

Don't escalate tensions, Iran tells U.K.

This is quite dangerous and unwise at a sensitive time in the region, says Tehran's envoy to Britain

REUTERS
DUBAI

Iran's Ambassador to Britain warned against escalating tensions on Sunday as a U.K. official declined to rule out sanctions in response to Tehran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker.

Britain has called Iran's capture of the *Stena Impero* in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday a "hostile act".

Britain needs to contain "those domestic political forces who want to escalate existing tension between Iran and the U.K. well beyond the issue of ships," Iran's envoy to Britain Hamid Baedinejad said on Twitter. "This is quite dangerous and unwise at a sensitive time in the region," he said, adding that Iran "is firm and ready for different scenarios."

Britain's junior Defence Minister Tobias Ellwood did not rule out the possibility of targeting Tehran with sanctions in response. "Our first and most important responsibility is to make sure that we get a solution to the issue



Tough stance: Britain has called Iran's capture of the *Stena Impero* in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday a "hostile act".

to do with the current ship, make sure other British-flagged ships are safe to operate in these waters and then look at the wider picture," Mr. Ellwood told Sky News.

Asked about the possibility of sanctions, he said: "We are going to be looking at a series of options... We will be speaking with our colleagues, our international allies, to see what can actually be done."

Tehran's seizure of the *Stena Impero* followed the July 4 capture by Royal Ma-

rine carrying the *Grace 1* tanker carrying Iranian oil near Gibraltar.

Illegal interference: U.K. In a letter to the U.N. Security Council, Britain said the *Stena Impero* was approached by Iranian forces in Omani territorial waters where it was exercising its lawful right of passage, and that the action "constitutes illegal interference."

British warship *HMS Montrose* radioed an Iranian patrol vessel to warn it against boarding the *Stena Impero*,

Oman calls for release of *Stena Impero*

MUSCAT Oman called on Sunday for the release of the *Stena Impero* detained by Iran and urged London and Tehran to resolve their dispute with diplomacy. Oman "looks forward to the Iranian government's release of the British ship", the Foreign Ministry said on Twitter. The sultanate said it was in contact with all parties to guarantee the safety of commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz. AFP

according to radio messages provided to Reuters by maritime security firm Dryad Global.

Iran said the seized tanker "risked maritime safety" in the Strait of Hormuz, through which almost a fifth of the world's annual oil consumption passes. "We are required by regulations to investigate the issue... the duration of the investigation depends on the level of cooperation by the involved parties," Allahmorad Afipour, head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organisation

Iran thanks Saudi Arabia for release of *Happiness 1*

DUBAI Iran on Sunday appreciated Saudi Arabia's efforts in the return of its *Happiness 1* tanker that had docked at Jeddah port because of technical problems in May, the semi-official Fars news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying. The media reported in early July that Saudi Arabia was not allowing the ship to leave because of a dispute over the payment of repair costs. REUTERS

in Hormozgan Province, told state TV.

He added that all 23 crew members aboard the ship, including 18 Indian nationals, are "safe and in good health in Bandar Abbas port".

Tehran for weeks has vowed to retaliate for the seizure of the *Grace 1* tanker by British forces. "The Revolutionary Guards responded to Britain's hijacking of the Iranian tanker," Parliament Speaker Ali Larjani told a Parliament session aired live on state radio.

Protesters deface Beijing's office in Hong Kong

Move seen as a direct challenge to city's political masters

REUTERS
HONG KONG

The Hong Kong police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in running clashes with protesters late on Sunday amid chaotic scenes as anger over an extradition bill morphs into a fresh front against what many see as a broader erosion of freedoms by Beijing.

Thousands of protesters descended on China's representative office in the city, in a direct challenge to authorities in Beijing, just hours after the latest demonstrations to rock the Asian financial central.

Millions have taken to the streets in the past two months in an unprecedented show of force against Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, triggering the worst social turmoil to rock the former British colony since it returned to Chinese rule 22 years ago.

Black-clad activists, many



Sending a message: A defaced Chinese national emblem outside the Liaison Office in Hong Kong on Sunday. • REUTERS

wearing masks, defied police orders and marched beyond the official endpoint of a rally that took place earlier in the day as they made their way towards the Liaison Office.

When asked whether the protesters would attempt to force entry into the building, one 30-year-old man dressed head to toe in black said "No", as he mimicked a throat-slitting action. "That

would be the death of Hong Kong," he added.

Some protesters threw eggs at the walls of the Liaison Office, while others spray-painted graffiti as they kept up pressure on the city's beleaguered government to heed their calls for an independent inquiry into complaints of police brutality during recent demonstrations, among other demands.

Hindu priest attacked near temple in New York

Police probing if it was a 'hate crime'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

A Hindu priest was attacked by a man while he was walking down the street in his religious garb near a temple in Floral Park, New York, according to a U.S. media report.

Swami Harish Chander Puri said that around 11 a.m. (local time) on July 18, near the Shiv Shakti Peeth in Glen Oaks, while he was walking, a man came up from behind and started hitting him, a local news channel reported.

Mr. Puri said he had to be rushed to a hospital. He suffered bruises and abrasions all over his body, including his face, in the attack. "I'm in a little pain," the priest was quoted as saying by the channel.

The police arrested 52-year-old Sergio Gouveia in connection with the attack. He is being charged with assault, harassment and criminal possession of a weapon. The police are looking into whether the attack should be investigated as a hate crime, the channel said.

Some of the people who regularly visit the temple said they believe the priest was targeted. The attacker screamed things like, "this is my neighborhood," during the incident, they said.

The incident comes days after U.S. President Donald Trump took to Twitter to target four democratic congresswomen, including Minnesota's Ilhan Omar, a Somali-born U.S. citizen, asking them to "go back" where they came from.

Minority Congresswomen should apologise: Trump

'Don't believe they can love America'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump renewed his attacks on Sunday on four Democratic Congresswomen he launched xenophobic tweets against last week, demanding they apologise "for the horrible (hateful) things they have said."

"I don't believe the four Congresswomen are capable of loving our Country," Mr. Trump tweeted of ethnic-minority first-term Democrats Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley.

"They should apologise to America (and Israel) for the horrible (hateful) things they have said. They are destroying the Democrat Party, but are weak & insecure people who can never



Donald Trump

destroy our great Nation!" the President tweeted.

The group - all American citizens, three of whom were born in the U.S. - are of Hispanic, Arab, Somali and African-American descent.

Mr. Trump was rebuked by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives last Tuesday for "racist comments" against the women, who are known as the "Squad."

Hasina nixes move for sedition case against Hindu activist

'Priya Saha should first explain her comments to U.S. President'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has disapproved of a planned government move to file sedition charges against a Hindu woman who told U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington that the minority communities in her country were being persecuted, a senior Minister said on Sunday.

Priya Saha, organising secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (HBCUC), attended a meeting at the White House on July 19 and a video of the meeting with Mr. Trump subsequently went viral on social media, sparking a controversy back



Priya Saha

home. In the video, she was seen identifying herself as a Bangladeshi national and telling the U.S. President that 37 million people of the minority groups disappeared from Bangladesh.

Reacting to Ms. Saha's statement, Road Transport Minister and ruling Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader on Saturday told reporters that she had

made "false, purposeful and treasonous remarks" and a sedition case would be filed against her.

However, Mr. Quader on Sunday said Ms. Hasina has disapproved of the move to file sedition charges against Ms. Saha without obtaining her explanation on her comments. "The Prime Minister last night sent me a message (from the U.K. where she is on an official tour), saying no legal action was required to be initiated hastily," Mr. Quader told a media briefing at the party's Dhanmandi office.

But, he maintained that Ms. Saha must make a public statement, explaining what she actually wanted to tell Mr. Trump.

U.S. accuses Venezuela of aggression

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A Venezuelan fighter jet "aggressively shadowed" a U.S. intelligence plane over the Caribbean Sea, defence officials said on Sunday.

U.S. Southern Command said the Russian-made Venezuelan SU-30 on Friday followed a U.S. EP-3 at an "unsafe distance... jeopardising the crew and aircraft." "The EP-3 aircraft, flying a mission in approved international airspace, was approached in an unprofessional manner by the SU-30... The U.S. routinely conducts multi-nationally recognised and approved detection and monitoring missions in the region to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and those of our partners," it added.

IN BRIEF



Pakistan PM lands in U.S., to meet Trump today

WASHINGTON Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived here on his first trip to the U.S. He was welcomed at the airport by his Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. He is scheduled to meet President Donald Trump on Monday to reboot bilateral ties. PTI

PTI, Independents lead in FATA polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party and Independent candidates won five seats each in the first-ever elections in former semi-autonomous tribal region, bordering Afghanistan, that was once a stronghold of militant groups like the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda.

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where the first-ever provincial elections were held on Saturday, comprises seven districts

and was merged with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in May 2018 after a constitutional amendment.

According to the unofficial results of 13 constituencies out of 16, Mr. Khan's PTI and Independents got five seats each, while the Jamat-e-Islami, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl and the Awami National Party won one seat each. Results of three constituencies were not available so far.

The law set aside 24 seats in the provincial assembly for the former FATA region.

However, due to administrative reasons, elections on those seats were not held with the general polls held in the country in July last year.

After putting in place the necessary legal and logistic wherewithal, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) went ahead to hold the election on the 16 general seats. Another four seats are reserved for women and one for non-Muslims. These seats will be awarded to the political parties on the basis of their share in the 16 contested seats.

9 killed, 40 injured in terror strikes in Pak.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR

At least nine persons, including six policemen, were killed and around 40 others injured in northwest Pakistan on Sunday in a terror strike on a check-post and a subsequent suicide blast by a burkha-clad woman at a hospital where the victims of the first attack were shifted.

Both attacks took place in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Four unidentified armed men on two motorbikes



The hospital that was targeted by a woman suicide bomber. • AP

fired at two on-duty policemen at the Kotla Syedan check-post, killing them, district police chief Saleem Riaz said.

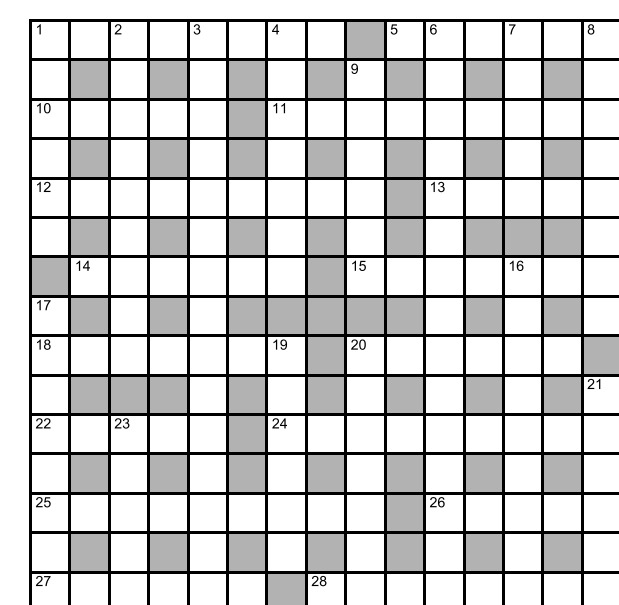
When the bodies of the slain policemen were brought to the district hospital, the suicide bomber, already sitting there, targeted

the people gathered around the ambulance, the officer said.

Seven people, including four policemen, were killed in the blast, the police said, adding that this was the first ever suicide bombing by a woman. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

The injured were shifted to the Combine Military Hospital. The death toll could rise as majority of the victims were in critical condition, the officer said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12684



ACROSS

1 Crack, ecstasy and cocaine taken in depression by woman (8)

5 Manage when callous husband abandons, having turned rotten (6)

10 Poor recital - scrapping it for sure (5)

11 Go to bed, overwhelmed by shame

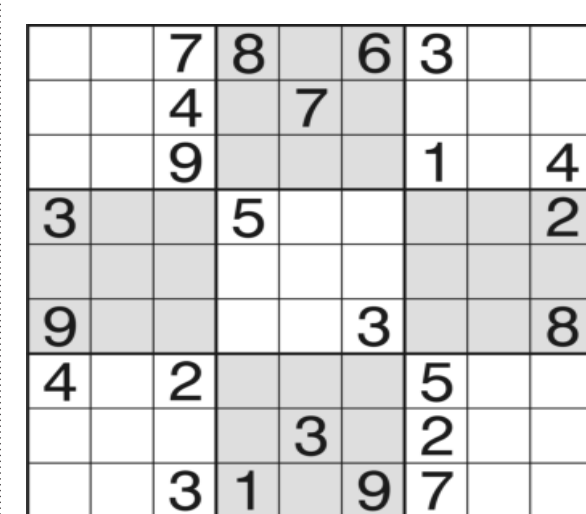
- oddy uncommunicative (9)
- 12 Harassed daughter rose to tackle a thug (9)
- 13 Reasons given by one in low spirits about consuming ecstasy (5)
- 14 It is an extensively consumed herbal infusion (6)
- 15 Summon chap going round with concoction of tea (7)
- 18 Time to go round fancy bar in marina (7)
- 20 Heartily requested girl in lake to come out (6)
- 22 Close to largely forlorn girl (5)
- 24 Drunkard's corporation? (4,5)
- 25 Put up a fight in haunt (4,5)
- 26 Long for a bit of vodka in noisy pub (5)
- 27 Girl about to bag right husband making money in Africa (6)
- 28 A serious setback! Congress starting to become insignificant (4,4)

DOWN

- 1 Throw light on fish in river (6)
- 2 Buck up after capturing most effective knight (9)

(set by Dr. X)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12683

H	I	C	J	U	P	A	B	S	O	R	B	E	D
A	R	N	K	S	U	N	E	A					
B	L	I	N	K	S	P	R	A	T	T	L	E	R
I	C	I	O	P	H	C	N						
T	A	K	E	N	O	T	E	T	E	C	H	I	E
A	E	D	T	I	E								
T	U	T	U	G	O	S	E	B	U	M	P	S	
E	E	I	M	L	B	O							
F	A	R	A	N	D	A	W	A	Y	R	I	S	K
I	L	L	G	N	S	S							
F	L	A	T	U	S								
T	U	I	A	L	R	E	N	H					
I	N	D	E	N	I	A	L	R	E	D	E	M	
E	I	A	W										
S	E	T	T	L	I	N	G						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	3	6	1	7	8	2	4
4	7	6	8	2	3	5	1	9
8	1	2	5	9	4	6	3	7
1	4	8	9	5	6	2	7	3
9	2	5	7	3	1	4	6	8
3	6	7	2	4	8	1	9	5
6	5	4	1	7	9	3	8	2
2	8	9	3	6	5	7	4	1
7	3	1	4	8	2	9	5	6

FAITH

Vedas and Thiruppavai

While the Thiruppavai has many commentaries, it itself may be considered a commentary on the Vedas, said Malola Kannan, in a discourse. Every pasuram in Thiruppavai reflects the Vedas in one way or the other. Taking the Azhi mazhai kanna pasuram as an example, one can see how it is like Veda sabdas. There are yagas that are performed to obtain the benefit of rains. There are five sabdas prescribed as mandatory during these yagas. If the required yagas are not performed, then it will not rain, and for the yagas to bear fruit, these five sabdas are indispensable. Andala's Azhi mazhai pasuram captures the essence of the Vedic mantras recited for rains. Similarly, each pasuram can be studied for its Vedic connection.

Verse twenty-eight of Thiruppavai (karavaigal pin sendru) may be considered the prayaschitta pasuram. Thiruppavai begins with a vrata, and the twenty seventh verse marks the end of the vrata. Now that the vrata is over, it is time for prayaschitta (atonement). The Gopikas are lucky to have had Krishna in their midst as one of them. The Gopikas might have called Him by names that He might not have liked. Their way of addressing Him might not have been as respectful as His forgiveness. For a yaga to be complete and to give the desired results, one must do a prayaschittam. Thiruppavai itself is akin to a yaga and now that the yaga is over, prayaschittam is offered through the karavaigal pasuram. Kanaithilam pasuram is about Vedanta Desika. Just as a cow lets milk flow from its udder, to feed its calf, so did Lord Lakshmi Hayagreeva bless Vedanta Desika. In fact, Desika says in his Hayagreeva Stotram, that the Lord sat on his tongue (iibhAra simbAsanam), helping him defeat opponents