

ELSEWHERE



Tulsi Gabbard sues Google for \$50 million

Over 50% families in Pak. cannot have 2 meals a day

Nearly half of the families in Pakistan are unable to meet their nutritional needs...

Bangladesh flood death toll surpasses 100

The death toll from monsoon storms in Bangladesh rose above 100 on Friday...

Pak. to allow dual nationals to contest polls

The Pakistan government has decided to allow Pakistanis with dual nationalities to contest elections...

New N. Korean missile sends angry message to South's leader

North slams Moon's 'double-dealing' - talking peace while buying F-35 from U.S.

When North Korea said on Friday that it had tested a new, more advanced missile, it pointed the finger of blame at one man: Moon Jae-in, the South Korean President...



On the trail: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un watching the launch of new missiles (inset) on Thursday.

The North said Mr. Kim, its leader, had personally arranged the missile test on Thursday to counter what it called Mr. Moon's "double-dealing" - talking peace with North Korea even as he bought state-of-the-art F-35 stealth jets and planned joint military drills with the U.S.

Some analysts said Mr. Kim, in singling out Mr. Moon, was venting anger over his failure to win relief from crippling economic sanctions over his nuclear programme...

"Kim Jong-un is clearly frustrated," said Ko Yuhwan, a professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University in Seoul, the South's capital.

Economic woes

North Korea has been hit hard by a series of UN sanctions imposed since 2016, aimed at blocking all its key

Don't want provocations: U.S.

The U.S. on Thursday said it wanted to continue talking with North Korea but called for a halt to "provocations". "We want to have diplomatic engagement with North Korea, and we continue to urge the North Koreans to resolve all the things that the President and Chairman Kim have talked about through diplomacy," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Morgan

Ortagus said. But those talks have yet to begin, and North Korea warned recently they could be derailed by the U.S. and South Korea's refusal to scrap military exercises scheduled for next month.

exports - like coal, textiles and fisheries - and drastically reducing its oil imports as well. Its economy shrank by 3.5% in 2017, according to the South's central bank.

The bank's statement on Friday also said North Korea's external trade declined 48.8% last year, with its exports plummeting by as much as 86.3%.

Mr. Kim's diplomatic outreach early last year to South

Korea and the U.S., after years of missile and nuclear tests and bombastic threats, was widely seen as driven by an urgent need to end the sanctions. But three meetings with President Donald Trump and several with Mr. Moon have failed to win Mr. Kim the economic relief he has promised his people.

In digital tax retaliation, Trump eyes French wine

U.S. President has accused Macron of 'foolishness'

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday vowed "substantial" retaliation against France for a tax hitting U.S. tech giants, accusing his counterpart Emmanuel Macron of "foolishness" and issuing a veiled threat to impose tariffs on French wine.

"France just put a digital tax on our great technology companies," Mr. Trump tweeted about the law, which is set to affect Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.



Emmanuel Macron with Donald Trump.

added. "We will announce a substantial reciprocal action on Macron's foolishness shortly."

"I've always said American wine is better than French wine!" the teetotal President said. Deputy White House spokesman Judd Deere, in a statement, said the "Trump administration has consistently stated that it will not sit idly by and tolerate discrimination against U.S.-based firms."

4 lakh Syrians displaced in three months

More than 4,00,000 people have been displaced in northwestern Syria over the past three months, the UN said on Friday, as the government presses an intensified bombardment of the opposition-held region.

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet condemned "international indifference" in the face of the mounting death toll in government air strikes on schools, hospitals, markets and bakeries.

The jihadist-dominated Idlib region is supposed to be protected by an international truce deal, but has faced bombardment by the government and its ally Russia since late April.

Hong Kong protesters rally at airport to 'educate' visitors

The aim is to take their message to mainland China

Hundreds of Hong Kongers, including flight attendants, held a rally in the airport's arrival hall on Friday to "educate" visitors about the demonstrations currently gripping the international finance hub.

Visitors were greeted by a sea of black-clad protesters chanting anti-government slogans, holding banners and handing out flyers.

The rally is the latest bid to keep pressure on Hong Kong's pro-Beijing leaders after seven weeks of mostly peaceful demonstrations.

economic projects that he and Mr. Moon agreed to pursue in meetings last year. But Mr. Moon has agreed with the Trump administration's position that such projects must wait until sanctions are eased as part of a nuclear disarmament deal.

Foreign-policy problems Mr. Moon was beset with serious foreign-policy problems when the North launched its latest projectile, which the South said was a new type of short-range ballistic missile, potentially harder to track and intercept.

South Korea's relations with Japan are at their lowest point in decades, in part over Japanese export restrictions on chemicals needed to produce some of the South's most lucrative exports. On Tuesday, a Russian-Chinese air patrol through nearby waters resulted in South Korean jets firing hundreds of warning shots to drive off a Russian plane, an unprecedented event.

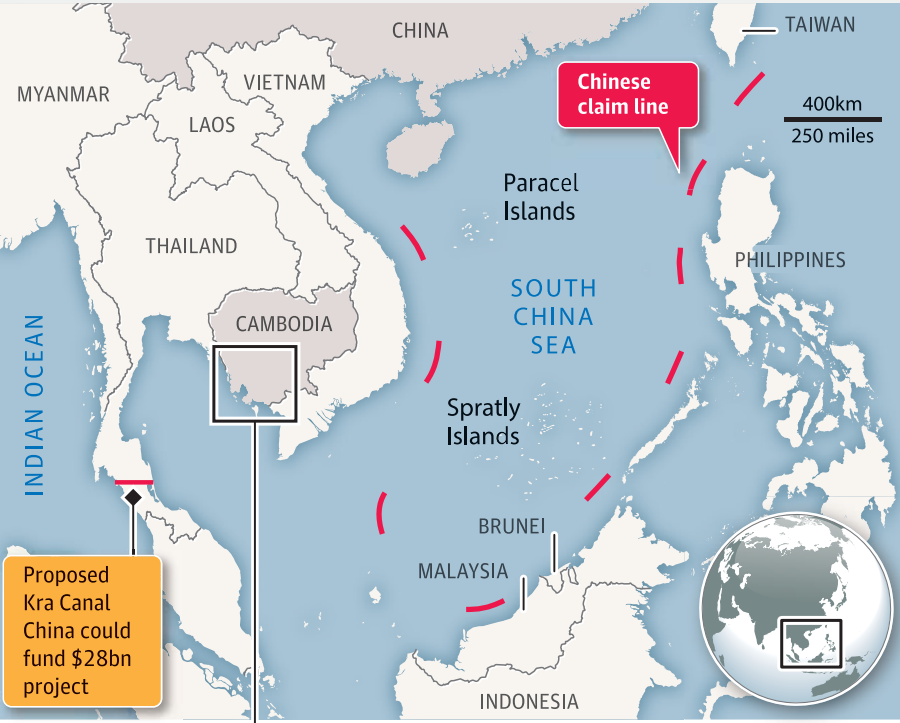
But the North's latest missile test has done more than anything to highlight Mr. Moon's quickly shrinking reputation as a regional peacemaker.

"North Korea is putting the pressure on the South to do more" to persuade Washington to be flexible, said Woo Jung-yeop, a North Korea expert at the Sejong Institute in South Korea.

The North's statement criticizing Moon on Thursday included no attacks on Mr. Trump, presumably because Mr. Kim hopes to maintain the good will of the U.S. President, who has famously said that he and Kim fell "in love".

Spreading influence

China and Cambodia have signed a secret agreement that allows Beijing exclusive use of the Ream naval base on the Gulf of Thailand, according to a report



China will get rights to part of the Ream facility, not far from the Dara Sakor international airport being built by a Chinese company, according to a Wall Street Journal report. Both China and Cambodia have denied the report.

China will use the base for 30 years, with automatic renewals every 10 years after that. China could station military personnel, store weapons and berth warships at the facility.

The Ream installation covers about 190 acres, including two facilities built with U.S. funding and used by the Cambodian navy, and a single pier

Iran tests medium-range missile

Iran fired a Shahab-3 medium-range missile on Wednesday, a U.S. military official said, playing it down by saying that it did not pose a threat to U.S. or other Western shipping or military bases in the region.

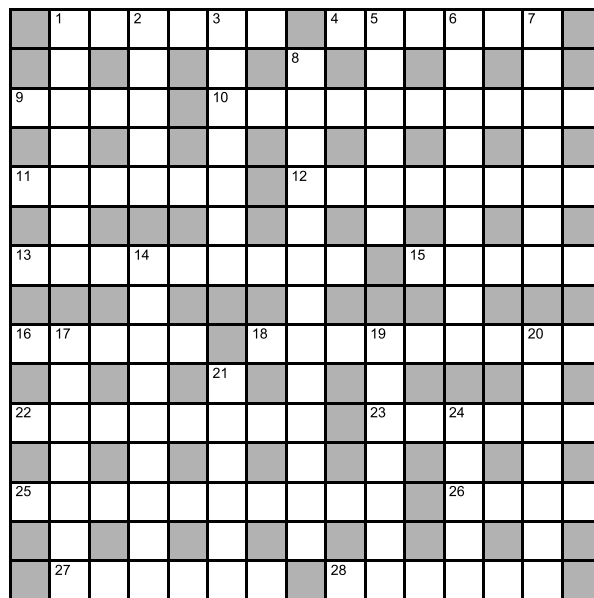
The missile was launched from the southern coast of Iran and landed east of Tehran, the official said on Thursday, adding that it flew about 1,100 km.

Despite the Pentagon's effort to minimise the strategic importance of the launch on Wednesday, it appears to be a political statement by Iran, acting both as a carefully calibrated effort at escalation - and as a message to Europe.

Missile launches are not forbidden under the 2015 nuclear deal reached between Washington and Tehran, which is one of President Donald Trump's complaints about the agreement he abandoned last year.

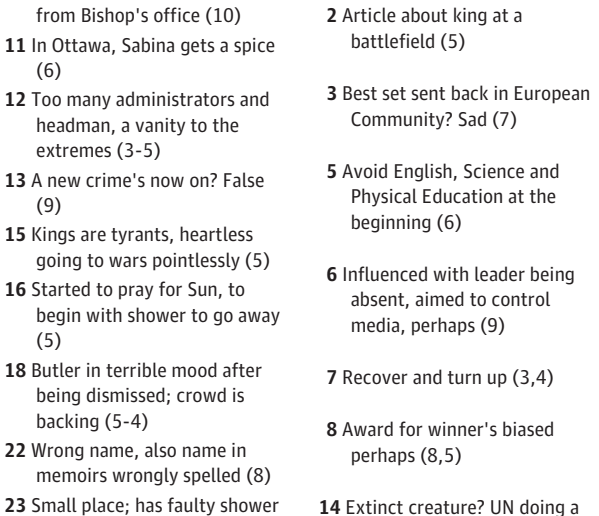
But a U.N. Security Council resolution, passed just as the agreement was reached, says that "Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12689



ACROSS 1 Unfair to retain bureaucrats in an area (6) 4 Seaming wicket in Glamorgan, primarily seen by the beginning of summer at England (6) 9 One against 13? Time to regret (4) 10 Had copies distributed earlier on pressure

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12688 3 9 8 6 5 4 7 2 1 6 1 5 2 8 7 3 4 9 7 2 4 3 9 1 5 8 6 8 6 1 5 7 3 4 9 2 5 7 9 4 2 8 6 1 3 2 4 3 1 6 9 8 5 7 4 3 2 7 1 5 9 6 8 1 8 7 9 4 6 2 3 5 9 5 6 8 3 2 1 7 4

FAITH

Visesha Karana

In the Gita, it is pointed out that there are five basic causes for all actions performed through the body, mind or word. These actions may be good, bad or evil. They may have the sanction of the scriptures or they may go against them. The five causes are the body that is the basis of all active exertion; the individual self in the body; the karmendriyas and the jnanendriyas; the functions occasioned by prana or vital breath in each being; and Deivam or God or divinity.