Rivals clash with front runner Biden

Sharp exchanges centred around his campaign issue of health care, climate change and past record

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Democratic front runner Joe Biden went on the offensive on Wednesday against his main 2020 opponents, but was rapidly assailed on the debate stage over key issues such as health care, race and immigration.

Tensions rose between the former Vice-President and Senator Kamala Harris. the most prominent African American in the field, as the two reprised their clash from a month earlier at the debut debate. But while Mr. Biden aimed aggressive attacks at Ms. Harris and her health care plan, other rivals in the second night of the twonight, 20-candidate debate sought to undercut him on a host of issues.

Mr. Biden is leading polls for the nod to take on President Donald Trump in 2020, and nearly all of the other nine Democrats on stage attacked him at some point.

He found himself in a series of sharp exchanges on the central campaign issue of health care along with his stance on climate change



Hard talk: (From left) Senator Cory Booker, former Vice-President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris during the Democratic Presidential Debate in Detroit. ■ NYT

and his past legislative record, in particular his failure to take decisive action against illegal immigration.

When Mr. Biden jousted with Ms. Harris about her "double talk" on her own modified Medicare for All plan, which he noted would take 10 years to kick in, Ms. Harris shot back: "You're simply inaccurate in what you're describing."

She said Mr. Biden's profor governmentbacked health insurance for those who want it "leaves out almost 10 million Americans" from coverage.

Mr. Biden's advisers had urged him to be more aggressive after his lackluster first debate performance, but the 76-year-old struck a curious opening note on Wednesday.

As the debate began, Mr. Biden greeted Harris, a 54year-old former California attorney general, by shaking her hand and saying, "Go easy on me, kid."

She did not. Ms. Harris renewed the criticism that gave her a viral moment in the first debate by accusing Mr. Biden of making light of his work with segregationists in the Senate in the 1970s.

"The Vice-President has still failed to acknowledge that it was wrong to take the position that he took at that time," Ms. Harris said.

Rare unity

The squabbling came after deep fault lines between the party's centrist and progressive wings were exposed on the first debate night, which featured leading liberals Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

In one of the few moments of broad unity onstage, several candidates joined Mr. Biden in condemning Mr. Trump.

Tulsi Congresswoman Gabbard said the President "is not behaving like a patriot," while Julian Castro, the only Latino in the field, branded Mr. Trump an outright "racist." But much of the night was consumed with clashes between candidates. "Middle ground approaches are not enough," said Washington Governor Jay Inslee, who has released a plan to tackle climate change. "We must confront the fossil fuel industry."

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said he was fully prepared to "restructure" the U.S. economy and society.

"We will tax the hell out of the wealthy," he boomed.

Low-polling candidates like Mr. de Blasio, Mr. Inslee, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and entrepreneur Andrew Yang were desperate for standout moments to justify staying in the race.

Trump administration of-

Punishing Zarif, Trump muddies a path to talks

It's unclear whether he will be barred from visiting UN

DAVID E. SANGER MICHAEL CROWLEY

The Trump administration took the unusual step on Wednesday of placing sanctions on Iran's Foreign Minister, essentially cutting off the clearest avenue for talks with Iran by punishing the man who negotiated the 2015 nuclear agreement.

Senior administration officials described the Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif - an American-educated diplomat who is well connected throughout the U.S. - as the "propaganda arm" of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In withdrawing last year from the nuclear accord, the administration argued that the move was intended to open negotiations. But with Mr. Zarif sidelined, it was unclear who else might serve as an experienced intermediary for Tehran in any potential talks. The administration has already imposed sanctions on the country's remaining power centres, Mr. Khamenei and the elite military organisation, the Revolutionary Guard.

Mr. Zarif welcomed the news in his signature combative form on Twitter. "The US' reason for designating me is that I am Iran's 'primary spokesperson around the world. Is the truth really that painful? It has no effect on me or my family, as I have no property or interests outside of Iran. Thank you for considering me such a huge threat to your agenda."

ficials did not indicate whether they would seek to bar Mr. Zarif from visiting



A file photo of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. • AP

EU to work with Iran despite U.S. sanctions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BRUSSELS

The European Union said on Thursday it regrets the U.S. decision to impose sanctions against Iran's Foreign Minister

Mohammad Javad Zarif and vowed to continue working with him.

The decision was the latest blow by President Donald Trump to the 2015 deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme, which Brussels has been trying to salvage. "We regret this decision," said Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela, a spokesman for EU diplomatic chief.

the UN, although they aptargeted strikes against Iran peared to favour doing so. During meetings there two weeks ago, he gave interviews to television networks and met with reporters.

'Visa abused'

Those interviews angered Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other officials, who argued that he was abusing his visa, which limits him to meetings associated with the UN and restricts his movements to three buildings.

The defiant action is the latest in a series of mixed signals the Trump administration has sent to Tehran. In mid-June, Mr. Trump approved - then pulled back -

to retaliate for its downing of a U.S. drone. Mr. Trump offered a muted response to Iran's seizure of a Britishflagged oil tanker in the Gulf. When Iran tested a mediumrange ballistic missile last week, Trump officials played down the episode.

And even as administration officials imposed sanctions on Mr. Zarif, they extended waivers on separate sanctions, related to Iran's nuclear programme.

Appearing on Fox Business Network on Wednesday, National Security Adviser John Bolton said a waiver would be extended for 90 days. NY TIMES

51 killed in multiple attacks in Yemen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebels in Yemen fired a ballistic missile on Thursday at a military parade in the southern port city of Aden and coordinated suicide bombings targeted a police station in another part of the city. The attacks killed at least 51 people and wounded dozens, officials said.

The missile hit a military

parade of forces loyal to the UAE, a member of the Saudi-led coalition that has been fighting the Iranbacked Houthi rebels since 2015 in support of Yemen's government. The missile attack killed at least 40, a health official said.

Earlier, 11 people were killed and at least 29 wounded in multiple blasts in the

TTP diktat on polio drops, music

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Pakistani Taliban has warned people in the tribal district of North Waziristan not to play loud music and administer polio vaccination to their children, according to a media report on Thursday.

The one-page message on a pamphlet in Urdu issued by banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Miramshah, the headquarters of Pakistan's North Waziristan

district, on Wednesday also directed women not to venture out without a male company, the Dawn newspaper reported.

"We remind you [residents] that similar statements issued by the Taliban several times in the past had fallen on deaf ears, but this time we are going to take to task those who violate the order," it stated.

There will be no use of DJs either inside the house or in open fields and those ignoring the warning will face consequences, the message said. The pamphlet prohibited the people from playing loud music on computer and other shops with a warning that any place from where songs were heard could be blown up any time, the report said.

Polio workers have been asked to do finger-marking of children during the vaccination campaign but without administering polio drops to them.

ELSEWHERE



on Chinese goods: Trump

President Donald Trump says the U.S. will apply a new tariff of 10% on about \$300 billion worth of products from China on September 1. Mr. Trump tweeted on Thursday amid slow-moving talks with China that negotiations will continue. AP

'No-deal Brexit to slow U.K. growth, hit pound'

The Bank of England on Thursday warned that a no-deal Brexit would slow Britain's economic growth, increase inflation and probably further drag down the pound against the dollar, as it announced it was holding interest rates at 0.75%. AFP

Dutch ban on burgas in public places takes effect

The law was passed in June 2018

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Netherlands banned the wearing of a face-covering veil, such as a burga or nigab, in public buildings and on transport from Thursday as a contentious law on the garment worn by some Muslim women came into force.

Between 200 and 400 women are estimated to wear a burqa or niqab in the country of 17 million people.

legislation was passed in June 2018 after a decade of political debate on the subject. The far-right politician Geert Wilders had proposed the veil ban back in 2005. "From now on the wearing of clothing which covers the face is banned in educational facilities, public



Between 200 to 400 women wear a burga or a nigab in the country. • AP

institutions and buildings, as well as hospitals and public transport," the Dutch Interior Ministry said.

The law also bans face-covering helmet or hood. A person could be fined €150 (\$165). However, the public transport sector said it would not stop to make a woman in a burqa get off as it would cause delays.

'Bin Laden's son Hamza killed'

U.S. media report says he was killed 'during the last two years'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

Osama bin Laden's son Hamza, chosen heir to the leadership of al-Qaeda, has been killed, U.S. media reported on Wednesday citing Ameri can officials.

NBC News said three U.S. officials had confirmed they had information of Hamza bin Laden's death, but gave no details of the place or

The New York Times subsequently cited two U.S. officials as saying they had confirmation that he was killed during the last two years in an operation that involved the U.S.

Questioned by reporters in the Oval Office, President Donald Trump did not confirm or deny the NBC report. "I don't want to comment on



it," he said

Both reports suggested that Hamza may have been killed well before the State Department announced a \$1 million bounty on his head in February 2019.

The 15th of Osama bin Laden's 20 children and a son of his third wife, Hamza, thought to be about 30 years old, was "emerging as a leader in the al-Qaeda franchise," the State Department said in announcing the reward.

'Crown prince'

Sometimes dubbed the crown prince of jihad", he had put out audio and video messages calling for attacks on the U.S. and other countries, especially to avenge his father's killing by U.S. forces in Pakistan in May 2011, the department said.

Documents seized in the raid on his father's house in Abbottabad suggested Hamza was being groomed as heir to the al-Qaeda leadership.

U.S. forces also found a video of the wedding of Hamza to the daughter of another senior al-Qaeda official that is believed to have taken place in Iran.

Bin Laden family's aide arrested in Philippines

Abdeljalil was living with a fake identity

DANIEL VICTOR

A Jordanian man once considered a financier for al-Qaida and a "henchman" of Osama bin Laden's brotherin-law was arrested in the Philippines in July, officials said on Thursday, reinforcing concerns that Islamic militants are making a base in the country.

Mahmoud Afif Abdelialil. 51, was arrested on July 4 in Zamboanga, a coastal city at the southwestern tip of Mindanao, the nation's secondlargest island. Abdeljalil had false documents under an assumed name, Jaime Morente, the chief of the Bureau of Immigration, said in a statement

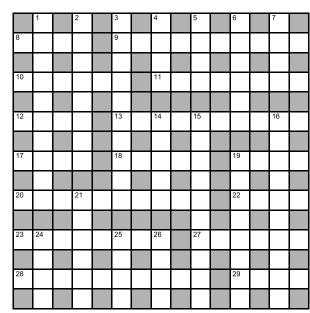
Abdelialil, whom the authorities called "a former henchman" connected to

the bin Laden family, has been in government custody since the arrest. "We are going to deport him for being an illegal entrant as he has no record of arrival, at ter he was arrested and deported in 2003 for being an undesirable alien," Mr. Morente said.

In 2003, the authorities said that Abdeljalil was a close associate of Mohammed Khalifa, bin Laden's brother-in-law, and that the two were involved in financing the Qaida network through charity organisations.

Officials said they began monitoring Abdeljalil after he and an Algerian companion were flagged at a military checkpoint in Zamboanga last year. NY TIMES

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12694



ACROSS

8 Fall: a story (4)

9 Engagement of son in the middle of probation - that's outrageous! (10)

10 Oppose what's bloody right (6) 11 Cooking aid say to take grime off around bottom of skillet

12 Skill to flip end of gravy on dish (4)

13 Termination of prices to enter

drinking establishment (6,4) 17 A feeling of remorse, having

stolen University's gold (4) 18 Region surrounding new sports

19 ... has planes circling over mountains (4)

stadium... (5)

20 Lapse in street security? (4,6)

22 Dam' topless bird (4)

23 Cruel abuse led a fat husband to leave (8) 27 Menace of crowd, perhaps

shortly approaching a joint (6)

28 Plan B is to get cooked okra and a little radish wrapped

29 Another enlistee oddly

DOWN 1 Paternal and prosperous...

girl's preference (10)

2 Chemical agent obtained from household pet's salty when analysed (8)

(set by Bruno)

3 City has a canal with rats

4 That is describing Sri Lanka?

scurrying (5,5)

5 Shoot school-going snob (4)

6 Code of conduct of nameless native society (6)

7 Not all of Bruno's sobs regularly come up to the surface (4)

14 Abnormal force – dark & recurrent (5)

16 Expression of support and

15 Accuracy of old law - it's due to be revised (10)

love at work (e.g. hugging) -

said to be criminal? (4-1-5) 19 Boy, after back-condition, was not the same (8)

21 Criticize beer brewed around

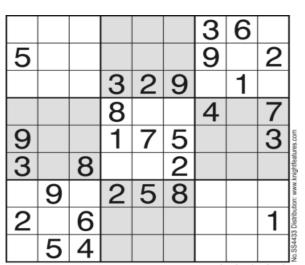
Britain (6) 24 Call aunty on vacation middle-school's boring! (4)

25 Uncommon ultrarealistic heart

26 Partners leaving the French

uprising (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12693 Solution to vesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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FAITH

Bound to samsara

Of the three gunas, sattva is free from impurities. So, it helps to acquire knowledge. The other two qualities, rajas and tamas, lead to delusional knowledge and wrong understanding. But sattva leads to proper understanding. And yet, sattva too is a hindrance to liberation, because it makes us seek happiness and knowledge, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. How can love for knowledge keep us from liberation? The example of sage Bharadwaja shows what love for knowledge can lead to.

Bharadwaja wanted to imbibe the essence and import of the Vedas totally. But he found that despite diligent study, he was not making much progress. So he prayed for another hundred years of life in order to study the Vedas. But at the end of the extended period of life, he had still not completed his study and asked for a further extension. So, in his case, it was a thirst for knowledge that kept him in this world, instead of seeking moksha. Anagha is the term the Lord uses to address Arjuna. Agha means impurity or sin. Arjuna was anagha - the one without impurity, because he sought nothing and was unattached to anything. So, attachment to knowledge is also a stumbling block to liberation.

Rajas is characterised by raga, trishna and sanga. Raga is the mutual attraction between man and woman. Trishna is the thirst for sense objects. Sanga is the desire to be in the company of one's wife, children and relatives. To get what he wants, the person with rajas indulges in acts that result in repeated births and deaths. So, he too remains caught in samsara like the one with sattva guna. Lust, greed, ambition for one's children can all lead to wrongful acts, and such acts are committed by the one with rajas. A man with rajas acts as he pleases, with no thought of the consequences.