

IN BRIEF



**Italian prosecutor grills German ship captain**

AGRIGENTO  
German captain Carola Rackete, who sparked global headlines by forcibly docking in an Italian port with rescued migrants, was questioned by a Sicilian prosecutor on Thursday for allegedly aiding illegal immigration. Ms. Rackete was arrested on June 29 for entering Italy's Lampedusa port with 40 migrants who were blocked at sea for over two weeks. **AFP**

**U.S. House blocks sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia**

WASHINGTON  
U.S. Congress is heading for a showdown with President Donald Trump after the House voted to block his administration from selling billions of dollars in weapons and maintenance support to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Trump has pledged to veto the resolutions of disapproval passed in the Democratic-led House. **AP**

**'No-deal Brexit to spark year-long U.K. recession'**

LONDON  
Britain will slide into a year-long recession if it leaves the European Union without a deal with Brussels, the Office for Budget Responsibility predicted in a report on Thursday. "The U.K. enters a year-long recession in the fourth quarter of 2019" if Britain depart the bloc on October 31 with "no-deal". **AFP**

**Facebook's Libra a threat and far from ready: G7**

CHANTILLY  
G7 Ministers on Thursday agreed that cryptocurrencies such as Facebook's Libra risked destabilising the international monetary system and were not ready to be implemented. It said such projects with a "global and potentially systemic footprint" raise serious regulatory concerns. **AFP**

# Crowd roars 'send her back' as Trump blasts Congresswomen

He calls 4 lawmakers 'hate-filled extremists who are trying to tear down country'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GREENVILLE

Going after four Democratic Congresswomen one by one, a combative President Donald Trump turned his campaign rally into an extended dissection of the liberal views of the women of colour, deriding them for what he painted as extreme positions and suggesting they just get out.

"Tonight I have a suggestion for the hate-filled extremists who are constantly trying to tear our country down," Mr. Trump told the crowd in North Carolina, a swing State he won in 2016 and wants to claim again in 2020. "They never have anything good to say. That's why I say, 'Hey if you don't like it, let 'em leave, let 'em leave.'"

Eager to rile up his base with the same kind of rhetoric he targeted at minorities and women in 2016, Mr. Trump declared on Wednesday night, "I think in some cases they hate our country."

Mr. Trump's jabs were aimed at the self-described "squad" of four freshmen Democrats who have garnered attention for their outspoken liberal views and distaste for Mr. Trump - Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. All were born in the U.S. except for Ms. Omar, who came to the U.S. as a child after fleeing Somalia with her family.

Taking on the legislators one at a time, Mr. Trump ticked through a laundry list of what he deemed offensive comments by each woman, mangling and misconstruing many facts along the way. Ms. Omar came under the



**Upping the ante:** U.S. President Donald Trump speaking at a campaign rally in Greenville, U.S., on Thursday. **REUTERS**

harshest criticism as Mr. Trump played to voters' grievances, drawing a chant from the crowd of "Send her back! Send her back!"

**'Still I rise'**

She responded on Wednesday night with a series of tweets, including one quoting Maya Angelou's defiant poem, "Still I Rise," with the words, "You may shoot me with your words... But still, like air, I'll rise."

"I am where I belong, at the people's house and you're just gonna have to deal!" she wrote in another.

Mr. Trump set off a firestorm on Sunday when he tweeted that the four should "go back" to their home countries though three were born in the U.S. Mr. Trump has accused them of "spewing some of the most vile, hateful and disgusting things ever said by a politician."

Among his complaints against Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Trump correctly reported that she had referred to the President by the "F-word", adding: "That's not nice, even for me." Mr. Trump himself had unloaded a vulgarity earlier in his speech, denouncing

the Russia probe of his campaign and administration as "bulls--."

As for Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mr. Trump fumbled over her name and declared: "I don't have time to go with three different names." He then referred to her as just "Cortez" and challenged her complaints about dire conditions at migrant detention centres.

In a lighter moment, Mr. Trump wondered if Ms. Pressley was related to Elvis Presley, then pivoted to more serious points, claiming she thought people of colour should "think the same". As for Ms. Omar, Mr. Trump unfurled a whole list of complaints, including a false accusation that she voiced pride in al-Qaida.

Mr. Trump, speaking to reporters at the White House later, distanced himself from his supporters' chants of "send her back" after he criticised Ms. Omar. "I was not happy with it. I disagree with it." Asked why he did nothing to stop the taunt, instead pausing as the crowd chanted it over and over, he said, "I think I did. I started speaking very quickly."

## Impeachment bid defeated in House

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday rejected a Congressman's bid to launch impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump, tamping down a groundswell of anger after the President made xenophobic comments about Democrats.

The chamber voted 332 to 95 to table, or effectively kill, a resolution brought by Democrat Al Green that raised whether to begin procedures to remove Mr. Trump from office.

The majority of the House's 235 Democrats joined all Republicans in voting to indefinitely delay the impeachment bid, although a substantial number of Democrats went on record in favour of considering articles of impeachment.

Mr. Trump took to Twitter following the vote to declare efforts to impeach him "over".

"This is perhaps the most ridiculous and time consuming project I have ever had to work on," Mr. Trump wrote, adding: "This should never be allowed to happen to another President of the United States again!"

In Greenville, South Carolina, he told reporters before addressing a rally: "We have just received an overwhelming vote against impeachment... And that's the end of it. Let the Democrats now go back to work."

# 33 killed in 'attack' on Japan animation studio

Man doused flammable liquid and set the building on fire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

A man screaming "You die!" burst into an animation studio in Kyoto, doused it with a flammable liquid and set it on fire on Thursday, killing 33 people in an attack that shocked anime fans across Japan and beyond.

Thirty-six others were injured, some of them critically, in a blaze that sent people scrambling up the stairs toward the roof in a desperate and futile attempt to escape. Others emerged bleeding, blackened and barefoot.

The suspect was injured and taken to a hospital. Police identified him only as a 41-year-old man who was not a company employee. They gave no immediate details on the motive.

Most of the victims were employees of Kyoto Animation, which does work on feature films and TV produc-



**Caught unawares:** Firefighters at work as smoke rises from the three-storied animation studio in Kyoto on Thursday. **AP**

tions but is best known for its mega-hit stories featuring high school girls.

The blaze started in the three-story building after the attacker sprayed an unidentified liquid accelerant, police and fire officials said.

"There was an explosion, then I heard people shouting, some asking for help," a witness told TBS TV. "Black smoke was rising from win-

dows on upper floors." Firefighters found 33 bodies, 20 of them on the third floor and some on the stairs to the roof, where they apparently collapsed, Kyoto fire official Kazuhiro Hayashi said. Two were found dead on the first floor, 11 others on the second floor, he said.

Survivors said the suspect was screaming "You die!" as he dumped the liquid.

# U.S. bars Turkey from F-35 programme over S-400 deal

Ankara says one-sided step against spirit of alliance

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The White House confirmed on Wednesday that Turkey would be excluded from the F-35 stealth fighter jet programme after it purchased a Russian missile defense system in defiance of warnings from Western allies.

"Unfortunately, Turkey's decision to purchase Russian S-400 air defense systems renders its continued involvement with the F-35 impossible," White House

spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

The U.S.-made F-35 Joint Strike Fighter "cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities," she added.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry termed the move "unfair," saying that "this one-sided step neither complies with the spirit of alliance nor is it based on legitimate reasons."

Ms. Grisham said that the U.S. had made "multiple" offers of its Patriot missile defence system to Turkey, but Ankara acquired the S-400, running counter to a NATO pledge to avoid Russian systems. "This will have detrimental impacts on Turkish interoperability with the Alliance," she said.

The U.S. action will lock out a number of Turkish manufacturers that were producing parts and components for the F-35.

## Former Pak. PM Abbasi arrested in graft case

Award of an LNG contract under lens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAHORE

Pakistan's anti-graft body on Thursday arrested former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a multi-billion-rupee case related to the award of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import contract.

A National Accountability Bureau (NAB) team intercepted Mr. Abbasi's car in Lahore and arrested him. He initially resisted the arrest but eventually conceded.

Mr. Abbasi had served as the Prime Minister from August 2017 to May 2018.

The NAB was probing alleged corruption in the



Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

award of contract to import LNG from Qatar by Mr. Abbasi when he was Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources in the cabinet of former PM Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Abbasi has denied the charges and said that he would prove his innocence in any court of law.

# China-U.S. feud rises over Taiwan

Beijing has threatened to sanction U.S. companies over arms sales to Taipei

ATUL ANEJA  
BEIJING

Amid growing trade tensions with the U.S., China is going ahead with its decision to sanction American companies selling weapons to Taiwan.

The State-run tabloid, *Global Times*, earlier this week nailed specific steps that China can take to hurt four American military hardware firms - General Dynamics, the maker of the M1A2T tanks, Raytheon, the manufacturer of Stinger missiles, and tank equipment contractors, BAE and Oshkosh.

On July 8, the U.S. Defense Department notified Congress of its proposed arms



**Measured steps:** An M1A2 Abrams tank firing during a U.S.-led military exercise in Georgia, in this file photo. **REUTERS**

sales to Taiwan. These included 108 M1A2T Abrams tanks, as well as Hercules armoured vehicles and heavy equipment transporters. Besides, Congressional clearance was also sought for the sale of Stinger anti-aircraft

missiles, worth \$220 million.

Analysts say that China now has the tool kit to retaliate against the U.S. decision on arms sales to Taiwan. For instance, China as the third largest buyer of Gulfstream executive jets built by Gener-

al Dynamics can upset the company's balance sheet, should it decide to restrict imports. China is also a big purchaser of aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles produced by Oshkosh.

According to a *Global Times* report, China can more fundamentally disrupt parts of the supply chain, including export of rare earths material, used by U.S. military firms.

"Rare earths, the industry which is largely controlled by China, are imperative in making advanced weapons and equipment. For instance, the M1A2 tank of General Dynamics uses samarium-cobalt in its navigation system," the daily said.

## Iran seizes tanker, U.S. vows to protect sea route

Tehran alleges ship was smuggling oil

REUTERS  
TEHRAN

Iran said on Thursday it had seized a foreign tanker smuggling fuel in the Gulf, and the U.S. military commander in the region said the U.S. would work to ensure free passage of vessels through the vital waterway.

It was unclear if the impounded ship was the same vessel Iran towed to safety on Sunday after receiving a distress signal. Iranian State television had earlier said it was the same ship but the Revolutionary Guards statement did not confirm that.

The Guards said that the impounded ship was smuggling one million litres of

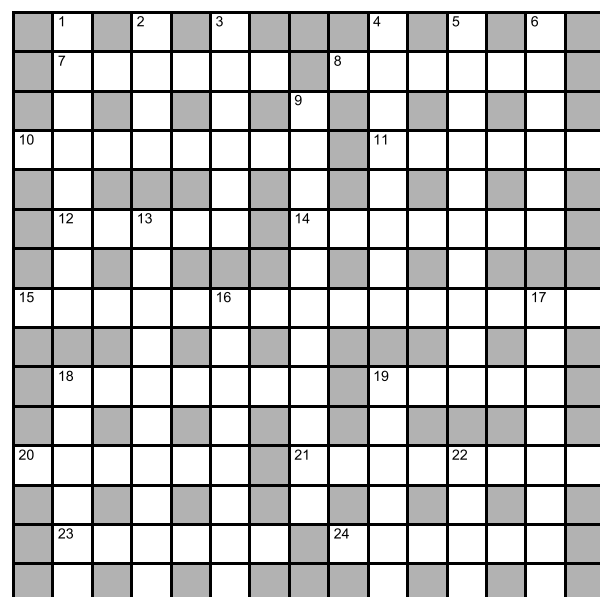
fuel in the area of Larak Island in the Gulf and had 12 foreign crew members.

Britain said the tanker was not British-flagged. "We are not currently aware of any U.K. interests in this vessel," a British government spokesman said.

U.S. Central Command chief General Kenneth McKenzie said the U.S. was in talks with several countries to ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Oil prices rose after news of the seizure amid rising tensions between Tehran and the West over the safety of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital gateway for energy exports.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12682



ACROSS

- 7 Excel's rule for mouse (6)
- 8 Make fun, look a bit thick (6)
- 10 Take note of winter wear stores offering discount (4,4)
- 11 Counterfeit money buying time for radical (6)
- 12 Pressure to reduce volume of boiling fat (5)

DOWN

- 1 Need duck slices especially for this boneless meat dish (8)
- 2 Base to stick incense in place of worship (4)
- 3 Free ball pitched up goes to fence (6)

(set by xChequer)

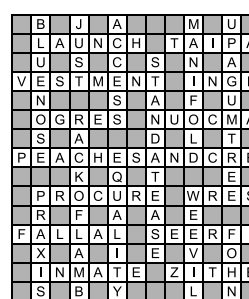
- 14 Technique of telling time with height displacement in mountain mapping (7)
- 15 Mutton from sheep butchered for snap (4-2-3-6)
- 18 Gloss over lie in shady bar (7)
- 19 Virtue of some rituals (5)
- 20 Denomination 2d (6)
- 21 Shy if silent intrinsically (2,6)
- 23 Insensibility round places having gold (6)
- 24 Bottle of fluid, one containing spirit (6)
- 4 Lobby, one arm to building (8)
- 5 A British boy born after a battle might describe me! (4,6)
- 6 Sanguine after changing sides, as a sitting duck would be? (6)
- 9 Rain to hit coasts to save India melting away like this? (4,4,3)
- 13 Quietly usurped or otherwise, vain about wealth (5-5)
- 16 Head getting hot with ego surfacing in strip joint perhaps (8)
- 17 Gaining pounds in the middle can be irritating (8)
- 18 Life force found in small stone or rock (6)
- 19 The deep, cunning fellow not wanted as a rule (6)
- 22 Evidence of good in wrongdoing (4)

## SUDOKU

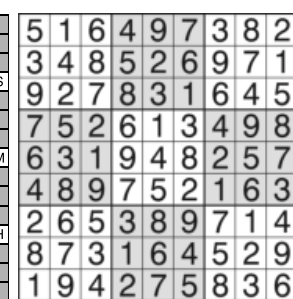


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12681



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



## FAITH

### Dangers of desire

In his Deivamani Malai, Vallalar laments that his mind does not dwell on the Lord's feet, but seeks women, money and land. The only way to get the mind to think of His feet is to recite His name, said M. A. Manickavelu in a discourse. Sundarar says that even if he were to forget Lord Siva, his tongue will automatically recite the Panchakshara mantra. Manickavachagar sings praises to the Lord's feet. In Kandar Alankaram, Arunagirinatha says that his mind is like a creeper without a supporting stick. He prays to Lord Muruga, who has the peacock as His vehicle. Arunagirinatha prays that Lord Muruga's feet should be the stick to support his mind.

Vallalar indicates the dangers of desire for women, and so does Arunagirinatha. Arunagirinatha, in his Kandar Alankaram, says that he has fallen for the sweet words of women. He prays to Muruga, extolling Him as the nephew of Lord Mahavishnu, who reclines on Adishesha, the snake that has air for its food. In Kandar Anubhuti, Arunagirinatha says a person takes seven births and this repeated cycle is due to his desires. He wonders when these desires that lead to such trouble will disappear.

Adipatha Nayanar was an example of a person who had totally conquered desire. He was a fisherman living in Nagapattinam, in Tamil Nadu. He would let the first fish he caught into the sea and say it was his offering to Lord Siva. Sometimes, he had a poor catch and only caught one fish. But he gave away even that fish to the Lord. One day, a fish, which was studded with precious stones was caught. And when he saw it, Adipatha Nayanar said, "Such a rare fish is fit only for Lord Siva," and he slipped it back into the sea. The Lord then appeared before him, on his rishaba vahana, and granted him the boon of reaching Siva Loka.