

Bernie, Warren clash with rest in debate

Healthcare and immigration policies highlight the divisions between the two Democratic camps

REUTERS
DETROIT

Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders offered an unabashed defence of their progressive policies during a Democratic presidential debate on Tuesday, as their more moderate rivals criticised their proposals as unrealistic and politically untenable.

The debate frequently pitted the two U.S. senators against the other eight candidates on stage, with healthcare and immigration policy highlighting the divisions between the two camps.

On the first night of back-to-back debates, Democrats were united in stressing the urgency of defeating Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election. But they delivered bruising critiques of their party rivals' positions as detailed policy disagreements dominated the nearly three-hour event.

The moderate wing, led at



Crucial debate: Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren at the 2020 presidential debate in Detroit. •REUTERS

times by Montana Governor Steve Bullock, argued Democrats risk losing voters after moving too far to the left in the opening debate last month in Miami.

Big ideas
In contrast, progressives argued their policies would excite voters and allow them to draw a distinct contrast to Mr. Trump.

Ms. Warren rebuked former U.S. Representative John Delaney, who often played the role of foil to the progressives during the debate. "I don't understand why anybody goes to all the trouble of running for President of the U.S. to talk about what we really can't do and shouldn't fight for," she said. Mr. Sanders also bristled at arguments that his proposals could not be realistically achieved, saying: "I get a little bit tired of Democrats afraid of big ideas."

Healthcare system
The first section of the debate centred on a dispute about the future of the U.S. healthcare system, and whether Democrats should embrace Medicare for All proposals that would have the government take over the health insurance industry. Mr. Delaney attacked the Medicare for All proposal

that has been put forward by Ms. Warren and Mr. Sanders, arguing Americans who like private insurance should be able to keep it. "Why do we have to be the party of taking something away from people?" said Mr. Delaney. He pointed to Ms. Warren and Mr. Sanders: "They are running on telling half the country that your health insurance is illegal." Ms. Warren interjected to defend a government takeover of health insurance. "We're not trying to take healthcare away from anyone. That's what Republicans are trying to do," she said. Mr. Sanders, who has introduced a Medicare for All bill in the U.S. Senate, said: "Healthcare is a human right, not a privilege. I believe that, I will fight for that." The candidates also differed on immigration policy – disagreeing on whether illegal border crossings should be decriminalised.

Afghan highway blast kills at least 35 on bus, wounds 27

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack

REUTERS
HERAT

A roadside bomb in Afghanistan on Wednesday killed at least 35 people travelling on a bus, including children, and injured 27, officials said. Security has been deteriorating across Afghanistan this year, with the Taliban and the Islamic State fighters mounting attacks on Afghan forces, government employees and civilians.

The blast on the main road linking the provincial capitals of Herat and Kandahar occurred in the Ab Khorma area of Farah province, said police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib. "The bomb was freshly



Fight for survival: Afghan men being treated at a hospital after their bus was hit by a bomb in Farah province. •REUTERS

planted by the Taliban insurgents to target Afghan and foreign security forces," he said, adding most of the dead or injured were women and children. No militant group claimed responsibility. A Taliban official said the group was not responsible for planting landmines in the area. "The blast has not been conducted by the Taliban, we are investigating the incident," said spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

U.S. envoy Khalilzad set to resume talks with Taliban

He says a deal will be concluded 'if the Taliban do their part'

REUTERS
KABUL

The U.S. special representative for peace in Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, will resume peace talks with the Taliban soon. Mr. Khalilzad, who has held eight rounds of talks with the Taliban to end the 18-year war in Afghanistan, is scheduled to travel to Qatar's capital of Doha from Kabul, via Pakistan. "I'm off to Doha, with a stop in Islamabad. In Doha, if the Taliban do their part, we will do ours, and conclude the agreement we have been working on," Mr. Khalilzad said on Twitter.



Zalmay Khalilzad

Mr. Khalilzad, an Afghan-born American diplomat, was appointed last year to negotiate a political settlement with the Taliban, which now controls more territory than at any point since their ouster. He arrived in Kabul in July and held meetings with President Ashraf Ghani, top security officials and senior opposition leaders.

Security guarantee
"Wrapping up my most productive visit to Afghanistan since I took this job as Special Rep. The U.S. and Afghanistan have agreed on next steps," he said on Twitter, adding that a negotiating team and technical support group were being finalised. Sources with knowledge of the talks said they could conclude with a deal on the withdrawal of foreign forces in exchange for security guarantees by the Taliban.

China bans individual permits to visit Taiwan

'Travellers could consider group travel'

REUTERS
BEIJING

China will stop issuing individual travel permits for Taiwan to people in 47 mainland cities from August 1, its Culture and Tourism Ministry said on Wednesday, citing the state of ties with the self-ruled Island, but gave no details. People from the mainland need permission to travel to what Beijing regards as a renegade province. Only travellers from 47 ci-

ties, such as Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen, were allowed to visit Taiwan independently. Travellers who had booked individual trips but had yet to obtain permits could consider group travel, travel agency Ctrip said. China's military held exercises this week in waters near Taiwan, following a warning last week that it was ready for war if there was any move towards independence by the Island.

Trump denies racist strategy

Lawmaker heckles him, holds up sign reading 'Deport hate'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JAMESTOWN

President Donald Trump on Tuesday denied any racist "strategy" behind a string of verbal attacks on African-Americans, but found himself being accused of hate by a heckler at a high-profile speech. "I have no strategy. I have zero strategy," Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House, when asked about his recent tirades against black and other non-white opponents, as well as the



Donald Trump

majority black city of Baltimore. "I'm not angry at anybody," he said. Earlier, Mr. Trump denounced the "horrors" of slavery in a speech in James-

town, celebrating the founding of the first local legislature there by English colonists 400 years ago. "We remember every sacred soul who suffered the horrors of slavery," Mr. Trump said. But black Virginia State lawmakers boycotted the event, saying it had been "tarnished" by Mr. Trump. A Virginia state lawmaker heckled Mr. Trump and held up a sign reading "Deport hate" and "Go back to your corrupted home."

U.S., China to hold further talks after 'constructive' meeting

Both sides to hold next consultations in the U.S. in September

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

U.S. and Chinese negotiators agreed to meet again in the United States in September after holding "frank" and "constructive" talks in Shanghai on Wednesday, State media said following meetings overshadowed by a Twitter tirade from President Donald Trump. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer met with Vice Premier Liu He in the Chinese financial hub for the first face-to-face negotiations since a trade war truce was declared last month. "The two sides conducted frank, highly efficient and



U.S. representative Robert Lighthizer with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. •REUTERS

constructive in-depth exchanges on major issues of common interest in the economic and trade field," according to the official Xinhua news agency. Washington and Beijing have so far hit each other

with punitive tariffs covering more than \$360 billion in two-way trade in a row centred on demands for China to curb the alleged theft of American technology and provide a level playing field to U.S. companies. **Farm purchases** Xinhua said that the negotiators discussed "the issue of China increasing its purchases of U.S. agricultural products according to its domestic needs" and the U.S. creating "favourable conditions for these purchases". "The two sides will hold the next economic and trade consultations in the United States in September," the news agency added.

U.S. Fed cuts interest rate for first time since 2008

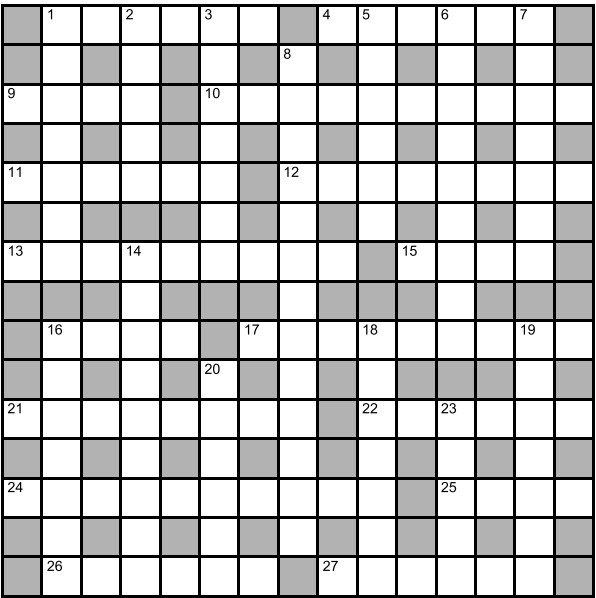
It is now 2-2.25%, 25 basis points lower

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Federal Reserve cut the benchmark lending rate on Wednesday for the first time since the 2008 recession, moving to stimulate the economy after a year of sustained pressure from President Donald Trump. The target for the federal funds rate is now in the range of 2% to 2.25%, 25 basis points lower, and the central bank vowed to "act as appropriate to sustain the expansion." However, two officials on the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee opposed the move to provide more stimulus to the economy and dissented in the vote. The Fed also gave Mr.

Trump something else he has demanded in his unrelenting attacks: an early end to a policy known as "quantitative tightening" or QT. Beginning August 1, that means the Fed will stop reducing the huge amount of securities it built up during the global financial crisis. "In light of the implications of global developments for the economic outlook as well as muted inflation pressures, the committee decided to lower the target range for the federal funds rate to 2 to 2-1/4%," the FOMC said. While the panel continues to expect sustained economic expansion and gradually rising inflation to the Fed's 2% target, "uncertainties about this outlook remain."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12693

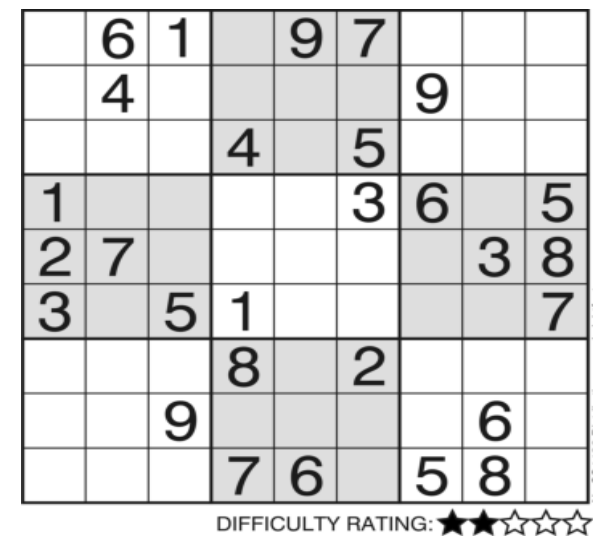


■ ACROSS
1 Blinking light's best, when dancing around room oddly (6)
4 In good condition, wish for loads of money? (6)
9 At entrance of Zoo, several gave a little monkey nuts (4)
10 According to Spooner, additionally, the chamber had a block (3,3,4)

11 Fight with knight at North American capital (6)
12 Once again, request to feature Chennai's first chronicler (8)
13 Gutless Rakshasa sacrificed until Brahma created miniature (9)
15 Abandon daughter, serving time in pound (4)
16 Fail to expel student in panic (4)
17 Chew algae with old rum for piles (1,4,4)
21 MP, for one is a jerk, involved in horseplay? (8)
22 Defer to the woman, not only admire (6)
24 Major transformation has each angel's crowdsourcing (1,3,6)
25 Couple kiss and hug outside but curse (4)
26 Being different, I typically hid (6)
27 Alas, broke-up and left separately, struggling to express once more (6)

(set by Hypatia)
■ DOWN
1 Submissive, like an East European? (7)
2 Perhaps Satyajit's working material (5)
3 Mind embracing a hot country (7)
5 As moral principles these possibly chastise (6)
6 Maybe, Marsh owl (3,6)
7 Old weapon keeping pack of animals outside a pound (7)
8 P Base? (8-5)
14 Beggar isn't able to follow, mind addled with drug (9)
16 An indication of interest in a stock index, say (7)
18 Indecent alumnus is recognized on the telephone (7)
19 Move forward supply (7)
20 Clothing in which a soldier keeps ahead? (3,3)
23 Starting to explore new joints, obviously you have fun (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12692
I V P R A C T A
N E E D L E A N O T H R E A D
C I A N H A R Z
A N N O Y E D E X P U N G E
D I R E
D I S M A N T L E L I K E D
R O T N A U
A B U S E R S T I T A N I C
F I T T W J A
T U B E S E D I T O R I A L
R E N E W A L R O I S T E R
O U O T E U E H E
O U T O F T H E P I C T U R E
K S F Y T E G D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
9 2 1 5 7 8 6 3 4
6 4 3 9 1 2 7 8 5
5 7 8 3 4 6 9 2 1
1 5 2 6 8 7 4 9 3
8 3 4 1 2 9 5 6 7
7 6 9 4 5 3 8 1 2
3 1 7 8 6 4 2 5 9
2 9 6 7 3 5 1 4 8
4 8 5 2 9 1 3 7 6

FAITH Seek liberation

Thirukkural talks about birth and death, comparing them to sleep and waking. Death is akin to sleep, while waking up is like birth, according to Thiruvalluvar. There are many similarities between death and sleep, said Malayaman in a discourse. When we are in deep sleep, we do not see what is going on around us. And often we do not even hear the noises around us, and continue to sleep undisturbed by them. When we die, all our sense organs stop functioning. Death may come to an old man or to a young woman, or a child. There is no telling when and whom it will take away. Likewise, sleep too is common to all. We can never anticipate when we are going to die. Nor can we predict when we will fall asleep. On some days, we may toss and turn in our beds and be unable to sleep. On other days, we may go to sleep the minute we lie down. When we sleep, we forget our worries, only to start worrying again when we wake up. While sleep gives us temporary relief from anxieties, death relieves us of worries permanently. The comparison of sleep to death and birth to waking is seen in other Tamil works too. Tamil poet Seethalai Chathanar, author of Manimekalai, said that the death of those who are born in this world, and the birth of those who have departed from this world, is like sleep and waking. He repeats the idea in another verse, where he says that those born in this world die and those who are dead take birth again in this world. Kovil Nanmani malai says that death and birth can happen in just a second. Kamman says that the rising of the Sun in the East and its setting in the West are like the birth and death of man. Given the uncertainty of life, and the impermanence of life, it is best to seek liberation from births and deaths.