



Be careful, Netanyahu tells Hezbollah, Lebanon
JERUSALEM
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday warned Lebanon, Hezbollah's chief and the head of Iran's elite Quds Force to "be careful" with their words and actions. "...the state of Israel knows how to defend itself well, and to repay its enemies," he said. **AFP**

Beijing confirms arrest of Australian for spying
BEIJING
An Australian academic has been arrested in China for spying, Beijing said on Tuesday, prompting Canberra to demand that the country uphold "basic standards" of justice. Yang Jun, who also goes by his pen name Yang Hengjun, was detained in January. Beijing said he was formally arrested last Friday and that the case was being "further processed." **AFP**

Sri Lankan Islamic clerics seek clarity on veil ban
COLOMBO
Islamic clerics in Sri Lanka asked Muslim women on Tuesday to continue to avoid wearing face veils until the government clarifies whether they are once again allowed now that emergency rule has ended four months after blasts rocked the nation. **AP**

U.K. Oppn. agrees on plan to prevent no-deal Brexit
LONDON
Opposition parties in the U.K. on Tuesday agreed to work together to pass a law to ensure that Prime Minister Boris Johnson does not pull the country out of the EU without an agreement in place. "We are going to come together and do the right thing by our country," said Anna Soubry, leader of The Independent Group for Change party.

Communist Party mobilises against Hong Kong protests

Pro-China groups organise counter-campaigns in city with 'stop violence' slogan

ANDREW HIGGINS
HONG KONG
Across the border from Hong Kong, the Chinese Communist Party screams its presence with banners and slogans on nearly every street. Yet in the former British colony, where China's ruling party confronts what it calls a "life and death" struggle against a turbulent protest movement, it is invisible: it is not registered and has no publicly declared local members.

But in Hong Kong, this officially non-existent organisation is in the vanguard of defending Chinese rule in the face of its biggest public resistance since Xi Jinping came to power in 2012. The party, operating in the shadows through individuals and organisations, is driving an increasingly firm push-back against the anti-government protests, now in their 13th week.

Parroting slogans scripted by the Communist Party on the mainland, activists in a host of local pro-China organisations have mobilised to discredit the protesters as violent hooligans bent on wrecking the city. It is a message supported by the party's main proxy in the territory, the Central Liaison Office in Hong Kong, which formally represents the Chinese government.

Representatives of 15 pro-Beijing business groups and associations linked to Chinese provinces gathered recently in a Hong Kong office block to take turns reciting pledges of support for China. They then stood together, pumping their fists and chanting in unison: "Stop the violence, end the turmoil."



Sea of supporters: A file photo of a rally in support of the police and the government in Hong Kong. **•NVT**

The event was organised by the Fujian Hometown Association, which represents immigrants to Hong Kong from Fujian, an eastern Chinese province, and their descendants.

The association has no formal links to the Communist Party, which in Hong Kong has operated covertly since it put down roots with just seven members nearly a century ago, under British rule. Colonial authorities outlawed the party, which took power in Beijing in 1949, but tolerated its existence, so long as it stayed out of sight.

By the time China took back the city in 1997, the underground party apparatus had grown to include thousands of members and many thousands of supporters outside its formal ranks. Mobilisation efforts have increased since, reaching a fever pitch in recent days as groups like the Fujian association have plunged into politics.

Two systems
That the party itself has stayed in the background reflects China's effort to resolve a fundamental question at the heart of "one country, two systems", the formula under which Hong

Kong returned to Chinese rule: how does a highly authoritarian one-party state assert its influence in a politically diverse, free-wheeling city without making it "one country, one system"?

The party's answer has been to operate out of the Central Liaison Office. Its director, Wang Zhimin, and his deputy are both former party officials in Fujian.

The office's most important duties include supervising a covert network of party members and coordinating the activities of groups involved in what the party calls the United Front. The Front effort in Hong Kong began during China's civil war in the 1930s, with the aim of attracting as many Hong Kongers as possible to the party's camp.

The Fujian association's chairman, businessman Chau On Ta Yuen, 60, denied being a member of Hong Kong's underground Communist Party.

All the same, Mr. Chau said: "Of course, I love the Communist Party. It has done so many good things." Particularly good, he said, is the latitude it has given Hong Kong to make money. Without stability, "there is no way to do business." **NYTIMES**

Brazil open to G7 Amazon aid if Macron 'withdraws insults'

President Jair Bolsonaro wavers on \$20 mn offer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PORTO VELHO
Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro said Tuesday he was open to discussing G7 aid for fighting fires in the Amazon if his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron "withdraws insults" made against him.

Mr. Bolsonaro's remarks come amid an escalating war of words with Mr. Macron over the worst fires in years that have sparked a global outcry and threatened to torpedo a huge trade deal between the European Union and South American countries.

Hours earlier, a top Brazilian official had rejected the G7 countries' offer of \$20 million to combat the fires devastating the forest in Brazil and Bolivia, saying Mr. Macron should take care of "his home and his colonies."

"Mr. Macron must withdraw the insults he made against me," Mr. Bolsonaro told reporters in the capital



Charred remains: A view of a burnt area of the Amazon rainforest near Porto Velho on August 26. **•AFP**

Brasilia. "To talk or accept anything from France, with the best possible intentions, he has to withdraw these words, and from there we can talk."

Mr. Macron and Mr. Bolsonaro have repeatedly locked horns in the past week, with the French leader accusing Mr. Bolsonaro of lying to him about his commitments on climate change and vowing to block the EU-Mercosur trade deal involving Brazil that took decades to negotiate.

The latest official figures show 1,659 new fires started in Brazil between Sunday and Monday, taking the total this year to 82,285 – the

highest since at least 2013 – even as military aircraft and troops help battle the blazes. More than half of the fires are in the massive Amazon basin.

Trump backs Bolsonaro
U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday endorsed Mr. Bolsonaro's response to the fires and pledged "full and complete" U.S. support.

Mr. Bolsonaro "is working very hard on the fires and in all respects doing a great job for the people of Brazil - Not easy," Mr. Trump tweeted. "He and his country have the full and complete support of the USA!"

J&J ordered to pay \$572 million for opioid addiction crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON
An Oklahoma judge on Monday ordered U.S. healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson to pay \$572 million in damages for its role in fostering the State's opioid addiction crisis.

In the first civil trial of a drugmaker over an epidemic that has caused hundreds of thousands of overdose deaths, judge Thad Balkman

said prosecutors had demonstrated that J&J contributed to a "public nuisance" in its deceptive promotion of highly addictive prescription painkillers. "Those actions compromised the health and safety of thousands," he said.

The company and its Janssen pharmaceuticals division will fund an "abatement plan" for care for addicts, families and communities rav-

aged by the crisis. J&J is the first pharmaceutical company tried over the opioid crisis, which fueled over 70,000 overdose deaths in 2017 alone.

There are some 2,000 outstanding lawsuits against many drugmakers and distributors filed by state and local governments, many overwhelmed by the costs of an epidemic that has only slightly abated.

No talks with Trump until Iran sanctions are lifted: Rouhani

'Key for positive change in hands of Washington'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN
President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday told the United States to "take the first step" by lifting all sanctions against Iran, dampening the likelihood of meeting his U.S. counterpart President Donald Trump.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the prospects for such a meeting were "unimaginable" even if the U.S. rejoins a landmark nuclear deal with Iran.

Mr. Trump had said, less than 24 hours earlier, that he was ready to meet with Mr. Rouhani within weeks, in a



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

potential breakthrough reached during a G7 summit in the French seaside resort of Biarritz.

Iran's economy has been battered by U.S. sanctions imposed since Mr. Trump in May last year unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal between the Is-

lamic republic and world powers.

"You must retreat from all illegal, unjust and wrong sanctions against the nation of Iran," Mr. Rouhani said.

"The key for positive change is in the hands of Washington," he said, because Iran had already ruled out ever doing what worries the U.S. the most – building an atomic bomb.

"This concern has already been removed" through a fatwa issued in 2003 by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, he added.

"We don't (intend to) make an atomic bomb... our military doctrine is based on conventional arms," said Mr. Rouhani. "So take the first step. Without this step, this lock will not be unlocked."

Nepal asked to pay up in child labour case

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

A UN committee has ordered Nepal to compensate a man blocked from seeking justice after suffering years of forced labour, as well as alleged torture in custody as a child.

In a decision published on Tuesday, the UN Human Rights Committee also called on Nepal to remove all remaining obstacles hindering victims of forced labour and torture from filing complaints.

The ruling came in response to a case brought by a Nepali man, using the pseudonym Bholi Pharakha, who from the age of nine had worked as a domestic worker in Kathmandu.

Farmers losing patience with U.S. President

Trade war with China is taking a toll on exports

ALAN RAPPEPORT
WASHINGTON
Peppered with complaints from farmers fed up with President Donald Trump's trade war, Sonny Perdue found his patience wearing thin.

Mr. Perdue, the Agriculture Secretary and the guest of honour at the annual Farmfest gathering in southern Minnesota this month, tried to break the ice with a joke. "What do you call two farmers in a basement?" Mr. Perdue asked near the end of a tatty hour-long town-hall-style event. "A whine cellar." A cascade of boos ricocheted around the room. American farmers have become collateral damage in a trade war



Donald Trump

that Mr. Trump began to help manufacturers and other companies he believes have been hurt by China's "unfair" trade practices.

More than a year into the trade dispute, sales of American soybeans, pork, wheat and other agricultural products to China have dried up as Beijing retaliates against Mr. Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports. Lucrative contracts that farmers long re-

lied on for a significant source of income have evaporated. Farm bankruptcy filings in the year through June were up 13% from 2018.

Political problem
The predicament of farmers is becoming a political problem for Mr. Trump as he heads into an election year. While there are few signs of an imminent blue wave in farm country, a growing number of farmers say they are losing patience with the President's approach.

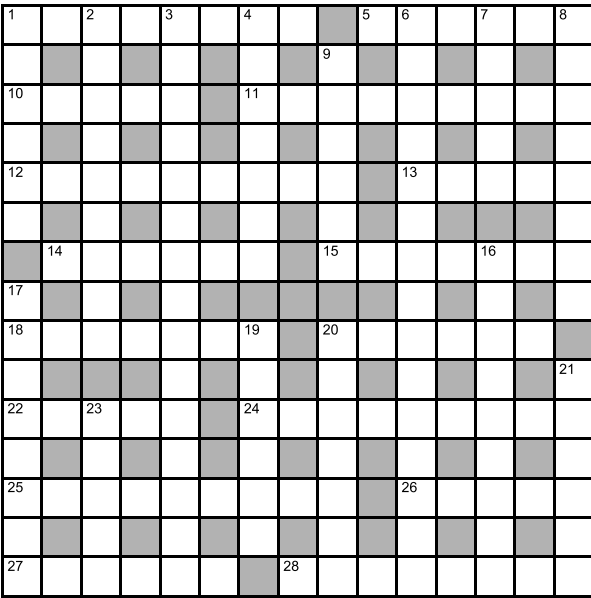
Mr. Trump, who regularly brags about an economic boom, has in some cases made matters worse. He recently dismissed sales of American wheat, suggesting that Japan was buying it only as a favour to the U.S. And his frequent tweets insisting that "farmers are starting to do great again" have rubbed

some agriculture groups the wrong way.

"We're not starting to do great again," Brian Thalmann, president of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, told Mr. Perdue at the event. "Things are going downhill and downhill." The administration has tried to mollify farmers by rolling out two financial aid packages totalling \$28 billion.

But as the trade fight gets uglier, farmers are beginning to panic. Last week, Mr. Trump said he would increase tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports to 30% and impose a 15% tax on another \$300 billion worth later this year. China has already said it will no longer buy American agricultural products and announced on Friday that it would raise tariffs on \$75 billion of exports from the U.S. **NYTIMES**

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12716



■ ACROSS

- 1 Makes a whistling sound to attract female aboard steamer (8)
- 5 Intimidated by a fellow with rifle (6)
- 10 Plan journey to cover historical French province (5)
- 11 Malfunction resulting from energy commission accepting faulty way (2,7)

- 12 Performer exposed chasing female? Exclude from consideration (6,3)
- 13 Enemy capturing Nazi corps in ditch (5)
- 14 Opening bowler trapping Kohli at last abuses heartily (6)
- 15 The rogue interrupting head is a source of annoyance (3,4)
- 18 Allege darling's concealing a little romp and break off (7)
- 20 Liaisons with president in fancy suite (3-3)
- 22 Relationship with a model in South American city (5)
- 24 What a trekker might do to get lost? (4,1,4)
- 25 Hunts and burns one escaping around tunnel (9)
- 26 Caution socialist about welcoming alien (5)
- 27 Scenes featuring hot actresses essentially in films (6)
- 28 Foul demand to conceal heartless crime (8)

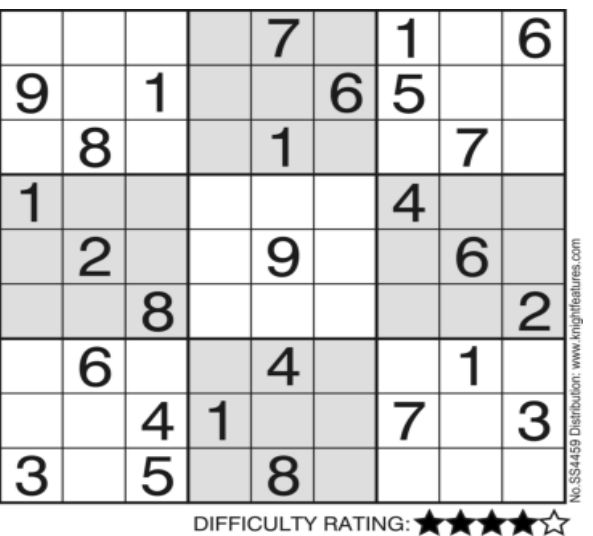
■ DOWN

- 1 Strong fellow in store knocks out hard crooks (6)

(set by Dr. X)

- 2 Poor job by England, conceding a vital goal (9)
- 3 Mexico's borders walled by Trump – he's often terribly impulsive (4-2-3-6)
- 4 Ghostly snores around middle of night capture attention (7)
- 6 What a witch might do to become very angry? (3,3,3,6)
- 7 Also called a retired captain (5)
- 8 Became worse in fact after consuming ecstasy near stall (8)
- 9 Keep mum in shack enthralled by drink (4,2)
- 16 One chosen for job, primate secures position close to Pope (9)
- 17 Warns father about to force son (8)
- 19 Spot a girl beginning to experience decline of mental faculties (6)
- 20 Fools losing dollar in bet misbehave (5,2)
- 21 Live alongside one gutter in Mediterranean city (6)
- 23 Time to soothe kid (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12715								
V	L	B	R	H	F	I		
I	B	I	D	E	M	S	I	M
R	D	F	T	G	U	F		
S	T	R	O	B	I	L	I	T
U	A	T	C	R	T	O		
O	A	T	H	S	K	N	O	W
S	R	R	T	A	W			
G	A	M	E	S	E	T	A	N
P	A	D	O	C	K	S	A	L
E	W	N	T	E	R	T	I	U
S	P	R	A	N	G	O	V	E
P	T	A	E	M	O	N		
E	V	E	N	T	S			
R	R	E						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
1	8	9	6	7	2	5	4	3
4	6	7	5	3	9	2	1	8
2	5	3	4	8	1	7	9	6
7	9	1	8	2	6	3	5	4
3	2	8	1	5	4	9	6	7
6	4	5	3	9	7	8	2	1
9	7	6	2	4	8	1	3	5
5	1	2	7	6	3	4	8	9
8	3	4	9	1	5	6	7	2

FAITH

The three gunas

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna about the three qualities – sattva, rajasa and tamasa. Sometimes it happens that sattva is the dominant quality in a person. In such a case, rajasa and tamasa are suppressed. The same can happen in the case of the other two qualities. And so, if rajasa dominates, then sattva and tamasa remain subdued. If tamasa dominates, then sattva and rajasa are subdued.

All three qualities are present in prakriti. A jivatma experiences sorrow, joy etc, because of its association with prakriti. Whether a person has sattva as the dominant quality, or one of the other two as the dominant quality depends on his karma, and also the food he consumes. We can come to a conclusion about what guna is foremost in a person by observing his behaviour, explained Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse.

When a person's jnanendriyas reflect pure, unconfused knowledge, then we can conclude that in the case of that person, sattva predominates. A person in whom rajasa dominates, exhibits certain characteristics. He is unwilling to spend his money. He will not give even to a deserving man, even though he has the means to give. He indulges in aimless activities. He does things with a view to reaping rewards in future in this life and in the next life too. He is restless. The man with rajasa also exhibits sprha – a desire for sense objects. As for the person with tamasa predominating, he lacks knowledge. Excess sleep being a characteristic of a person with tamasa, how can he be expected to devote time to learning? He is lazy, and lacks concentration. He cannot distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong. What a person will experience in his next birth is determined by which quality is foremost in him at the time of his death.