



Naik's PR status can be revoked: Malaysian PM
KUALA LUMPUR
Malaysia can revoke the Permanent Resident status of Islamic preacher Zakir Naik if it is proven that his actions have harmed the country's well-being, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Friday. Mr. Mahathir said the government will first wait for the probe into the alleged inflammatory remarks made by him against minorities in Malaysia to get over, reported *Malay Mail*.

N. Korea fires 2 missiles, rejects call for talks
SEOUL
North Korea launched at least two projectiles into the sea on Friday shortly after Pyongyang described South Korea's President as "impudent" and vowed that inter-Korean talks are over. The North has protested against joint drills between South Korea and U.S. *REUTERS*

'Iran must free women held for veil protest'
GENEVA
A group of UN human rights experts on Friday called for the release of three Iranian women given jail terms for protesting laws compelling women to wear veils. The trio were charged after a video showed them without veils and handing out flowers on March 8. *AFP*

Putin honours pilot who landed plane in cornfield
MOSCOW
Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday awarded the nation's highest medal, the Hero of Russia, to Damir Yusupov, 41, who landed his plane in a cornfield after bird strike knocked engines out. The plane's second pilot, Georgy Murzin, 23, also bagged the top award. *AP*

Sri Lanka probes cruelty to elephant at Buddhist parade

70-year-old animal collapsed during a religious parade

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO
Sri Lanka on Friday ordered an investigation following the collapse of a 70-year-old elephant during a parade at a high-profile Buddhist pageant popular with local and foreign tourists.

Tourism and Wildlife Minister John Amararatunga said he has ordered wildlife authorities to investigate how the elephant, known as Tikiri, was forced to take part in a lengthy parade despite her failing health. "I have ordered officials to initiate an inquiry and ascertain how and why an elephant in such poor health was used in the (pageant) and to take necessary action



Tedious walk: Elephants at the Esala pageant in Kandy. *■ AFP*

against those responsible." Animal-lovers slammed the authorities for deploying the aged animal at the annual Esala pageant watched by thousands. After a howl of protests over social media, festival organisers withdrew the Ti-

kiri from the grand finale on Wednesday. Elephants are considered scared in Sri Lanka and protected as an endangered species, but there are reports of cruelty to many animals who have been domesticat-

- ACROSS**
1 Dogs' master is near dead bodies (8)
5 Wasn't a complicated Bantu language (6)
10 Online heckler has bread after some time (5)
11 Communist vehicle initially patrolled enemy territory showing welcome symbol (3,6)

- 12 6 feet... understand? (6)
13 Adonis runs near old city and old creature (8)
15 Twinge felt at mineral springs with a hint of magnesium (5)
17 Pram tyre is twisted around a supplicant's rug (6,3)
19 Or gong that's given to topper (4,5)
20 First and last letter Lawrence carried initially for Mexican Indian (5)
21 Books have imaginary number after the second half of 13 (8)
23 Secret alphabet that means nothing (6)
27 Rescue returning Greek character after one time endless prank (9)
28 American poet has manuscript of verses (5)
29 Circular craters not starting to crack are most unusual (6)
30 Elimination table or popularity charts? (3,5)
- DOWN**
1 Misfit ombudsman returns concealing decorative pattern (5)
2 Brief rain results in deficiency (9)

17 seamen abducted near Cameroon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YAOUNDË
Nine Chinese and eight Ukrainian seamen were abducted on Thursday when two merchant vessels came under attack in Cameroonian waters, sources said on Friday.

"Seventeen Chinese and Ukrainians were kidnapped... (of whom) nine (are) Chinese," an official said. The Navy source said the kidnapers "are probably Nigerian pirates," adding that Cameroon's security forces had launched a search for them. The Gulf of Guinea, whose coastline stretches in a huge arc from Liberia to Gabon, is notorious for piracy as well as oil theft and drug trafficking.

Greenland tells Trump it's not for sale

U.S. President discussed the idea of buying the Danish region with his advisers

REUTERS
COPENHAGEN
Greenland on Friday dismissed the notion that it might be up for sale after reports that U.S. President Donald Trump had privately discussed with his advisers the idea of buying the world's biggest island. "We are open for business, but we're not for sale," Greenland's Foreign Minister Ane Lone Bagger told Reuters.

Mr. Trump is due to visit Copenhagen in September and the Arctic will be on the agenda during meetings with the Prime Ministers of Denmark and Greenland, an autonomous Danish territory. Talk of a Greenland purchase was first reported by the *Wall Street Journal*. Two

Cathay Pacific's torrid week ends with CEO's resignation

China targeted airline after some staff joined protests

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG
Cathay Pacific announced the resignation on Friday of its CEO Rupert Hogg, compounding a torrid week for the Hong Kong carrier after it was excoriated by Beijing because some staff supported pro-democracy protests.

The 72-year-old airline has been left reeling after it became ensnared in the hardening of rhetoric from the communist mainland over ten weeks of anti-government protests that have plunged Hong Kong into crisis. Over the last two weeks the airline emerged as a target on the mainland after some of its 27,000-strong workforce took part in, or voiced support for, the protests. During a general strike earlier in the month, some staff joined in, including the



Rupert Hogg

union representing Cathay Pacific's flight attendants. China's reaction was swift. State media began writing a series of condemnations of Cathay, accusing it of not doing enough to rein it its workers. Then the country's aviation regulator demanded that the airline prevent such staff from working on flights to the mainland or those routed through Chinese airspace.

Cathay moved into damage control mode, firing four members of staff associated with the protests, including two pilots, agreeing to comply with the new regulations and releasing a series of statements supporting Hong Kong's embattled government. But it appears those moves were not enough to save its chief Hogg, who has been credited with helping to turn the airline profitable after two years of losses. In a statement posted on the Hong Kong stock exchange on Friday, Cathay said Mr. Hogg had resigned "to take responsibility as a leader of the Company in view of recent events." "The Board of Directors believes that it is the right time for new leadership to take Cathay Pacific forward," the airline said in a statement.

White House approves sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan

EDWARD WONG
WASHINGTON
The Trump administration is moving forward with an \$8 billion sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan, American officials said on Friday. The move is certain to further anger China at a time when a long-running trade war between Washington and Beijing has upended relations between the world's two largest economies and contributed to stock market turmoil.

The State Department told Congress on Thursday night, right after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had signed a memo approving the sale, officials said. Congress is not expected to object to the move. For weeks, lawmakers from both parties had accused the administration of delaying the sale to avoid jeopardising trade negotiations or to use it as a bargaining chip. But trade negotiations held in Shanghai at the end

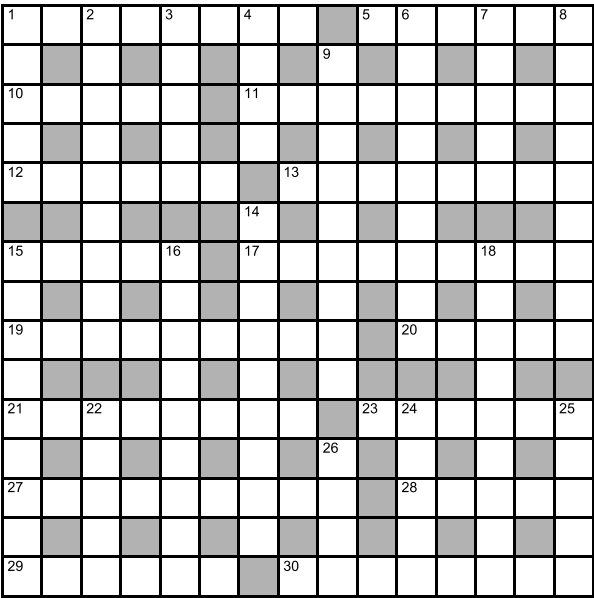
of July led to nowhere. Mr. Trump's National Security Adviser, John Bolton, has been a longtime advocate of arms sales to Taiwan. Some analysts say China could retaliate by punishing U.S. companies with sanctions, which it has done in the past. The sale of 66 jets to Taiwan would be the largest single arms package transaction between the U.S. and the democratic, self-governing island in years. *NY TIMES*



Danish politicians on Friday poured scorn on the idea. *■ AP*

for the Danish People's Party, Soren Espersen, said. "The thought of Denmark selling 50,000 citizens to the U.S. is completely ridiculous," he added. Greenland, a self-ruling part of Denmark located between the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans, is dependant on Danish economic support. It handles its own domestic affairs while Copenhagen looks after defence and foreign policy. "My immediate thought is 'No, thank you'," Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, Danish MP from Greenland's second-largest party Inuit Ataqatigiit, said. A defence treaty between Denmark and the United States dating back to 1951 gives the U.S. military rights over the Thule Air Base in northern Greenland.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12707



- ACROSS**
1 Dogs' master is near dead bodies (8)
5 Wasn't a complicated Bantu language (6)
10 Online heckler has bread after some time (5)
11 Communist vehicle initially patrolled enemy territory showing welcome symbol (3,6)

- (set by Incognito)
- 3 Ice house has one grand toilet (5)
4 Cutlery piece for monarch (4)
6 Clean entertainment on the TV? (4,5)
7 A record has no significance at first for a Greek letter (5)
8 A book on north polar region leads to the south polar region (9)
9 Praiseworthy to have naval officer capture a sailor with energy after loss of initial advantage (9)
14 Homo arachnid evolved from damp resin (9)
15 One engaged in holiday activity sees English engineers going back (9)
16 Anglo Indian females have 50% memory more than their male counterparts (9)
18 Lucifer's absence is incomparable (9)
22 Get into some forbidden territory (5)
24 Push around pimple after loss of some pus (5)
25 Tricks king employs (5)
26 French cap found in sake pitcher (4)

SUDOKU



- Solution to puzzle 12706**
- | | | | | | | | | |
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| M | Y | A | I | S | M | | | |
| L | I | D | O | S | A | N | C | T |
| S | G | S | C | A | O | I | | |
| E | M | P | I | R | E | I | G | N |
| A | N | S | D | C | | | | |
| S | T | I | L | E | T | T | O | S |
| C | Y | E | R | B | A | | | |
| S | H | R | I | N | K | E | S | |
| N | E | A | L | E | V | I | D | S |
| A | P | O | G | E | E | A | D | V |
| V | I | R | T | E | S | | | |
| M | U | V | B | I | I | T | | |
| P | O | R | C | E | L | A | I | N |
| F | R | T | E | E | C | | | |
- Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 |

FAITH

Lessons for us

The Ramayana gives us many lessons and does so in simple terms. While the Vedic texts also give us the same lessons, they are difficult to comprehend, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a lecture. Sage Bharadwaja spent centuries studying the Vedas and yet failed to grasp their meaning entirely. But the Ramayana can be understood, not only because it is simpler, but also because in this itihasa we see Rama living the kind of life we are asked to live. His obedience to his father, His lack of attachment to the throne, His affection for His siblings, His loyalty to His spouse – all these are examples for us. Bharata is another role model for us. Unable to persuade Rama to come back to Ayodhya, Bharata accepts his brother's words that he should go back and rule the country. Yet, Bharata does not want to rule. So, he places Rama's sandals on the throne and runs a Paduka Rajya. During their exile, Rama, Sita and Lakshmana meet many sages. Most important among them is Atri. Atri's wife Anasuya is a great comfort to Sita. Anasuya – the name itself is significant. It means one without asuya – envy. While there are many bad qualities, envy tops the list, because it leads to many other evil qualities. In his Arthi Prabandha, Manavala Mamunigal lists the many boons which the Lord has given him. He says he is blessed to be in Srirangam, and to have studied Nammazhvar's Thiruvaimozhi. He is blessed to have had a connection with the Lord in the manner in which Madurakavi Azhvar was connected to Nammazhvar. He is blessed because he has studied many texts from his preceptors. But after having said all this, Manavala Mamnugal says he is blessed because he is not envious of anyone. This shows the importance of not being jealous, and why Anasuya was venerated by everyone.