

ELSEWHERE



UN nuclear watchdog chief Amano dies at 72
VIENNA
The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, Yukiya Amano, has died after suffering poor health for some time, the International Atomic Energy Agency said on Monday. The Japanese diplomat, who was 72, held the IAEA's top job since December 2009. AFP

Microsoft pays \$25m to settle corruption charges
NEW YORK
Microsoft agreed on Monday to pay about \$25.3 million, including a criminal fine, to settle U.S. charges that it made improper payments to bribe government officials in Hungary and other countries. AP

Sri Lanka extends emergency by a month
COLOMBO
Sri Lanka on Monday extended the state of emergency by a month in the interest of maintaining "public security" after the deadly Easter bombings that killed nearly 260 people. PTI

China says Hong Kong protests are 'absolutely intolerable'

Beijing calls for use of 'all necessary measures to safeguard Central govt. agencies'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING/HONG KONG

China reacted furiously on Monday to anti-government protesters vandalising the walls of its representative's office in Hong Kong and defacing the national emblem, branding their actions "absolutely intolerable".

Thousands of masked pro-democracy demonstrators briefly occupied the road outside the office in the semi-autonomous city on Sunday and targeted the building with eggs, projectiles, laser lights and graffiti in a stark rebuke to Beijing's rule.

Hong Kong has been shaken by massive, sometimes violent, protests initially organised to oppose a now-suspended bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China. They have now morphed into a wider movement for democratic reforms.

"Actions by some radical demonstrators have affected



Crowd control: A policeman firing a tear gas shell at protesters in Hong Kong late on Sunday. AFP

the bottom line of the 'one country, two systems' principle, and that is absolutely intolerable," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in Beijing.

He added that Beijing opposes all acts of violence and "firmly" supports the use of "all necessary measures to safeguard Central government agencies in Hong Kong".

Protesters have vowed to sustain pressure until their core demands – including universal suffrage and the re-

signation of the city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam – are met.

"These (acts)... have seriously damaged the feelings of all Chinese people including seven million Hong Kong compatriots," Wang Zhimin, China's top envoy to the city, told reporters, calling on authorities to pursue the "rioters".

Protesters attacked
Meanwhile, anger soared in Hong Kong on Monday over a vicious assault on pro-de-

mocracy protesters by suspected triad gangsters late on Sunday that left dozens wounded. Footage broadcast live on Facebook showed gangs of men – most wearing white T-shirts and carrying bats, sticks and metal poles – attacking the protesters. The men beat multiple protesters and journalists in Yuen Long station and inside subway trains, leaving pools of blood on the floor.

Hospital authorities said 45 people were wounded in the attack, with one man in critical condition and five others seriously injured.

Critics accused the city's embattled police force of taking more than an hour to reach the site and failing to arrest the armed assailants who stayed on the streets around the station into Monday morning.

Some men in white shirts were later filmed leaving the scene in cars with Chinese mainland number plates.

U.S. working with Pak. to find way out of Afghan war: Trump

Imran Khan says a peace deal with the Taliban was possible

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump voiced optimism on Monday that Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan could help broker a political settlement to end the nearly 18-year-old U.S. war in Afghanistan and held out the possibility of restoring aid to Islamabad.

"I think Pakistan is going to help us out to extricate ourselves," Mr. Trump said, with Mr. Khan sitting next to him at the start of a White House meeting.

American aid
Mr. Trump spoke of possibly restoring \$1.3 billion in American aid that he had cut last year, depending upon the results of the meeting.

The U.S. and Pakistan have a complicated relationship.

Mr. Trump last year complained on Twitter that the Pakistanis "have given us nothing but lies & deceit" and "give safe haven" to militants. Pakistan has denied



Donald Trump

porters were present.

Mr. Trump wants to wrap up the U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan and sees Pakistan's cooperation as crucial to any deal to end the war and ensure the country does not become a base for militant groups like the Islamic State.

Pressure tactics
Washington wants Islamabad to pressure Afghanistan's Taliban into a permanent ceasefire and participation in talks with the Afghan government.

The Pentagon said Pakistan's Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, will meet later on Monday with the top American military officer, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford.

Analysts believe General Bajwa will play a key role in behind-the-scenes discussions, with the military looking to persuade Washington to restore aid and cooperation.

Britain plans European-led naval mission in the Gulf

Prime Minister Theresa May holds emergency meeting; Hunt terms Iran's capture of tanker 'state piracy'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Monday said it was planning a European-led protection force for shipping in the Gulf after Iranian authorities seized a British-flagged tanker in a dramatic escalation of tensions in the region.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt made the announcement following an emergency ministerial meeting,

chaired by Prime Minister Theresa May, to respond to Friday's incident.

"We will seek to establish this mission as quickly as possible," Mr. Hunt said, condemning Iran's actions as "state piracy" while at the same time emphasising that Britain did not want confrontation.

The mission "will not be part of the U.S. maximum pressure policy on Iran be-

cause we remain committed to preserving the Iran nuclear agreement," Mr. Hunt told Parliament. The U.S. pulled out of the nuclear deal last year. He also said a second warship that Britain has sent to the region would arrive by July 29.

Legal measure: Tehran
In a dramatic escalation of tensions, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized

the *Stena Impero* on Friday in the Gulf's strategic Strait of Hormuz. The move came two weeks after British authorities seized an Iranian tanker off its overseas territory of Gibraltar on suspicion of breaching EU sanctions against Syria against a backdrop of brinkmanship between Washington and Tehran.

Iran impounded the tanker after claiming it failed to

respond to distress calls and turned off its transponder after hitting a fishing boat.

"Seizing the British tanker was a legal measure by Iran," a spokesman for the Iranian government, Ali Rabiee, told a news conference in Tehran on Monday.

However, Britain has said there was no evidence of a collision and said the vessel was in Omani waters, with its transponder switched on.

Israel tears down 'illegal' homes in Jerusalem area

Palestine calls for international support

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SUR BAHER, PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Israel demolished a number of Palestinian homes it considers illegally constructed near its separation barrier south of Jerusalem on Monday in a move that drew international condemnation.

Palestinian leaders slammed the demolitions in the Sur Baher area which straddles the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem, but Israel defended them as essential to its security and stressed they had been approved by its Supreme Court.

UN officials and the European Union condemned the demolitions and called for an immediate halt to the policy.

'Destroying our dreams'

Before dawn, hundreds of Israeli police and soldiers sealed off buildings in the area close to the Israeli separation barrier which cuts off the West Bank. Residents and activists were dragged out of homes, though most of the buildings under demolition orders – a total of 10 – were still under construction. Earthmovers then demolished at least three multi-storey buildings.

An eight-storey building still under construction was later partially destroyed by explosives.

One man yelled "I want to die here", after being forced



Israeli forces demolishing a building on Monday. AFP

out. The owner of one demolished building, Akram Zawahra, said "they are destroying our dreams and the dreams of our children."

Israel says the buildings were constructed too close to the separation barrier and posed a security risk. It has established a buffer zone around the barrier in the area of between 100m and 300m, according to UN humanitarian agency OCHA.

OCHA says demolishing all 10 buildings would see three households of 17 people displaced and another 350 people affected.

"What is painfully happening here is the biggest and most dangerous demolition operation outside of war operations," Walid As-saf, the Palestinian Minister in charge of monitoring Israeli settlements, said in a video from the site.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas called on the "international community to intervene immediately to stop this aggression against our people".

Pak's lobbyist in U.S. is a controversial ex-lawmaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

The Embassy of Pakistan here has hired the services of a former American lawmaker as a lobbyist, who had resigned from the House of Representatives amid a scandal.

On Saturday, Pakistan's U.S. Ambassador Majeed Khan signed a contract with former Republican Congressman Tom Reynolds, representing Holland and Knight lobbying firm, to advance Pakistan's interests in the U.S.

"Joining former Congressman Reynolds will be a team comprising other former members of Congress, former senior administration officials, capitol Hill veterans and other professional experts," the Embassy said in a media release.

Mr. Reynolds represented New York's 26th Congressional District for about a decade from 1999 to 2009. Amid a raging controversy surrounding a paedophile ring, and financial scandal involving National Republican Congressional Committee, he announced on March 20, 2008 that he would not run for a sixth term.

At that time, he was the fourth most powerful Republican Congressman in the House of Representatives.

Adverse weather claims eight lives in Sri Lanka

6 lakh hit in Central, Southern Provinces

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

At least eight persons were reported dead in heavy spells of rain and strong winds over the past few days in Sri Lanka, the Disaster Management Centre has said.

According to the state-run *Daily News* five people died in the island's Central Province, while three deaths were reported in the Southern Province, due to persistent rain, strong winds, landslips, and rough seas since last Thursday. Four more have been reported missing.

Nearly 6 lakh people have been affected by the adverse weather conditions, the Disaster Management Centre

said in a report on Monday, pointing to the most-affected areas in the hill country, particularly in the Central Province. In the town of Hatton, in Nuwara Eliya district, twin sisters aged 12 died in flash floods while returning from school, local media reported.

While capital Colombo experienced strong winds last week, heavy rainfall has been reported mostly in the central and southern parts of the island, with authorities periodically advising fisherfolk to avoid going to the sea.

As per the Disaster Management Centre's estimation, at least 2,000 houses have been damaged in the inclement weather.

Iran claims it busted CIA spy ring; zero truth, says Trump

Tehran says it arrested 17 suspects & sentenced some to death

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran arrested 17 suspects and sentenced some to death after dismantling a CIA spy ring, an official said on Monday, as tensions soar between the Islamic republic and the United States.

U.S. President Donald Trump dismissed the report as "totally false".

Security agencies "successfully dismantled a (CIA) spy network," the head of counter-intelligence at the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, whose identity was not revealed, told reporters in Tehran.

"Those who deliberately betrayed the country were

handed to the judiciary... some were sentenced to death and some to long-term imprisonment." The suspects were arrested between March 2018 and March 2019.

"The report of Iran capturing CIA spies is totally false. Zero truth," Mr. Trump tweeted.

'Sensitive centres'

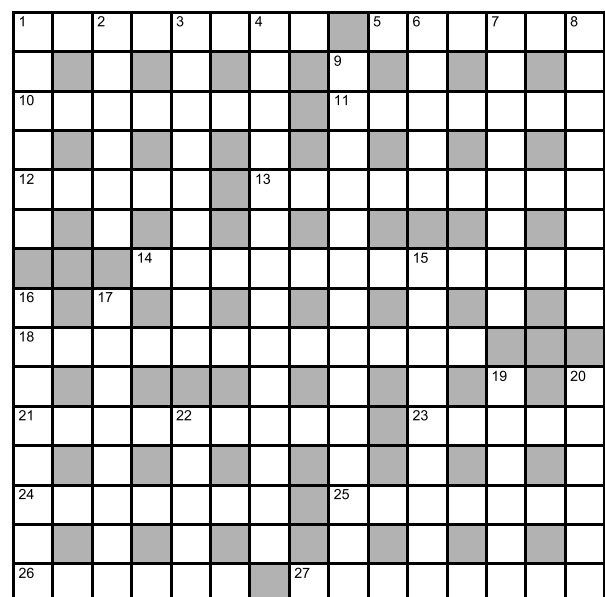
Iran said last month it dismantled a network linked to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, state news agency IRNA said at the time, saying it was conducted in cooperation with "foreign allies".

On Monday, the counter-intelligence chief said 17 people suspected of espionage

had been identified, all of them Iranians. The suspects had been "employed at sensitive and crucial centres and also the private sector related to them, working as contractors or consultants," said the official.

The Intelligence Ministry released a CD with images of what it said were CIA operatives abroad as well as business cards of U.S. diplomats in Austria, Finland, India, Turkey and Zimbabwe allegedly involved in the network. The announcement came as state television started broadcasting a "documentary" titled *The Mole Hunt*, a trailer of which was on the disc.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12685

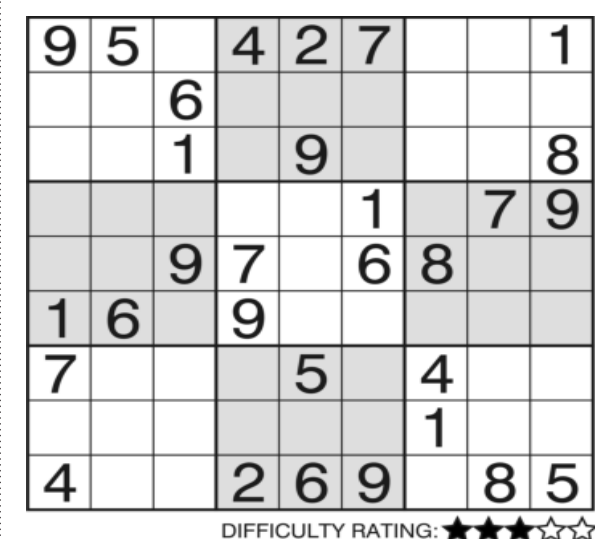


ACROSS

- 1 Seize endless photographs featuring hot visual images (8)
- 5 Soldiers about to chase man in float – a terrorist (6)
- 10 United in passionate love, turned emotional (7)
- 11 Worm in lane, possibly dead (7)

- (set by Dr. X)
- 2 One stealing undergarments finally abandons strange fetish (5)
 - 3 Couple of husbands touring prehistoric castle speak at length (4,5)
 - 4 Tense wife captures king at last in card game (8,6)
 - 6 Scrap after taking bit of umbrage (5)
 - 7 Newsflash – shot at home (8)
 - 8 Fragrant rose given to win heart of beloved (8)
 - 9 What one might be doing after washing's dried up is humiliating (6,4,1,3)
 - 15 Traveller in the train, angrily ignoring husband (9)
 - 16 Record by one medic about plague (8)
 - 17 Taking ale frantically in distress (8)
 - 19 Stop scoundrel about to grab hot woman in front of bar (6)
 - 20 Cheat upset about charge made a speech (6)
 - 22 Bit of unpleasantness disregarded for love in marriage, it could make one cry (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12684

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	7	8	4	6	3	2	9
2	3	4	9	7	1	8	6	5
3	8	6	9	3	5	2	1	7
4	8	6	9	3	5	2	1	7
5	3	7	8	5	9	4	6	1
6	4	5	2	1	8	9	3	7
7	9	1	7	6	3	4	5	8
8	4	1	2	6	8	7	5	9
9	7	9	6	4	3	5	2	8
10	5	8	3	1	2	9	7	4

FAITH

Process of realisation

Adi Sankara has brilliantly summarised his entire teaching emphasising the essentials of Advaita siddhanta that he has established through his commentaries on the Prasthanatraya texts in the Dakshinamurthy Stotra, pointed out Nannilam Sri Rajagopala Ganapadigal in a discourse. The Stotra is symbolic of the mysterious effects of the guru sishya bhava that is capable of initiating the process of enlightenment or realisation, which is after all the goal of all human beings.

Vedanta uses the term jnana or vijana when it comes to realising the truth of the Supreme Brahman. Realisation cannot be gained through study of texts comprising words and meanings, symbol, myth and metaphor, etc that are no doubt necessary for understanding the objective world. These are inadequate when it comes to experiencing transcendental truths. At the outset, a word picture is drawn to describe the deity Dakshinamurthy as Siva the primordial teacher and the mind born sons of Brahma, the sages Sanaka, Sananda, Sanandana and Sanatkumara as His foremost disciples. It is based on the mythological story that these sages go in search of enlightenment and after wandering through many regions, they reach Kailasa. Siva in the form of Dakshinamurthy inspires the true and highest knowledge to them.

The term 'mouna vyakya' means silent teaching. It may seem a contradiction at first; but at a deeper level it is shown to be the only ideal way for the guru to impart esoteric and eternal truths and for the disciple to imbibe these. The deity displaying chinmudra or jnana mudra is to emphasise the effectiveness of sign language in the spiritual tradition. The disciple has to engage in the processes of listening, meditating and repeatedly analyse these to become realised.