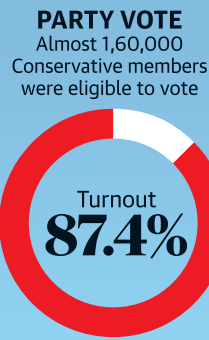


The rise of Boris

Boris Johnson, the former London Mayor who supported Brexit, is set to become the next Prime Minister of Britain after Conservative Party members elected him as the party leader

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Brexit:
• Johnson is committed to getting Britain out of EU by October 31
• EU has said renegotiation is not an option, but Johnson wants a "better deal"



July 24, 2019: Due to be formally installed as PM at a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II



SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

LIFE OF JOHNSON

June 19, 1964: Born as Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson in New York, where his father was studying at Columbia University

1983: After schooling at Eton, he enters Oxford's Balliol College where he graduates in classics four years later

1987-1988: Works as a journalist for *The Times*. Sacked for fabricating quotes

1989-1994: Becomes *The Daily Telegraph's* EU correspondent in Brussels

1999-2005: Editor of news magazine *The Spectator*

2001: Elected as Conservative MP from the Henley constituency near London. Re-elected in 2005

2008: Defeats Ken Livingstone to become Mayor of London. After being re-elected for another four years in 2012, he oversees the city's hosting of that year's Olympic Games

July 13, 2016: Appointed Foreign Secretary in PM Theresa May's government

July 9, 2018: Resigns over May's Brexit strategy

July 23, 2019: Wins race to replace May as Britain's next PM, beating Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt in the Conservative leadership contest

Parliament

He could face a call from the Labour Party for a vote of no-confidence one day after taking

office. With just 311 Conservative seats in the 650-seat Parliament, a failure to win could cause the government to collapse and trigger a general election



IRAN: The release of the British-flagged tanker *Stena Impero*, captured by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz



CHINA: He will have to decide on what role Chinese firm Huawei will be given in the development of 5G infrastructure in Britain



U.S.: The U.K. needs a good relationship with its closest military ally and major export market. The U.K. and the U.S. want to agree to a swift and comprehensive free trade agreement

Johnson the Brexiteer vows to seal divorce deal

'We are going to deliver it on October 31, take advantage of all the opportunities it will bring, and defeat Jeremy Corbyn'

REUTERS
LONDON

Boris Johnson, the Brexiteer who has promised to lead Britain out of the EU with or without a deal by the end of October, will replace Theresa May as Prime Minister after winning the leadership of the Conservative Party on Tuesday.

His convincing victory catapults the United Kingdom towards a showdown with the European Union and towards a constitutional crisis at home, as British lawmakers have vowed to bring down any government that tries to leave the bloc without a divorce deal.

"We are going to get Brexit done on October 31, and we are going to take advantage

of all the opportunities it will bring in a new spirit of 'can do'," Mr. Johnson, 55, said after the result was announced. "Like some slumbering giant, we are going to rise and ping off the gyropopes of self-doubt and negativity."

Mr. Johnson said the mantra of his leadership campaign had been to "deliver Brexit, unite the country and defeat (Opposition Labour leader) Jeremy Corbyn - and that is what we are going to do".

The victory for one of Britain's most flamboyant politicians places an avowed Brexit supporter in charge of the government for the first time since the U.K. voted to leave the EU in the shock 2016 re-



Three cheers: A pro-Brexit demonstrator and Brexit Party activists, right, in London on Tuesday. •AFP

ferendum. The Brexit referendum showed a U.K. divided about much more than the EU, and has fuelled soul-searching about everything from regional secession and immigration to capitalism, the legacy of empire, and

modern Britishness. Brexit, which has already toppled two Conservative Prime Ministers, will dominate. Mr. Johnson has pledged to negotiate a new Brexit divorce deal with the EU to secure a smooth transi-

tion out of the EU before October 31. But if the bloc refuses, as it insists it will, he has promised to leave anyway - "do or die" - on the current agreed date. It is a step that many investors and economists say would send shock waves through world markets and tip the world's fifth largest economy into recession or even chaos.

'Ready to work with him'
The EU said a no-deal Brexit would be a tragedy for both parties but again said the withdrawal deal was not up for negotiation.

"We look forward to working constructively with PM Johnson when he takes office, to facilitate the ratification of the withdrawal agree-

ment and achieve an orderly Brexit," tweeted the bloc's negotiator, Michel Barnier. A Brexit without a divorce deal would also weaken London's position as the pre-eminent international financial centre while jolting the northern European economy.

Mr. Johnson's Conservatives have no majority in Parliament and need the support of 10 lawmakers from Northern Ireland's Brexit-backing Democratic Unionist Party to govern.

Even then, the majority is wafer-thin - and some lawmakers have threatened to bring down the government, a step that would probably deepen Britain's political crisis and lead to an election.

IN BRIEF



Mark Esper appointed Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON
The U.S. Senate on Tuesday confirmed former soldier Mark Esper as Secretary of Defense, filling America's longest-ever Pentagon leadership vacuum as Washington faces mounting tensions with Iran. AFP

'U.S. may have downed 2 Iranian drones last week'

WASHINGTON
A U.S. warship may have brought down a second Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz last week, the head of the U.S. Central Command said. "We are confident we brought down one drone, we may have brought down a second," General Kenneth McKenzie said. AFP

Former Chinese premier Li Peng passes away at 90

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Former Chinese premier Li Peng - known for his role in the Tiananmen Square crackdown - has died at the age of 90, state media said on Tuesday.

Mr. Li died of an unspecified illness in Beijing after he failed to respond to medical treatment late on Monday, the official Xinhua news agency said. The ex-premier had previously battled bladder cancer.

Mr. Li gained notoriety worldwide as one of the key architects of the brutal breakup of mass pro-democracy demonstrations in the capital on June 4, 1989, and stayed at the top of the Communist regime for more than a decade, while remaining a



Li Peng

hated symbol of the repression until his death.

After vast crowds of students, workers and others had been encamped for weeks in Tiananmen Square to demand change, Mr. Li proclaimed martial law on May 20, 1989. Two weeks later, on the night of June 3-4, the military put a bloody end to the protests, killing

hundreds of civilians - by some estimates more than 1,000. Though the decision to send in the troops was a collective one, Mr. Li was widely held responsible for the bloody crackdown. Its taint trailed him through to the end of his official political career in 2003, with his trips abroad generating widespread protests.

Nevertheless, he remained a member of the elite Politburo Standing Committee for 15 years and for most of the 1990s ranked number two behind then Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

He held the premiership for 11 years until 1998, and was Chairman of China's Communist-controlled Parliament until 2003.

ISI led CIA to Osama, says Imran Khan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter Services Intelligence agency, provided the U.S. with a lead that helped them find and kill al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Monday.

This is a significant revelation as Islamabad has so far denied having any knowledge of the dreaded al-Qaeda chief in the country until he was shot dead by U.S. Navy Seals in 2011.

Mr. Khan made his claim in an interview with Fox News. "It was ISI that gave the information which led to the location of Osama bin Laden. If you ask CIA it was ISI which gave the initial location through the phone connection."

Trump attacks Mueller ahead of testimony

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump attacked Robert Mueller on Monday, even as he insisted he would not watch the special counsel's potentially damaging Congressional testimony this week about the two-year Russia investigation.

Two days before Mr. Mueller testifies - answering questions for the first time about his high-stakes probe into Russian election meddling and Mr. Trump's alleged obstruction - the President repeated his longstanding claim that it was a biased "witch hunt."

The U.S. leader also repeated his false claim that Mr. Mueller's final report, released in April, found no collusion with Russia by the 2016 Trump campaign team



Special counsel Robert Mueller

and no obstruction of justice by the President himself. "Highly conflicted Robert Mueller should not be given another bite at the apple. In the end it will be bad for him and the phony Democrats in Congress who have done nothing but waste time on this ridiculous Witch Hunt," Mr. Trump tweeted.

"Result of the Mueller Report, NO COLLUSION, NO OBSTRUCTION!"

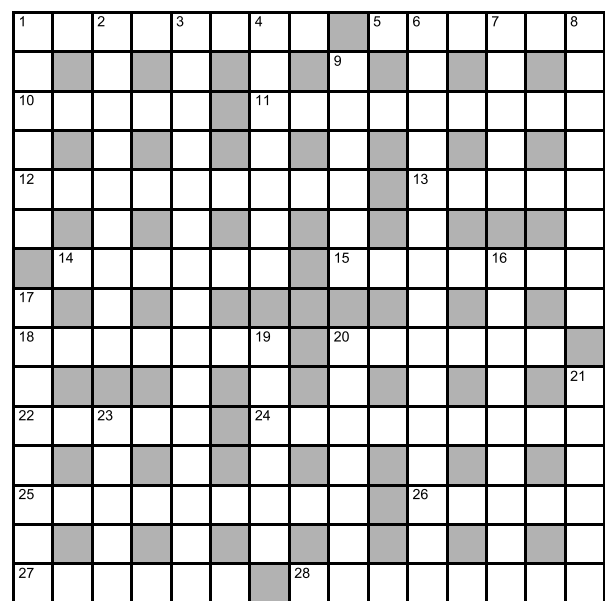
U.S. should clarify Trump's remarks: Ghani

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said on Tuesday the U.S. should clarify remarks President Donald Trump made about Afghanistan, including a claim that he could win the war in 10 days but didn't "want to kill millions".

Mr. Trump made the statements on Monday while meeting with Pakistan PM Imran Khan, whose help he seeks in negotiating a peace deal with the Taliban. Mr. Ghani's office called for clarification on the statements "via diplomatic means and channels." It also said that "foreign heads of state cannot determine Afghanistan's fate in absence of the Afghan leadership."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12686

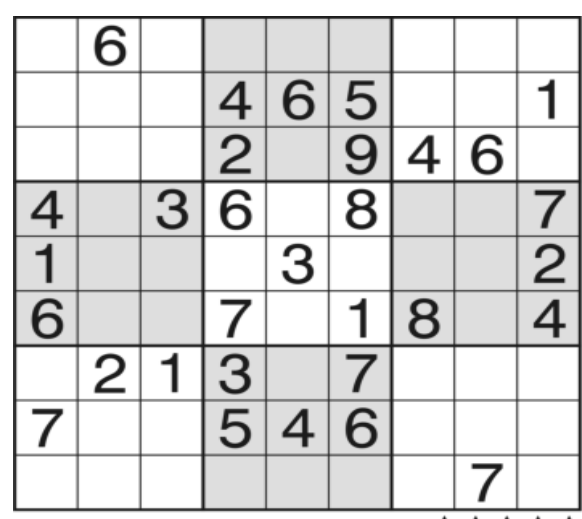


ACROSS

- Poor husband besieged by poet, a boastful person (8)
- Help to secure new permit (6)
- Glossy fabric in stores at India (5)
- What a fisherman might do to keep in touch? (4,1,4)
- Bad time to enter perfect precision marching unit (5,4)

- Incompetent, unresponsive Republican becomes President (5)
- Female is about to ruin brutes (6)
- Jointly presents expenses to maintain house (2-5)
- Having fever, weary one dropped the boards (7)
- Wander around emporium gutted in fire (6)
- Worthless, crazy son kicked out (5)
- Very obvious! Compose a letter to win heart of mesmerizing gal easily (4,5)
- Yank - a fellow with perfect grimace (4,1,4)
- Hallucinatory experience on Ecstasy? Nonsense (5)
- British ballet dancer to prosper (6)
- Writer's point? Be silent perhaps (5,3)
- Close to where a nurse might be dropping daughter (6)
- Abuse of nicotine keeps husband in a precarious situation (2,4,3)
- A reason for dismissal of student involved in throwing the party (8,3,4)
- Right to change clothes (7)
- It seems hotel's prepared to include roast dish from Europe (7,8)
- Refugee in complex I lease (5)
- Study time! Get up suppressing worry (8)
- Huge clown entertains son (6)
- Queen left England overwhelmed by gesture (9)
- Son made a mistake, dispossessed (8)
- Envelope from model leaving Antwerp sadly (6)
- Plan to wear torn garments (7)
- Echo effect always found in Rhythm & Blues (6)
- Authorise construction of wall around Mexico at last (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12685

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

War and peace

In the Mahabharata, the eternal conflict between dharma and adharma is typified in the trajectory of the lives of the Pandavas and the Kauravas. While the Pandavas are committed to dharma and acknowledge Krishna as their mentor and guide and always remain devoted to Him, Duryodhana openly opts for adharma and refuses to listen to the good counsels of his parents and elders. In a discourse, Nagai Sri Mukundan drew attention to the fact that the Pandava brothers also are fully aware that Duryodhana's nature cannot be changed even as a snake will only emit venom even when fed with nectar. His vidhi is such that his intellect will not listen to good advice. Can one hope to get sweet neem leaves by pouring tons of honey on the root of a neem tree? One's natural qualities cannot be changed.

So when Dhritrashtra is unable to dissuade Duryodhana to abandon the wrong path, he sends Sanjaya to Yudhishtira with a message seeking peace without giving them any share in the kingdom. The Pandavas' reaction is to go ahead with the war and claim their rights. Still Yudhishtira makes an offer that they would be content with five villages at least, though he is sure that even that will be denied. Krishna offers to go to Hastinapura and try to secure the rights of the Pandavas without war. He then solicits the views of the Pandava brothers individually. What emerges from this discussion is an analysis of the cause and effect of war and the need to take all efforts to secure peace. But, in this situation all are aware that peace parleys will fail owing to Duryodhana's desire to rule the entire kingdom. Moreover, the time has come to retaliate against the many taunts and humiliations and Draupadi's tresses that have been left untied have to be answered only with the inevitable war.