



IN BRIEF
Israel, U.S. successfully test missile interceptor

JERUSALEM
Israel and the U.S. have successfully carried out tests of a ballistic missile interceptor that PM Netanyahu said on Sunday provides protection against potential threats from Iran. The tests of the Arrow-3 system were carried out in the U.S. state of Alaska. **AFP**

Floods, landslips claim 113 lives in Nepal

KATHMANDU
Floods and landslips triggered by incessant monsoon rains across Nepal have claimed at least 113 lives, while 38 people are still missing, officials said on Sunday. Parts of central and southern Nepal, including some areas of the Kathmandu valley, have been inundated due to incessant rains since last two weeks. **PTI**

13 killed in Myanmar jade mine landslide

YANGON
At least 13 jade mine workers and security guards in northern Myanmar were killed in a landslide on Sunday, authorities said, as rescuers frantically searched for more victims. The fire services department said in a Facebook post the accident happened in the early morning in Hpakant township. **AFP**

Iran strongly condemns Bahrain executions

TEHRAN
Iran has strongly condemned the execution in Bahrain of two Shiite men convicted of terrorism, saying the Gulf state's crackdown on dissent was bound to fail. The two were executed by firing squad on Saturday, said officials in the kingdom. **AFP**

Ghani's running mate injured as Kabul blast kills two, wounds 25

Amrullah Saleh is the vice-presidential candidate in the upcoming Afghanistan poll

REUTERS KABUL
A powerful explosion hit central Kabul on Sunday, wounding Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's running mate on the first day of official campaigning for a presidential election and killing at least two others, officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came as officials look ahead to resumption of peace talks between the Taliban and the U.S.

At least 25 civilians were injured in the blast near the private Ghalib University, Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said. Immediately after the



On alert: Afghan security personnel securing the site of the attack in Kabul on Sunday. **AP**

blast, gunmen stormed a building belonging to vice presidential candidate Amrullah Saleh's Afghan Green Trend Party. Mr. Saleh was wounded on his right arm by shrapnel before being evacuated from the office.

Afghan spy chief turned politician, is an uncompromising opponent of the Taliban and other hardline Islamist groups.

Mr. Ghani, Mr. Saleh and over a dozen politicians, including Hanif Atmar, another former intelligence chief and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former warlord in the anti-Soviet Mujahideen, launched their two-month campaign on Sunday.

Mr. Ghani said in a tweet: "My brother, true son of the Afghan soil and first VP candidate of my electoral team, Amrullah Saleh has survived a complex attack by enemies of the state. We are relieved and thank the almighty that the attack has failed."

'Afghan government should be flexible on talks with Taliban'

Its position is often an obstacle: veteran peace negotiator

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE NEW DELHI
The government of President Ashraf Ghani should be flexible on talks with the Taliban, a prominent Afghan figure has said.

Ghulam Farouq Azam, a former Mujahideen leader who held dialogue with the UN to end Soviet intervention in the 1980s, said Kabul should trust local networks and the traditional consultation process.

"The Kabul government's position is often an obstacle (in negotiation with insur-

gents). We have a rich tradition of Jirga, negotiations. They need to do their homework," Mr. Azam told *The Hindu* on the phone. He urged President Ghani to allow necessary space to the difficult dialogue to unfold.

His comments came on Sunday when Kabul witnessed the launch of Mr. Ghani's election campaign.

Addressing a large rally of his supporters at the Hall of the Loya Jirga in Kabul Polytechnic, Mr. Ghani said: "Peace is coming and negotiations will take place."

'Intra-Afghan talks only after troop pullout'

The U.S. Special Representative, Zalmay Khalilzad, has held multiple rounds of talks with Taliban representatives.

Mr. Azam said the main strength of the Taliban is the "internal disarray" of the government of President Ghani. Mr. Azam had participated in the Soviet-era peace plan for Afghanistan as the deputy leader of Mahaze Milli Islami Afghanistan, one of the seven party Mujahideen alliance that conducted discussion with UN appointed negotiator Diego Cordovez.

Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Qatar, said such talks would only come after a deal had been struck with the U.S. on troops withdrawal. "Intra-Afghan talks will start only after a foreign force withdrawal is announced."

Armed miners invade protected land in Brazil

ERNESTO LONDOÑO RIO DE JANEIRO

Several dozen armed miners dressed in military fatigues invaded an indigenous village in remote northern Brazil this past week and fatally stabbed at least one of the community's leaders, officials said on Saturday.

The killing comes as miners and loggers are making bold incursions into protected areas with the encouragement of Brazil's far-right President, Jair Bolsonaro.

Mr. Bolsonaro has said that indigenous communities are in control of vast territories that should be opened up to industries to make them profitable. Land invasions in indigenous territories are on the rise across Brazil, where indigenous leaders say they regularly come under threat by miners, loggers and farm-

ers. Yet assassinations of indigenous leaders are rare. Leaders of the Wajãpi indigenous community made urgent pleas to the federal government on Saturday, warning that the conflict between the miners and members of their community who live in remote villages in the northern state of Amapá risked turning into a bloodbath. "We are in danger. You need to send the army to stop them," Jawaruwa Waiãpi, a leader of the community, said in a voice message sent to one of the state's Senators, referring to the miners.

Senator Rodolfe Rodrigues, who belongs to an Opposition party, said Mr. Bolsonaro's views on indigenous territories and the rights of native communities had put the descendants of Brazil's original inhabitants in danger. **NY TIMES**

Tehran says European fleet in Gulf would be 'provocative'

President Rouhani says it would make matters worse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TEHRAN

Iran on Sunday slammed as "provocative" a British proposal for a European-led naval mission to escort tankers in the Gulf, amid tensions over the seizure of ships.

"We heard that they intend to send a European fleet to the Persian Gulf which naturally carries a hostile message, is provocative and will increase tensions," said government spokesman Ali Rabiee.

Britain said last Monday it was planning a European-led force to escort tankers through the world's busiest oil shipping lane, the Strait of Hormuz, in response to Iran's seizure of the U.K.-



The British-flagged vessel *Stena Impero* is seen at the Bandar Abbas port. **REUTERS**

flagged *Stena Impero* on July 19. The capture came after British authorities detained an Iranian tanker - the *Grace 1* - off Gibraltar, on allegations it was breaching EU sanctions on Syria.

The spokesman said on Sunday Iran believed that the security of the Gulf had to be maintained by countries in the region.

"We are the biggest agent of maritime security in the

'Meeting with parties to n-deal constructive'

VIENNA

An emergency meeting with parties to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal was constructive but there are unresolved issues and Tehran will continue to reduce its nuclear commitments if Europeans fail to salvage the pact, Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araçchi said on Sunday. **REUTERS**

Gulf," Mr. Rabiee said.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said a force like that proposed by the U.K. would only make matters worse. "The presence of foreign forces will not help the region's security and will be the main source of tensions," Mr. Rouhani said after talks in Tehran with Oman's Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi.

Trump defends attack on black lawmaker as criticisms mount

We all reject racist attacks against him, says Pelosi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump defended on Sunday his latest attack on a prominent African-American lawmaker in comments that drew more accusations of racism.

In a series of tweets on Saturday, Mr. Trump took aim at Democratic Representative Elijah Cummings - a high-profile critic of Mr. Trump's administration whose district covers much of the majority black city of Baltimore, Maryland.

"Cummings (sic) District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess," the President wrote, calling it "the worst run and most dangerous anywhere in the United States."

"No human being would want to live there," he said, in an attack ostensibly provoked by Cummings' criticism of the harsh conditions facing would-be asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.

Mr. Trump's comments triggered a torrent of criticism and he defended them on Sunday in another burst of tweets.



Democrat Congressman Elijah Cummings

congresswomen who are from ethnic minorities.

'Unfit to hold office'
The top Democrat in Congress, Nancy Pelosi, on Saturday accused Mr. Trump of a "racist" attack on a "champion... of civil rights and economic justice, a beloved leader in Baltimore, and deeply valued colleague."

"We all reject racist attacks against him," wrote Ms. Pelosi - who was born in Baltimore and whose father served as Mayor of the city.

Former Vice-President Joe Biden - the Democratic frontrunner to challenge Mr. Trump in 2020 - called out the President directly on Twitter. "It is despicable for you to attack him and the people of Baltimore this way," Mr. Biden wrote. "Once again you have proved yourself unfit to hold the office. A President is supposed to lift this nation up. Not tear it down."

In another tweet on Sunday, Mr. Trump said Pelosi is doing a bad job representing her district in California.

"Speaking of failing badly, has anyone seen what is happening to Nancy Pelosi's district in San Francisco. It is not even recognizable lately. Something must be done before it is too late," he wrote.

1,400 arrested at Moscow poll protest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MOSCOW

The Russian police arrested almost 1,400 people as they gathered in Moscow on the weekend to demand free and fair polls, OVD-Info, an organisation that monitors protests, said.

It was the biggest crackdown on a rally in the country in years. Some 3,500 people took part in the unauthorised protest on Saturday, according to official estimates, after authorities barred prominent Opposition candidates from taking part in city elections.

The rally comes amid public frustration over declining living standards that has hit President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings. A week before, 22,000 took to the streets in a protest, calling on authorities to reverse their decision ahead of the September city council vote.

After that demonstration Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was jailed for 30 days.

Mr. Navalny on Sunday was taken to hospital from jail after suffering what his press secretary said was a "severe allergic reaction", despite having never suffered from allergies.



In the crosshairs: Policemen firing tear gas shells at protesters in Sai Wan, Hong Kong, on Sunday. **AP**

Hong Kong protesters rally to Beijing office

'We call this the age of revolution'

REUTERS HONG KONG

The Hong Kong police clashed with thousands of protesters on Sunday, as they sought to defend China's main representative office from crowds seething over what many see as an increasing cycle of violence against them.

Protests over the past two months, spearheaded by anti-government activists, against a proposed bill that would allow people to be extradited from the city to stand trial in courts in mainland China have grown increasingly violent.

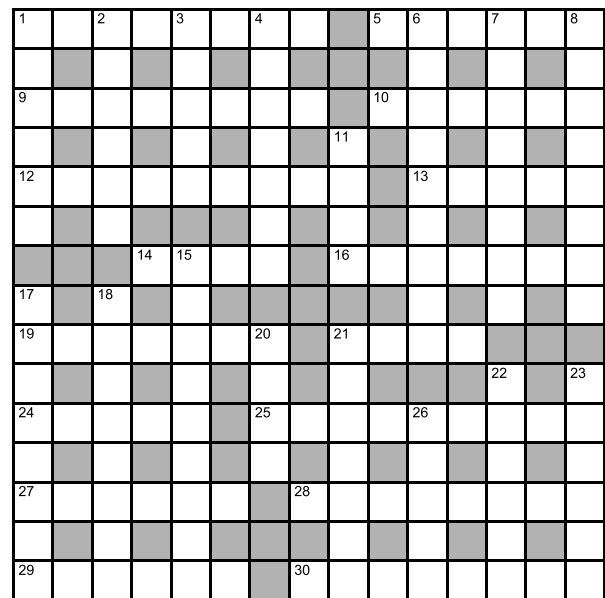
A march on Saturday against a violent assault the previous weekend by suspected triad-gang members

ended in violent turmoil as riot police waded in to disperse crowds.

On Sunday, a peaceful park gathering in the city's central business district rapidly morphed into a march, as tens of thousands of black-clad protesters set off in several directions, clogging up major thoroughfares.

As the crowds surged, hundreds of riot police fired rounds of tear gas and rubber bullets at the protesters, sending clouds of acrid smoke through the streets. "We call this Hong Kong's age of revolution," said K. Lee, a masked protester. "This has been sparked by China's refusal to respect Hong Kong's freedoms."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12690

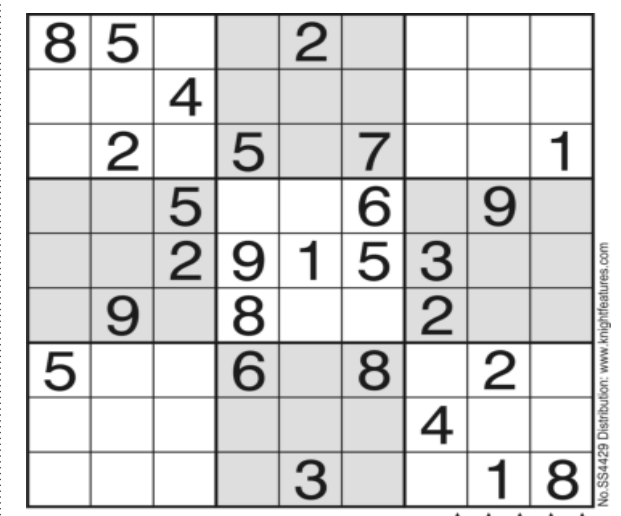


(set by KrisKross)

- 13 Pass in Australia is so long (5)
- 14 Hide your initial anger (4)
- 16 Sierra Leone's boating crew demonstrates skill (7)
- 19 Deceitful guard returns one's valise after removing contents (7)
- 21 Name of German perfume (4)
- 24 Cause of irritation in mouth or nose (5)
- 25 Couple designing fine art near church (9)
- 27 Play small song, says Spooner (6)
- 28 "India matters" - boring book, quite irritating (8)
- 29 Pet butterfly, say (6)
- 30 Synonym for "rooms" could be found in this (8)
- 4 The German in French airport is well-behaved (7)
- 6 Will new team at last win in cricket match? (9)
- 7 Unions not possibly patronising (8)
- 8 Competent American court imprisons oriental queen (8)
- 11 Egyptian city's rising God (4)
- 15 In England, the standard wedding card (5,4)
- 17 Pals kept running, getting words of encouragement (3,5)
- 18 He could do a smashing job (8)
- 20 English team, with captain in the middle, walk out (4)
- 21 Very large aircraft finally loaded - but it can't take off (7)
- 22 Lots of blood when stabbed by a lance's tip (6)
- 23 Shylock perhaps regularly dealt with small gems (6)
- 26 Watery discharge in lodge, say (5)

- ACROSS**
- 1 Setter's job? Essentially work to cheat (8)
 - 5 Car heading off to religious area - an ideal place (6)
 - 9 Servant follows son to welcome daughter (8)
 - 10 Wish for ripe bananas (6)
 - 12 Very rare Lego set is too big (9)
- DOWN**
- 1 After getting elected, spoke about keeping order within the House (6)
 - 2 Young animal's leg twisted in ditch (6)
 - 3 Fortune-teller is back near Luxembourg (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12689

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★