

ELSEWHERE



Japan's new emperor regrets wartime past

TOKYO
Japan's new emperor Naruhito expressed "deep remorse" and prayed for global peace over the country's wartime past in his first speech to commemorate the end of Second World War since his enthronement in May. AFP

Saudi-UAE delegation to discuss separatist pullout

ADEN
A joint Saudi-Emirati military delegation travelled to Aden on Thursday to discuss demands for a pullout of UAE-backed southern separatists from positions they captured in Yemen's interim capital, government sources said. AFP

Norway detects radioactive iodine in air

OSLO
Norway's nuclear safety authority is analysing tiny amounts of radioactive iodine detected in the air in northern Norway in the days after a deadly explosion during a rocket engine test over the border in Russia. Russia's state nuclear agency said five of its staff members were killed in the blast. REUTERS

Defying U.S., Gibraltar frees Iran tanker

Washington had attempted to seize the ship which was accused of violating EU sanctions on Syria

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID

Gibraltar on Thursday allowed a detained Iranian supertanker to leave the British overseas territory after a last-minute U.S. attempt to seize the vessel, potentially defusing tensions between London and Tehran as a British-flagged tanker remains held by the Islamic Republic.

The release of the Grace 1 comes after the U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers over a year ago, setting in motion a growing confrontation between Tehran and the West over its atomic programme. In past weeks, the Gulf region has seen six attacks on oil tankers that the U.S. has blamed on Iran and the downing of a U.S. surveillance drone by Iranian forces. Iran has denied being behind the tanker attacks, though it has seized other tankers.

The *Gibraltar Chronicle* newspaper reported there was no U.S. application before the court when a hearing on the Grace 1 resumed Thursday afternoon, quoting the court's Chief Justice, Anthony Dudley. That allowed the ship to be freed.



Easing tension: Grace 1 tanker in the British territory of Gibraltar on Thursday. ■ AP

That's a stark change from a morning hearing, which saw Gibraltar say the Justice Department sought to seize the vessel "on a number of allegations".

Justice Dudley said that were it not for the U.S. move, "the ship would have sailed", the *Chronicle* reported.

The Justice Department did not respond to requests for comment.

Britain's Foreign Office said in a statement that the "investigations conducted around the Grace 1 are a matter for the government of Gibraltar" and that it couldn't

comment further.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Downing Street office said Iran was discussed during the U.K. leader's meeting with U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton earlier this week, though no details were released on the talks.

The Grace 1, carrying 2.1 million barrels of Iranian crude, was seized last month in a British Royal Navy operation off Gibraltar. The vessel was suspected of violating EU sanctions on Syria, namely its Banya refinery, where the Grace 1's cargo was allegedly headed, according to

authorities in Gibraltar. Iran called the seizure an "act of piracy".

Shortly after the detention of the Grace 1, Iran seized the British-flagged oil tanker Stena Impero. Analysts had said the release of the Grace 1 by Gibraltar could see the Stena Impero similarly released.

Indian captain released

Signalling preparations for the expected release of the ship, the captain, an Indian national, and three officers of the Grace 1 were released from detention on Thursday, the government said.

The whereabouts of the released crew, none of whom are Iranian, were not immediately known. The crew of the Grace 1 includes sailors from India, Pakistan and Ukraine.

Beyond a few Gibraltar-flagged patrol boats, an Associated Press crew saw little security around the tanker on Thursday as speculation mounted over its impending release. A handful of men could be seen from a distance on the deck, some of them carrying binoculars and looking into the horizon.

This is the second time the Trump administration has moved to seize a ship in recent months. In May, the Justice Department announced that it had seized a North Korean cargo ship used to supply coal to the isolated nation in violation of international sanctions.

Tensions have escalated in the Gulf since Mr. Trump over a year ago unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The decision stopped billions of dollars' worth of business deals, largely halted the sale of Iran's crude oil internationally and sharply depreciated Iran's currency, the rial.

Resolve Hong Kong crisis humanely: Trump to China

U.S. President says trade deal can wait

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

U.S. President Donald Trump has urged China to "humanely" resolve the violent stand-off with pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, on the back of growing concerns that Beijing is considering direct intervention in the crisis.

Images taken on Thursday showed thousands of Chinese military personnel waving red flags and parading at a sports stadium in the city of Shenzhen, just across the border from Hong Kong. Dozens of armoured personnel carriers and supply trucks were also parked nearby.

The parade comes as the U.S. President linked a possible trade deal with Beijing to a peaceful resolution to the political unrest that has roiled the semi-autonomous Chinese city for 10 weeks.

The U.S. has become increasingly alarmed by Chinese security forces gathering near the border with Hong Kong as the protests show no signs of abating and Beijing intensifies measures against a movement calling for democratic reforms.



Donald Trump

"Millions of jobs are being lost in China to other non-Tariffed countries. Thousands of companies are leaving. Of course China wants to make a deal. Let them work humanely with Hong Kong first!" Trump wrote on Twitter, in the first clear indication that the trade deal could be threatened by how Beijing reacts to the protests.

"I have ZERO doubt that if President Xi wants to quickly and humanely solve the Hong Kong problem, he can do it," Mr. Trump said in a subsequent tweet, suggesting a "personal meeting" with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

Activists are planning another series of rallies this weekend.



A file photo of Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn speaking during a session in the House of Commons in London. ■ AFP

Corbyn seeks PM's ouster to avoid no-deal Brexit

He urges MPs to make him caretaker PM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Jeremy Corbyn urged anti-Boris Johnson MPs to make him Britain's caretaker Prime Minister to avoid a no-deal Brexit – but his proposal met with a mixed response on Thursday.

The Labour main opposition leader said once in power, he would seek to delay Britain's October 31 exit date from the European Union and then call a general election.

Mr. Corbyn – the only person who can trigger a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Johnson's government – will do so after MPs return to Parliament on September 3, if he feels sure of victory.

Conservative PM Johnson has pledged to take Britain out of the EU on October 31, without a divorce deal if one cannot be agreed with Brussels.

In a letter to other opposition leaders and leading rebel Conservatives, Mr. Corbyn said his plan "can halt the serious threat of no deal, end the uncertainty and disarray, and allow the public to decide the best way ahead".

While the Scottish Nationalists, the second-biggest opposition party in Parliament, welcomed the idea, the Liberal Democrats, the next-biggest, dismissed it as "nonsense" saying Mr. Corbyn could not lead the charge.

China detains critic of online censorship

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China has detained a former journalist who gained prominence after urging the U.S. to help "tear down" Beijing's online censorship regime during a 2014 meeting with top U.S. diplomat John Kerry.

Police detained Zhang Jialong on Tuesday for "picking quarrels and provoking troubles," according to an official detention notice.

The vague accusation is often used to detain activists and dissidents in China's opaque justice system. Mr. Zhang was fired from his job at internet firm Tencent after his meeting with Mr. Kerry.

15 killed in Myanmar rebel attack

REUTERS
YANGON

Myanmar insurgents killed at least 15 people on Thursday, most of them members of the security forces, in attacks on an elite military college and other government targets in the country's north, an army spokesman said.

The Northern Alliance, a collection of armed groups in the region, claimed res-

pensity for the attack on the Defence Services Technological Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin in western Shan state, where army engineers are trained, and attacks at four other locations.

Army spokesman Tun Tun Nyi said soldiers were fighting insurgents in Naung Cho township.

Another bridge across the Goktwin valley had been destroyed by insurgents who

also burned down the township's narcotics police office, he said.

Pyin Oo Lwin, a military town and former British hill station, had until Thursday been unaffected by clashes in the region, which have mostly taken place in rural areas.

A months-long ceasefire agreement that ended in June was recently extended until August 31.

Israel bars 2 U.S. lawmakers

REUTERS
JERUSALEM/WASHINGTON

Israel will bar a visit by two of its sharpest critics in the U.S. Congress, Democrats Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, who planned to tour the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, the country's Deputy Foreign Minister said on Thursday.

"The decision has been made, the decision is not to allow them to enter," Tzipi

Hotovely told Israel's Reshet Bet Radio.

U.S. President Donald Trump had earlier urged Israel on Thursday not to allow the visit by Ms. Tlaib and Ms. Omar, the first two Muslim women elected to Congress and members of the Democratic party's progressive wing.

The pair have voiced support for the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanc-

tions (BDS) movement. Under Israeli law, backers of the BDS movement can be denied entry to Israel.

Mr. Trump has vented in recent months against Rep. Omar and Rep. Tlaib and two other Democratic Congresswomen of colour, accusing them of hostility to Israel in what has widely been seen as a drumming up of Republican votes for his 2020 reelection bid.

Russians hail 'hero' pilot after emergency landing

He landed Airbus with 230 people in a cornfield after bird strike

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

A Russian pilot was hailed as a hero on Thursday for safely landing his passenger jet in a cornfield after a collision with a flock of gulls seconds after takeoff crippled both engines. While dozens of people on the plane sought medical assistance, only one was hospitalized.

Captain Damir Yusupov, 41, landed the Ural Airlines A321 in a cornfield after the bird strike. The plane was carrying 226 passengers and a crew of seven from Moscow's Zhukovsky Airport to Simferopol in Crimea.

Russian television sta-



The Ural Airlines plane in a field near Moscow. ■ REUTERS

tions showed passengers standing next to the plane, hugging the captain and thanking him for saving their lives.

"The crew has shown courage and professionalism and deserve the highest

state awards," Russia's Rosaviatsiya state aviation agency chief Alexander Neradko said.

Yusupov worked as a lawyer before he changed course and joined a flight school when he was 32.

Second World War-era bomb found in Kremlin

It was taken out and will be defused

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

An unexploded Second World War bomb was found in the grounds of the Kremlin in Moscow during construction works on Thursday, Russian news agencies reported.

"As you know, between 1941 and 1942 the Kremlin was bombed," Sergei Khlebnikov, the commandant of the Kremlin, told the Ria Novosti agency. "During construction work, an aviation bomb was found," he said.

The bomb was taken out of the Kremlin complex and will be liquidated, he said.

"All measures ensuring the Kremlin's security have been completed," he added.

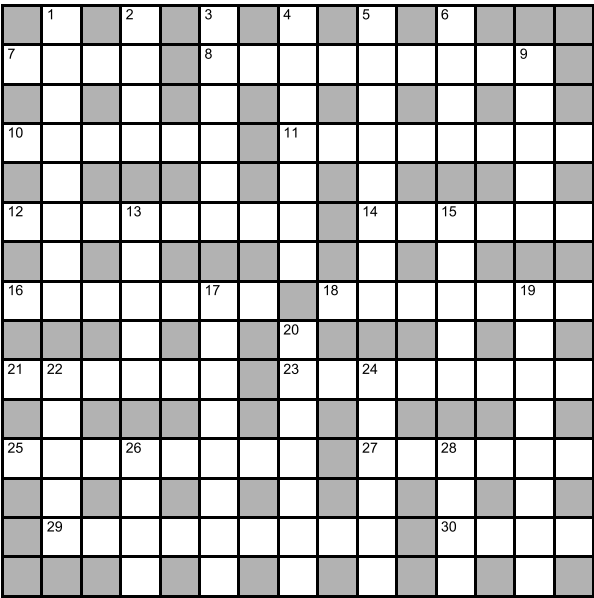
President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said that the bomb didn't disrupt the Russian leader's schedule.

The Kremlin is one of the oldest medieval fortresses in Europe, having served as the seat of tsars, Soviet leaders and now Russian presidents, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Nazi Germany's 1941 invasion of the then Soviet Union led to brutal fighting and sieges of Russian cities.

The Kremlin was a primary target for Nazi bombers during the Battle for Moscow when Hitler launched air raids on the city. The roof of one of its palaces was badly damaged during the raids.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12706



■ ACROSS

- 7 Fifty one perform at a swimming pool (4)
- 8 Approves restrictions (9)
- 10 Representative, in Ireland, for the emperor's realm (6)
- 11 Clueless about argon and tin compound (8)
- 12 Type of heels that can kill? (8)

(set by Incognito)

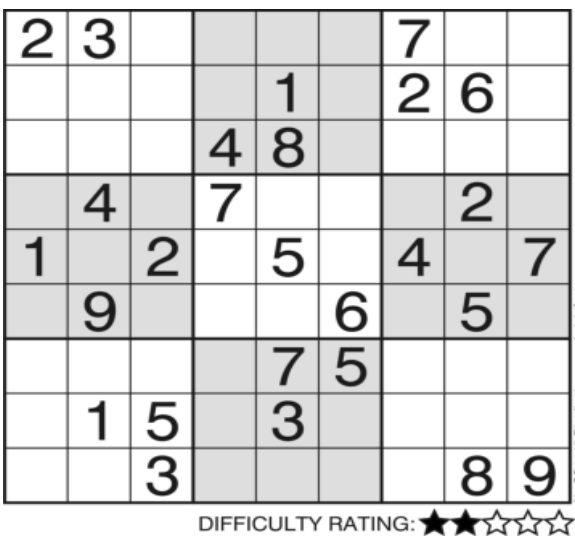
- 14 Waiter found in main computer room (6)
- 16 Psychiatrists become smaller at the end of psychoanalysis (7)
- 18 Body parts used for batting? (7)
- 21 Go back with ease after Indian state is at its zenith (6)
- 23 Scoundrel passing and working as a golfer's assistant (8)
- 25 Skilled musician had large egg after virtually losing friend (8)
- 27 Disappear using polishing material without right (6)
- 29 Complainer (not Frenchman) reformed China (9)
- 30 'Ajit' Hamid Ali Khan, as the whole town reportedly knew him, was a sort of lion (4)

■ DOWN

- 1 Incompatible couple, like a red sock and a blue sock, perhaps (8)
- 2 Yes, initially old gymnastic Indian, was a practitioner of asceticism (4)
- 3 Agreement seen in mass entertainment (6)

- 4 Sir, coin was moulded into a tooth (7)
- 5 Supports display units on outskirts of Bombay (6,2)
- 6 Tie a North African (4)
- 9 From then, transgressions were heard on radio (5)
- 13 Prone to fibbing (5)
- 15 Everyone boarded railway at the gathering (5)
- 17 Pass out leek (4,4)
- 19 Endlessly reconstituted syndicate which was related to a royal line (8)
- 20 Tumbler found in the gymnasium (7)
- 22 Groom placed, at first, rook in middle of two pawns (5)
- 24 Heavenly to depart, consuming French wine (6)
- 26 Threw back fruit, without interest, on the lawn (4)
- 28 Line redrawn may be blue or white in Egypt (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12705

ASSAMESE OBJECT
ENTIRELY INSITU
REIATV GCR
WEATHERSTATION
PHIRPLITE
HINDI SERILITY
OIAMITNII
SITUATION BEGIN
PUVVITGEEG
HORSECHENUTS
AANONCTA
TELUGU FATHOMED
ELLGLIIM
SAVERSMEACULPA

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

354829761
612573498
978164523
431257986
285396174
769418352
897641235
126735849
543982617

FAITH

Narada explains to Vasudeva

Sage Narada once visited Vasudeva, who asked the sage many questions, said P.T. Seshadri, in a discourse. Vasudeva said, "There are some people like you, who have no thoughts of anyone, but Lord Narayana. Therefore, only you can answer my questions. Children are dependent on their parents, and are glad when they are with their parents. Likewise, when great men are with me, I feel that it is good for me. Sages like you will be well disposed towards everyone, and will not treat even enemies badly. Therefore, you are the fittest person to help me understand some things. I want you to tell me, about Bhagavata dharma, which, when heard, gets rid of all fears." Vasudeva says there is a reason for putting these queries to Narada. Vasudeva says: "In previous births also I worshipped Lord Narayana. He is the only One who can give moksha. But I did not ask Him for moksha. I wanted Him to be born as my son. This was because I was caught in deva maya. In this world, many people ask for things thinking they will give them joy. But their desires lead to worries. Advise me about the way to attain moksha."

Narada tells Vasudeva about Bhagavata dharma. "He who hears this dharma, he who reads about it, he who thinks about it and he who observes it, becomes pure. Even if a person is wicked, if he observes Bhagavata dharma, he is purified. The Lord's names are auspicious. And reciting them is meritorious. Bhagavata dharma has already been stated by others, and I will now state what has been said in the past," says Narada. He tells Vasudeva about the nine sons of Rishabadeva. The latter was an amsa avatara of Vishnu. The nine sons of Rishabadeva were yogeśwaras, who explained Bhagavata dharma to King Nimi, and Narada recounts their advice, in response to Vasudeva's questions.