximum of 10 years in the Washington case, US Dis- trict Judge Amy Berman Jackson potentially could stack that on top of whatever prison time Ellis imposes in Virginia, rather than allowing the sentences to run concurrently.



Trump Says He'd Be Disappointed in Kim If Missile Site Rebuilt

Washington: President Trump said he'd be very disappointed in Kim Jong Un if reports are accurate that North Korea has begun rebuilding a missile test site it dismantled last year.

"I would be very disappointed if that were happening," Trump told reporters on Wednesday. "It is a very early report but I would be very, very disappointed in Chair- man Kim." Trump abruptly ended a summit with Kim last week in Hanoi after the president said the North Korean leader asked for all US sanctions to be lifted in ex- change for the dismantling of the country's main nuclear complex.

Two days later, new images from Beyond Parallel, part of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, showed that North Korea was rebuilding a long-range rocket site at the Sohae Launch Facility. Bloomberg

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

Saving the UK High Street, One Vegan Sausage Roll at a Time



There's a real media frenzy out there on how the launch of the now infamous vegan sausage roll boosted the sales of Greggs and help propel its shares to new record highs. The hype around the quorn-based delicacy is now seen as a marketing masterpiece which is fast rebranding Greggs, until very recently seen as a no-frills, resolutely un-hipster food-to-go chain focusing on hearty and filling, non-dietary snacks.

President Trump Refers to Apple's CEO as 'Tim Apple'

There's Michael Dell, Adolph Coors, and Tim Apple. Well, almost. President Donald Trump seems to have gotten a bit confused about the name of Apple's CEO on Wednesday. During a meeting with the Apple CEO and other members of his American Workforce Policy Advisory Board, Trump referred to Tim Cook as "Tim Apple" while praising him for investing in the US.

Barbie Will Soon be 60 - and is Still Going Strong



She is turning 60 this year and still doesn't have a single wrinkle. Blonde or brunette, slender or curvy, black or white, princess or president, Barbie is a forever favourite for young girls, even if she has caused controversy over the years. The iconic doll has evolved to keep up with the times - check out her Twitter feed. And despite fierce competition in the toy industry, 58 million Barbies are sold each year in more than 150 countries.

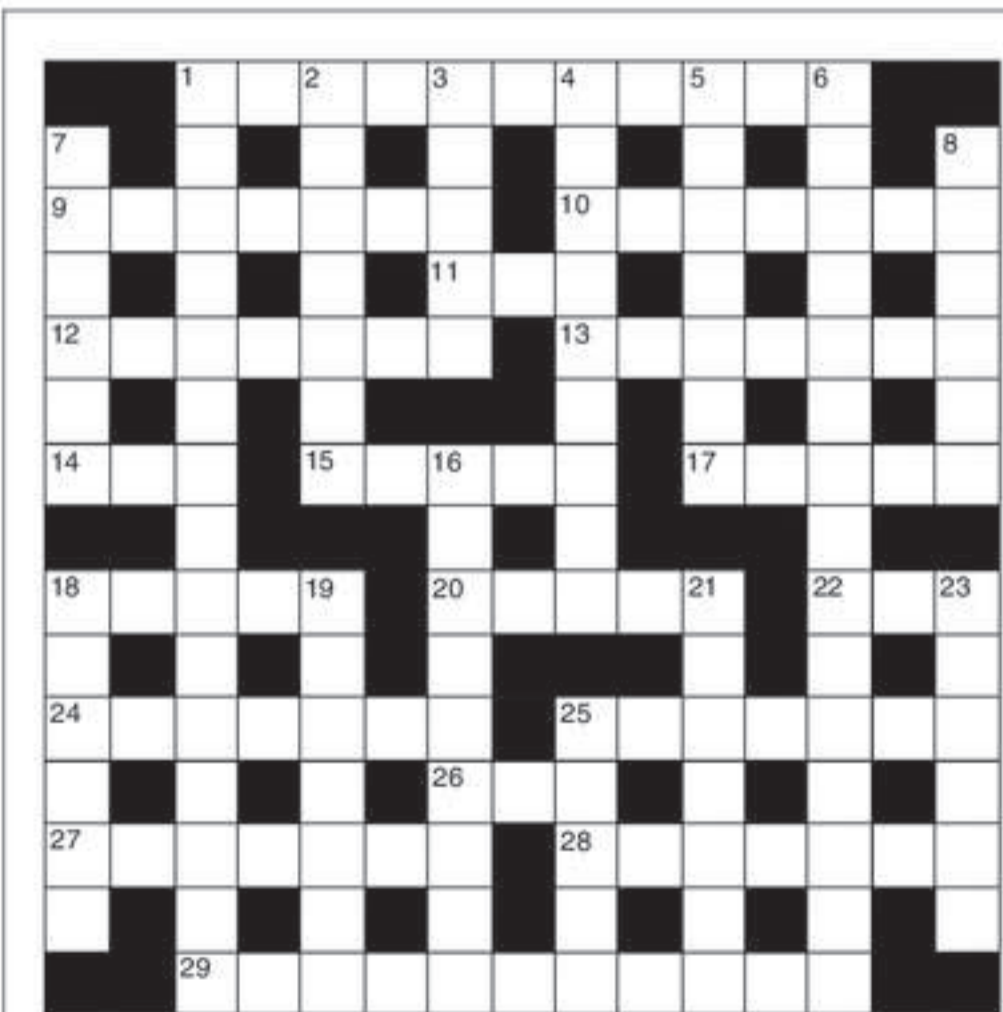
Das Kartoon: Romance Meets Propaganda in China's Marx Anime



The Chinese Communist Party is trying a new way to woo younger people, commissioning an anime series whose hero is clean-shaven, slim and a hopeless romantic - Karl Marx. Called "The Leader", the online cartoon series is designed to make Marx more palatable to China's younger generation, which usually encounters the bearded German philosopher through thick textbooks and classes.

Crossword

7349



- ACROSS 1 All-in bargain: jam with mature fizzy ale (7,4) 9 I hear you'll record what's burnt in Noel's fire (4,3) 10 Where to hold trainers and seconds till fight? (7) 11 Amateur drama doesn't start (3) 12 One court in 5 is not real (7) 13 Dishonest county bishop put away (7) 14 Primarily little artisan companies supply resin (3) 15 Some of the same diagrams ap- pear in the press (5) 17 Previous abbot's deputy (5) 18 Egghead neglects one group of species (5) 20 Alluring woman creating alarm (5) 22 C at's annual checkup set back (3) 24 Mature faster than our two banan- as hiding front of garden (7) 25 A close friend married in NASA, for example (7) 26 Trouble Daniel intermittently (3) 27 TV brain's quirky but very bright (7) 28 It's captivating girl briefly, emphatic type (7)

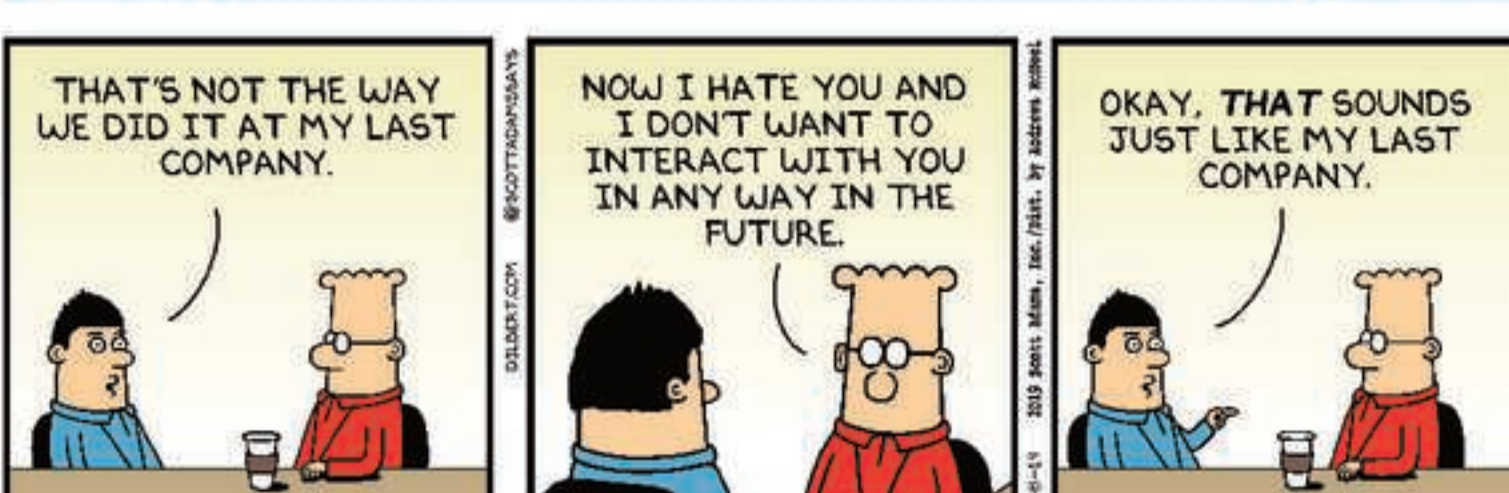
29 Take out old phrase in a note (11)

- DOWN 1 Bobby mislays bootlaces and pencil (6,9) 2 Element Liam blended with cop- per and carbon (7) 3 View that may be obtuse (5) 4 Undemanding board chief and where he sits? (4,5) 5 European collected rent - it boosts his self-image (3,4) 6 Like antenatal wards or out-of-date factories? (6-9) 7 Some may say French engineer is quite a sight (6) 8 Someone leaving talked about SW city (6) 16 In which he saw dirt swirling? (9) 18 Copse masks old furrow (6) 19 Lackey put in charge of royal vehicle (7) 21 Five in Narnia managed to find paradise (7) 23 I'm so distressed mother's brought round plant (6) 25 Skipping bail, one makes excuse (5)

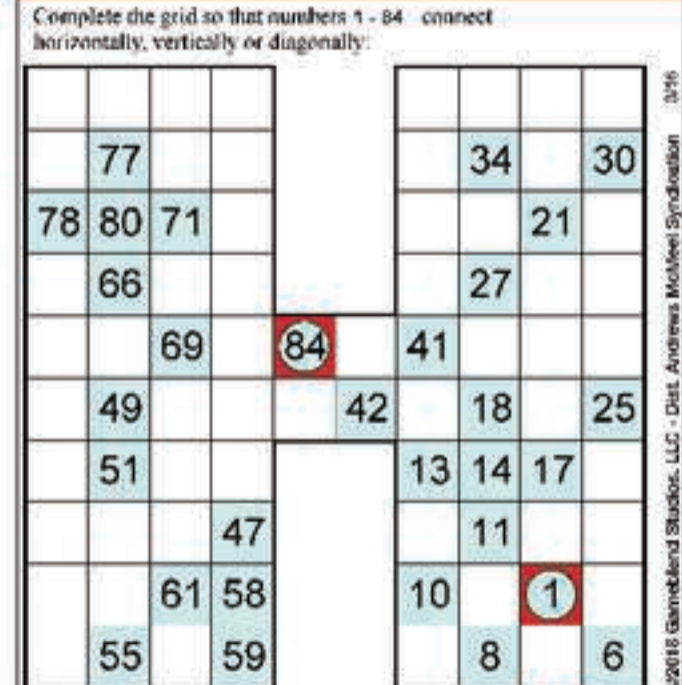
- SOLUTION TO No. 7348 ACROSS: 1 Dejected, 5 Rumpus, 9 Redesign, 10 Chaser, 12 Deed, 13 Wonderment, 15 Soul-searching, 19 Paddle steamer, 23 Relegation, 25 Apse, 28 Tablet, 29 Ligature, 30 Regime, 31 Snack bar. DOWN: 1 Deride, 2 Judge, 3 Cash, 4 Engruss, 6 Usher, 7 Posterior, 8 Strategy, 11 Idea, 14 Purl, 15 Saddlebag, 16 Eat, 17 Comb, 18 Operator, 20 Sate, 21 Etonian, 22 Veneer, 24 Gleam, 26 Plumb, 27 Talc.

Dilbert

by S Adams



HIDATO FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE



Yesterday's puzzle solution. Hidato 101. 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 36 38 39 19 23 25 27 29 31 33 35 37 41 40 16 14 59 57 52 53 50 49 45 43 12 11 61 62 6 2 47 10 9 8 7 6 4

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 the puzzle. CLUES 1 Argentinian's neighbor (7) 2 person making a public start (8) 3 looks for something (8) 4 taking pains (7) 5 geeky (5) 6 cutting into tiny pieces (7) 7 move with haste (6) SOLUTIONS 1 Argentinean's neighbor (7) 2 person making a public start (8) 3 looks for something (8) 4 taking pains (7) 5 geeky (5) 6 cutting into tiny pieces (7) 7 move with haste (6)