

ELSEWHERE



Symmetric response to U.S. missile test: Putin
MOSCOW
Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he has ordered the military to prepare a "symmetric response" after Washington tested a formerly banned missile. Mr. Putin said he had ordered an analysis of "the level of threat" for our country created by the U.S. action. **AFP**

Four dead, 33 missing after Indonesia ferry fire
JAKARTA
At least four people died and nearly three dozen were missing after a passenger ferry went up in flames off Indonesia's Java island, authorities said on Friday. The boat started from Indonesia's Surabaya and was headed to Balikpapan on Borneo island with some 277 people aboard when it caught fire Thursday evening. **AFP**

Russia launches floating nuclear reactor in Arctic
MOSCOW
Russia launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor on Friday, sending it on an epic journey across the Arctic, despite environmentalists warning of a "Chernobyl on ice." Loaded with nuclear fuel, the *Akademik Lomonosov* with a crew of 69 left the port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 km voyage to Pevek in Siberia. **AFP**

S. Korea to share intel with Japan through U.S.
SEOUL
South Korea said on Friday it will share military intelligence with Japan through the U.S., a day after it terminated a pact that enabled the two U.S. allies to exchange such information directly. A series of tit-for-tat measures have brought relations between Seoul and Tokyo to their lowest point in years. **AFP**

With Amazon forest on fire, Brazil faces global backlash

EU is 'deeply worried'; Germany, Norway may shut down a conservation initiative

MANUELA ANDREONI
LETÍCIA CASADO
RIO DE JANEIRO

As dozens of fires scorched large swaths of the Amazon, the Brazilian government has struggled to contain growing global outrage over its environmental policies, which have paved the way for runaway deforestation of the world's largest rainforest. The fires, many intentionally set, are spreading as Germany and Norway appear to be on the brink of shutting down a \$1.2 billion conservation initiative for the Amazon.

Concern over the environmental policies of President Jair Bolsonaro, which have prioritised the interests of industries that want greater access to protected lands, has also put in jeopardy a trade agreement the EU and a handful of South American nations struck in June, following decades of negotiations.

"The ongoing forest fires in Brazil are deeply worrying," the European Commission said in a statement on Thursday. "Forests are our lungs and life support systems."

Photos of the fires have been shared by NASA, politicians and celebrities this week, setting off a call on social media to #PrayForAmazon. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio called on his nearly 34 million Instagram followers to become more environmentally conscious in a post warning that "the lungs of the Earth are in flames".

The Bolsonaro administration has reacted with indignation to the outrage, claiming without presenting any evidence that NGOs



Global concern: Smoke billows from a fire in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. **REUTERS**

could have started the fires to undermine the far-right President.

In the northern state of Rondonia, which has been among the most affected by the fires, indigenous leaders described watching wild animals dashing out of areas of the forest as the flames approached.

Covered in smoke

"We saw wild pigs, tapirs, armadillos, anteaters, snakes in larger numbers than we are used to," said Adriano Karipuna, a leader in the Karipuna indigenous community, whose territory has been affected by fires. "We saw the forest covered in smoke, and the sky darkened. Our eyes became red due to the smoke."

Mr. Karipuna said loggers are striding into protected areas, emboldened by Mr. Bolsonaro's views that the legal protections granted to indigenous lands are an unreasonable impediment to profiting from the Amazon's resources.

Senior government officials in Brazil took aim on Thursday at international news coverage and criticism from Western governments, calling their characterisation of the fires intentionally misleading.

"There's a reason why Brazil has the best environmental credentials and the best preserved forests," Filipe Martins, a foreign policy adviser to Mr. Bolsonaro, wrote in a series of messages on Twitter. "We know how to protect and take care of what is ours."

Brazil has strict environmental laws and regulations, but they are often violated with impunity. Forest fires are common in Brazil during this time of the year. But the number now raging in the Amazon is unusually high. Data released by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research shows that from January to July, fires had consumed 4.6 million acres of the Brazilian Amazon, a 62% increase compared to last year. **NY TIMES**

Bolsonaro 'lied' on climate at G-20: France

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BIARRITZ

French President Emmanuel Macron believes his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro lied to him on Brazil's stance on climate change, and France will now block a trade deal between the EU and South American nations.

"Given the attitude of Brazil over the last weeks, the President can only conclude that President Bolsonaro lied to him at the Osaka (G20) summit (in June)," a French Presidential official said on Friday.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the Amazon wildfires amount to "acute emergency" and called upon world leaders to discuss the issue when they meet at this weekend's G7 summit.

China announces new tariffs on \$75 bn worth U.S. imports

Trump vows quick response, tells companies to find 'alternative'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China announced on Friday it will hit U.S. imports worth \$75 billion with new tariffs as retaliation for Washington's planned tariff hikes, further intensifying the pair's bruising trade war.

The punitive tariffs of 5 to 10% will apply to 5,078 items, including agricultural products such as soybeans, crude oil and small aircraft, from the U.S., starting September 1 and December 15, China's State Council Tariff Commission Office said.

Beijing also announced it will reimpose a 25% tariff on U.S. automobiles and a 5% tariff on auto parts, also starting December 15. It had earlier this year lifted tariffs on American cars and automobile parts as a goodwill measure while trade talks were under way.

'Great opportunity'

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday pledged a quick response to the new round of tariffs, and told American firms to find an



The punitive tariffs of 5 to 10% will apply to 5,078 U.S. products. **AP**

"alternative" to making their products in China.

"I will be responding to China's Tariffs this afternoon," Mr. Trump said in a tweet. "This is a GREAT opportunity for the U.S."

"Our great American companies are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China, including bringing your firms HOME and making your products in the U.S.A."

It is unclear under what authority Mr. Trump could demand private companies to alter their production.

"Our Country has lost, stupidly, Trillions of Dollars with China over many years.

They have stolen our Intellectual Property at a rate of Hundreds of Billions of Dollars a year, & they want to continue. I won't let that happen!" Mr. Trump wrote.

Mr. Trump has imposed steep tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods, with a further \$300 billion in imports targeted for new duties in two more rounds, effective from September 1 and December 15.

Meanwhile, China has hit back with duties on around \$110 billion of U.S. goods – or nearly all of the \$120 billion worth of American goods it imported last year.

China's Commerce Ministry said it will hit American frozen lobster, frozen chicken feet, peanut butter and 914 other goods with new 10% punitive tariffs starting September 1.

The trade friction has already slowed U.S. growth, and undercut the global economy, so the threat of a deterioration sent stock markets falling sharply. The Dow lost more than 500 points from its peak.

Trump likens Fed chief to 'enemy' Xi

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump reacted furiously on Friday after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell spoke about the trade war with China and economic risks to the U.S., asking whether his appointee to the U.S. central bank was a greater "enemy" than China's leader Xi Jinping.

"As usual, the Fed did NOTHING! It is incredible that they can 'speak' with-

out knowing or asking what I am doing, which will be announced shortly," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter. "We have a very strong dollar and a very weak Fed. I will work 'brilliantly' with both, and the U.S. will do great."

"My only question is, who is our bigger enemy, Jay Powell or Chairman Xi?"

Mr. Trump has repeatedly accused the Fed of keeping monetary policy too tight, which he says has boosted

the value of the dollar and undercut economic growth.

He has been pressuring the Fed to lower interest rates aggressively, arguing that the dollar's strength is undermining the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.

Mr. Powell stopped short of committing to further rate cuts. He characterised the U.S. economy as in a "favorable place" but facing "significant" risks, especially from trade war with China.

David Koch, billionaire donor to conservative causes, dies

He and his brother were a force behind Republican politics

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

David Koch, a billionaire American libertarian and influential donor to conservative causes, has died at age 79 after a long battle with cancer, his older brother Charles said on Friday.

Mr. Koch retired last year as executive vice president of Koch Industries, the conglomerate he co-owned with Mr. Charles and built into the second largest family-owned company in the U.S.

"He believed he had a responsibility to a world that had given him so many opportunities to succeed," Mr. Charles said in a statement.



David Koch

Both brothers were a force behind the scenes in Republican politics, giving heavily to candidates and causes that matched their conservative economic positions.

But Mr. David was socially liberal – a supporter of abortion rights and same sex marriage as well as a non-interventionist foreign policy.

Mr. David ran as the Libertarian Party's Vice Presidential candidate in 1980, but later joined Republican party. He was remembered as an important financial contributor to cultural organisations and medical research.

He was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer 27 years ago but through "a combination of brilliant doctors, state-of-the-art medications and his own stubbornness kept the cancer at bay," Mr. Charles said.

Israel hits weapons depot in Iraq

The base was being used by Iran to move weapons to Syria, officials said

ALISSA J. RUBIN
RONEN BERGMAN

Israel has carried out an airstrike on a weapons depot in Iraq that officials said was being used by Iran to move weapons to Syria, an attack that could destabilise Iraq and thrust it deeper into the conflict between the United States and Iran.

The attack, believed to be the first Israeli bombing in Iraq in nearly four decades, represents an expansion of the military campaign Israel has carried out against Iranian targets in Syria.

The Israeli attack last month was one of several recent attacks on weapons storage facilities controlled by Iraqi militias with ties to Iran. It was not clear who



An explosion at a military base in Baghdad. **AP/FILE**

carried out the other attacks, which have set Iraq on edge as it struggles to recover from nearly 40 years of war and instability.

Responding to the attacks on Thursday, Iraq's National Security Adviser, Falih al-

Fayadh, said that Iraq wanted to avoid taking sides in any struggle between Iran and other countries and being "pushed into a war."

"The Iraqi government and especially its security agencies and armed forces

will take all measures necessary to protect Iraq and its people and to deter any attempts at destabilisation," he said.

He said the government had yet to determine who was behind the attacks.

A senior West Asian intelligence official said that Israel had bombed a base north of Baghdad on July 19.

Two senior U.S. officials, however, said that Israel had carried out several strikes in recent days on munitions storehouses for Iranian-backed groups in Iraq.

The Israeli military refused to comment on the attacks but PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said, "Iran doesn't have immunity anywhere." **NY TIMES**

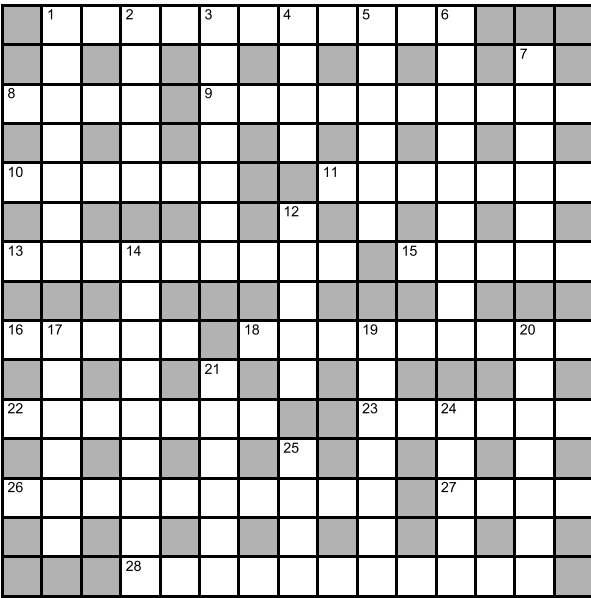
Human chain protests in Hong Kong

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Thousands of Hong Kong protesters joined hands to form human chains on Friday in a peaceful protest, with almost three months of anti-government demonstrations showing no sign of let-up.

Demonstrators linked hands across districts as others held up banners thanking other nations for supporting "freedom and democracy" in Hong Kong. Their move echoed the protest on August 23, 1989, when about 2 million Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians joined arms across to protest against Soviet rule, in what became known as "Baltic Chain".

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12713



ACROSS

- 1 Ideas new to agnostic individuals at first (11)
- 8 A firm about to get membership (4)
- 9 Classify, say, as erotic/vulgar films (10)
- 10 Manage to live outside one's country (6)

- 11 Winter traveller goes around North America, more treacherous (7)
- 13 Chaos after female is sent out for tests initially – for a bruise (9)
- 15 Away from 4th after university is off (5)
- 16 Some bad donut with topping perhaps (3-2)
- 18 Young home supporter with a hat on (9)
- 22 Fancy car parked next to a building got ruined (7)
- 23 Crude line, say (6)
- 26 Inside a den hunter built (10)
- 27 John's close to becoming a crazy person (4)
- 28 Rare, invaluable and primarily unattainable (11)

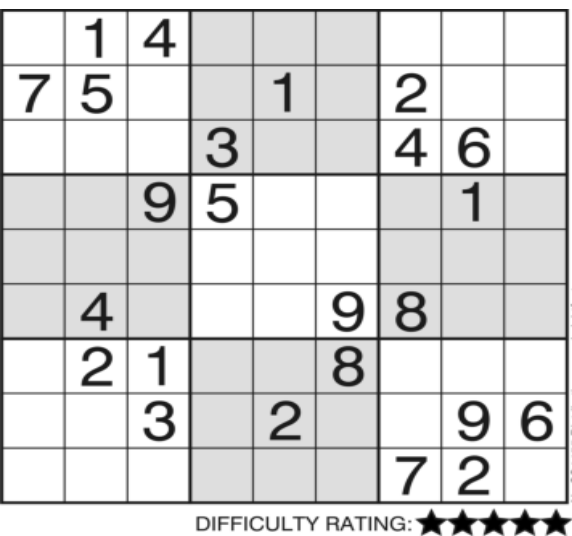
DOWN

- 1 Sad ending in one heroic farewell (7)
- 2 Had enough to survive and progressed (3,2)

(set by Vulcan)

- 3 Procedure to fix taps, we hear (7)
- 4 Kept a target protected for so long (2-2)
- 5 Groans, burning in stomach and bladder! (6)
- 6 Begin to erase (6,3)
- 7 Recognise one that's at the top and rising (6)
- 12 Certain limit (5)
- 14 Collection of paintings essentially by a French artist (9)
- 17 Love to be without love, basically that's bold (6)
- 19 A large firm with bottomless pocket to make beer! (7)
- 20 Student is certain to become graceful (7)
- 21 Hearing mostly affected, a condition (6)
- 24 Short excuse daughter inserted spontaneously (2-3)
- 25 A bit upset with the information (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12712

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Krishna Trishna

Sage Suka's narration of Krishna avatar in the Bhagavata Purana has captured the hearts of countless jivatmas and continues to inspire many to pursue the path of bhakti as a means to salvation. Bhakti is translated as Krishna Trishna in the one pointed yearning for Krishna that the Gopis evince. Uddhava who is himself a great Krishna devotee admits that the Gopis score far above him in their unalloyed and selfless love to Krishna, pointed out Sri Dushyanth Sridhar in a discourse. Uddhava even wishes that he should be born as a bower or creeper or blade of grass in Brindavan in the midst of the pada dhuli of the Gopis whose songs in praise of the Lord can purify the three worlds.

The Upanishads and Vedanta talk of many vidyas, upasanas, etc that can be learnt and practised to attain salvation which is after all the goal of human existence. Though many consciously strive to get out of samsara, the path is arduous and in the Gita it is shown that perhaps one among innumerable jivatmas in the course of countless births may get liberated. But the Gopis show that all the worldly attainments such as birth, status, scholarship, etc are of no consequence and ultimately it is the intense longing for union with Krishna who is the Supreme Being incarnate that matters. Love of God works itself in one's inner being and brings about spiritual realisation gradually.

A Gopi who is prevented from meeting Krishna begins meditating on Him with such intensity that she transcends her physical state to attain the Lord at that instant itself. It is no wonder that Azhswars never tire of speaking of the glories of Krishna avatar and the Lord's Saulabhya that endears Him to all. Savouring and reliving every moment of Krishna leela easily establishes an immediate link to the Paramatma.