

# Rifts emerge as G7 summit kicks off

U.S. President at odds with Western allies on issues ranging from his trade war with China to Iran

**REUTERS**  
**BIARRITZ**  
U.S. President Donald Trump insisted on Sunday that he was getting along well with leaders at a G7 summit in France, but rifts emerged with his Western allies on issues ranging from his trade war with China to Iran, North Korea and Russia.

The G7 gathering is taking place against a backdrop of worries about a global economic downturn and coincides with an era of international disunity across an array of matters.

“Before I arrived in France, the Fake and Distorting News was saying that relations with the 6 other countries in the G7 are very tense, and that the two days of meetings will be a disaster,” Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter shortly before meeting new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

“Well, we are having very good meetings, the Leaders are getting along very well, and our Country, economically, is doing great - the talk of the world!”

Tensions were quickly on show, however, as the first full day of talks between the



**Done deal:** Donald Trump greeting Japanese Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, while Japanese PM Shinzo Abe greets U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in Biarritz on Sunday. ■AP

leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States got underway in the Basque coast resort of Biarritz in southwest France.

### Trump’s call

Before leaving Washington, Mr. Trump stepped up his tariff war with Beijing in a battle between the world’s two largest economies that has spooked financial markets, and called on U.S. companies to move out of China.

Britain’s Johnson voiced concern on Saturday about creeping protectionism and said those who support tariffs “are at risk of incurring the blame for the downturn in the global economy.” Sitting across from Mr. Trump on Sunday, he said: “We’re in favour of trade peace on the whole, and dialling it down if we can.” Asked if he was being pressed by allies to relent in his standoff with China, Mr. Trump said: “I think they respect the trade war.”

Underlining the multilateral discord even before the summit got under way, Mr. Trump threatened the meeting’s host, saying Washington would tax French wine “like they’ve never seen before” unless Paris dropped a digital tax on U.S. technology companies.

European Council President Donald Tusk, who takes part in the G7 discussions, warned the EU would respond “in kind” if Mr. Trump acted on his threat.

### U.S. President dangles trade deal for Britain

**BIARRITZ**  
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday said he and U.S. President Donald Trump were “gung-ho” about a post-Brexit trade deal but cautioned that the United States would be a tough negotiator and that he would not rush talks. Mr. Trump promised a big trade deal for Britain after it leaves the European Union, which he said had been a drag on Britain’s ability to cut a good deal. **REUTERS**

### ‘Trump regrets not raising tariffs on China’

**BIARRITZ**  
When President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he had second thoughts about escalating the trade war with China, he meant that he wished he had raised tariffs on Beijing even higher, the White House said. “His answer has been greatly misinterpreted. President Trump responded in the affirmative - because he regrets not raising the tariffs higher,” White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement. **REUTERS**

# Modi, Johnson agree to step up bilateral cooperation

Meeting comes after India ended special status for J&K

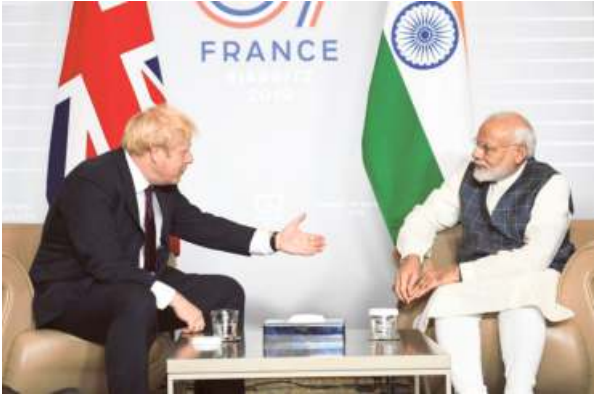
**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**BIARRITZ**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a “good” meeting with his British counterpart Boris Johnson here on Sunday and they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas like trade, investment, defence and education.

Mr. Modi met Mr. Johnson on the sidelines of the G7 summit. The Prime Minister arrived in Biarritz from Manama, the capital of Bahrain after concluding the first-ever prime ministerial visit to the Gulf nation.

“PM @narendramodi had a good meeting with UK PM @BorisJohnson on margins of #G7 summit. Discussions focused on strengthening our bilateral ties going forward, inter alia, in trade & investment, defence & security, S & T and education sectors,” Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Ravesh Kumar tweeted.

“PM Modi begins by congratulating PM Johnson on England’s spectacular win in the Third Test of the Ashes a short while ago,” the Prime



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G7 summit in Biarritz on Sunday. ■GETTY

Minister’s Office tweeted earlier.

This is the first meeting between the two leaders after Mr. Johnson became Prime Minister last month, the third in fairly quick succession since Britain voted to leave the EU in June 2016 - following on from David Cameron and Theresa May.

Their meeting came against the backdrop of the Indian government revoking the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories.

During a telephone call early this week, Mr. Johnson told Mr. Modi that Kashmir remains a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan as far as the UK’s view is concerned.

“The Prime Minister made clear that the UK views the issue of Kashmir as one for India and Pakistan to resolve bilaterally. He underlined the importance of resolving issues through dialogue,” a Downing Street spokesperson said in an official readout of the phone call on Tuesday.

## ELSEWHERE



### Huge Rohingya rally marks ‘Genocide Day’

**KUTUPALONG**  
Some 200,000 Rohingya rallied in a Bangladesh refugee camp on Sunday to mark two years since they fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar forces. Around 740,000 Rohingya from Myanmar’s Rakhine state escaped in August 2017 during the brutal offensive, joining another 200,000 who fled earlier persecution. **AFP**

### Iran lets women attend World Cup qualifier

**TEHRAN**  
Women fans will be allowed into the stadium for Iran’s next football World Cup qualifier in October, a sports ministry official said on Sunday, ahead of a deadline to allow their attendance. FIFA had cajoled Iran to ensure women are allowed to attend qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup or else face consequences. **AFP**

### Algerian minister resigns after deadly stampede

**ALGIERS**  
Algeria’s Culture Minister Meriem Merdaci resigned on Saturday, following the deaths of five young music fans in a stampede at a packed concert by rapper Soolking in the capital. Ms. Merdaci’s resignation comes after an investigation into the blaze. **AFP**

# Brazil’s army fights Amazon fires after more flare-ups

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft deployed to rein in the blaze

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
**PORTO VELHO (BRAZIL)**

Brazil on Sunday deployed two C-130 Hercules aircraft to douse fires devouring parts of the Amazon rainforest, as hundreds of new blazes were ignited ahead of nationwide protests over the destruction.

Heavy smoke covered the city of Porto Velho in the northwestern state of Rondonia where the defense ministry said the planes have started dumping thousands of liters of water, amid a global uproar over the worst fires in years.

Swathes of the remote region bordering Bolivia have been scorched by the blazes, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky and increasing air pollution across the world’s largest rainforest, which is seen as crucial to mitigating climate change.

Experts say increased land clearing during the months-long dry season to make way for crops or grazing has aggravated the problem this year.

“It gets worse every year - this year, the smoke has been really serious,” Deliana Amorim, 46, told AFP in Porto Velho, where half a million people live.

At least seven states, including Rondonia, have requested the army’s help in



Protesters calling for reining in the Amazon fires sitting outside the Brazilian Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus. ■AP

the Amazon, where more than 43,000 troops are based and available to combat fires, officials said.

Dozens of firefighters are en route to Porto Velho to help put out the blazes. Justice Minister Sergio Moro has also given the green light for the deployment of security forces to tackle illegal deforestation in the region.

### Trade deal

The fires threaten to torpedo a huge trade agreement between the European Union and South American countries, including Brazil, that took 20 years to negotiate.

EU Council president Donald Tusk told reporters at the G7 on Saturday that it was hard to imagine European countries ratifying a

trade pact with the Mercosur bloc as long as Brazil fails to curb the fires ravaging the Amazon.

Pope Francis on Sunday also voiced concern for the rainforest, which he described as a “vital” lung for the planet.

Under intensifying pressure, Bolsonaro on Friday vowed a “zero tolerance” approach to criminal activities in the Amazon and promised strong action to control the fires.

Days earlier, he had accused non-government organizations of igniting the blazes.

“There are forest fires all over the world, and this cannot be used as a pretext for possible international sanctions,” Bolsonaro said.

# Hong Kong police draw guns in latest protests

Water cannon trucks used on protesters in a first

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
**HONG KONG**

The Hong Kong police used water cannon for the first time and at least one officer fired his sidearm during pitched battles with protesters on Sunday, one of the most violent nights in the three months of pro-democracy rallies that have rocked the city.

An afternoon rally in the district of Tsuen Wan spiralled into violent confronta-



Protesters clash with police after an anti-government rally in Tsuen Wan district in Hong Kong on Sunday. ■GETTY IMAGES

tions between protesters and police, with officers caught outnumbered and isolated by masked youths

wielding sticks and throwing rocks.

In one instance, several police officers drew their si-

# Air strike in Syria a message to Iran: Israel

Netanyahu lashes out at ‘Iranian aggression’

**REUTERS**  
**JERUSALEM/DAMASCUS**

Israel said on Sunday an air strike against an arm of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards in Syria that it accused of planning “killer drone attacks” were to be seen as a “no immunity” message to Tehran.

A senior Revolutionary Guards commander denied that Iranian targets had been hit.

The Israeli military said its aircraft struck “Iranian Quds Force operatives and Shiite



Lebanese security personnel near the site where an Israeli drone crashed in Beirut, Lebanon, on Sunday. ■AP

militias which were preparing to advance attack plans targeting sites in Israel from within Syria over the last number of days”.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said

the military had thwarted the planned Iranian attack.

“Iran has no immunity anywhere. Our forces operate in every sector against Iranian aggression,” he said. Syrian state media said

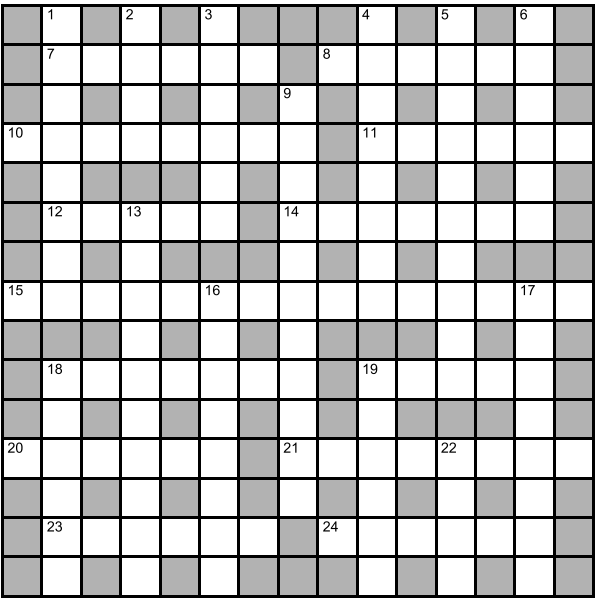
### Lebanese PM: Israeli drones can stir tensions

**JERUSALEM**  
Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said two Israeli drones which crashed in a Beirut suburb were designed to stir up regional tensions. “The new aggression...constitutes a threat to regional stability and an attempt to push the situation towards further tension,” Mr. Hariri’s office said in a statement. **REUTERS**

Syrian air defences intercepted “hostile targets” over Damascus on Saturday night.

Witnesses in Damascus said they heard and saw explosions in the sky.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12714



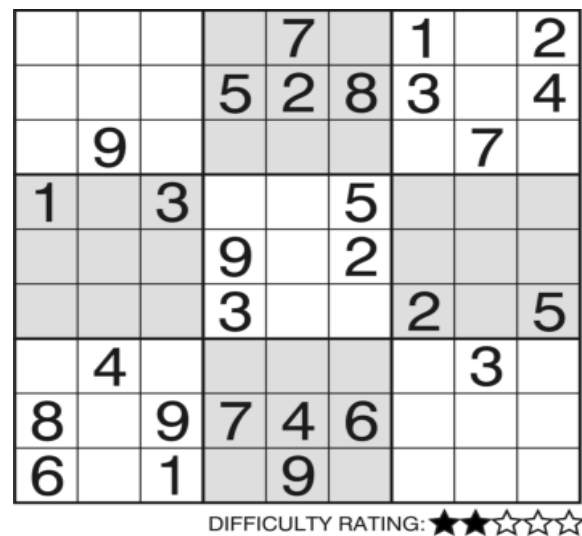
### ■ ACROSS

- 7 Invokes son to be the ultimate in corrupt (6)
- 8 With say spring break around, men getting tense I'll be bound (6)
- 10 First shot, a shot to ask: "Are you serious?" (2,4,2)
- 11 Embarrassed fellow backing one in agreement (6)

(set by xChequer)

- 12 Offer to hold exercise in Turkey for example (5)
- 14 Greeting liberal wanting to experiment with bondage (7)
- 15 Guilt that left alone disperses, be totally relaxed (3,2,3,4,3)
- 18 Soon connected with hundred people (7)
- 19 Fling with maiden backfiring over model's false notions (5)
- 20 Madame kept by politician showing attachment to the hilt (6)
- 21 Double faulted, preposterously as it happens, at the last moment before victory (4,4)
- 23 Uniform parts from genuine, certified agent (6)
- 24 Comment on target (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Quite likely charges dropped, the Holy Book saving bishop (8)
- 2 Luxurious sponge (4)
- 3 G5 lot possibly dash off and touch down (6)
- 4 Guide reversing world body's order round a volcano (5,3)
- 5 Stays put, this gold rush displaying high tension (5,5)
- 6 Hard stone gets slippery (6)
- 9 Perfectly formed teeth rot without check (2,3,6)
- 13 Attendant engaged to help at home endlessly saluted (4,6)
- 16 Manual British Telecom distributed for mobile (8)
- 17 Move away from bears trailing ahead (2,6)
- 18 Pressed journalist to support club (6)
- 19 First people to secure help (6)
- 22 Split up for ambush (4)

## SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12713								
C	O	G	I	T	A	T	I	O
H	O	A	A	R	T	A		
S	E	A	T	C	A	T	E	G
E	O	E	T	A	A	I	C	
B	R	U	N	E	I	S	N	A
I	C	B	S	E	N			
C	O	N	T	U	S	I	O	N
A	D	D	I	N	U			
A	U	H	D	I				
C	R	A	S	H	E	D		
I	S	R	E	D	O			
U	N	D	E	A	T			
G	A	I	T	O				
U	N	A	V	A	I			

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

## FAITH

### Sadana and Sadhya bhakti

Sadana bhakti is trying to cultivate love and devotion to God through devotional practices of worship, such as sravana, kirtana, archana, Pada sevana, atma nivedana, etc. It should lead to Sadhya bhakti, the highest form, when devotion to the Lord becomes an end in itself. But at times the motive of sadana or austere disciplines gets deflected into self seeking goals as in the case of Hiranyaksha or Ravana.

It is also possible to have the Lord’s darshan through rigorous sadana, but merely seeing God without devotional fervour is not the goal. It is how one sees God that matters. To the devout who seek Him with selflessness He reveals His true nature and rewards them with the highest goal enlightenment, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse. Parikshit says he is able to experience the very God in Suka’s narration. The way Tara sees Rama is not the same as how He is perceived by Vali or Sugriva. Though grief stricken at Vali’s death, it is a moment of realisation for Tara when in her inner being she experiences the very essence of the Supreme Lord behind the human form of Rama. In her spontaneous address, Rama is the ‘Aprameya,’ one who is immeasurable in point of time, space and substance. He is the one who is difficult to approach even for yogis. He is a Jitendriya, a master over senses, is the embodiment of the highest virtues ever, enjoys undying fame, and is endowed with the extraordinary forbearance on a par with the earth. When the Lord incarnates and takes a human form, not all are able to recognise His Paratva. Bhishma and Kunti realise that Krishna is the Absolute Lord while some others disrespect and dishonour Him. Kamsa is determined to kill Krishna and Duryodhana sees Him as a mere coward boy and also as one who easily deceives people with magic.