

War

by other means

U.S. President Donald Trump has escalated the trade war with China, announcing that he would bring essentially all Chinese imports under tariffs


HERE ARE SOME KEY DATES IN THE 16-MONTH-LONG TRADE BATTLE

- March 8, 2018:** President Donald Trump announces 25% tariffs on steel imports and 10% on aluminium from a number of countries in a bid to slash the huge U.S. trade deficit
The deficit reached \$566 billion in 2017, of which \$375 billion was with China, the world's biggest producer of steel and aluminium
- March 22:** Beijing responds with a list of 128 U.S. products on which it says it will impose customs duties of 15-25%
- May 19:** The two countries announce a draft deal under which Beijing agrees to reduce its trade surplus "significantly"

- July 6:** The U.S., nonetheless slaps 25% duties on about \$34 billion of Chinese imports, including cars, hard disks and aircraft parts
Beijing in turn imposes tariffs of equal size and scope, including on farm produce, cars and marine products
- August 23:** Washington imposes tariffs on another \$16 billion of Chinese goods
China applies 25% tariffs on \$16 billion of U.S. goods, including Harley-Davidson motorcycles
- September 24:** Washington slaps 10% taxes on \$200 billion of Chinese imports
Beijing puts customs duties on \$60 billion of U.S. goods
- December 1:** U.S. suspends for three months a tariff increase from 10 to 25% due to begin January 1 on \$200 billion of Chinese goods
China agrees to purchase a "very substantial" amount of U.S. products and also suspends extra tariffs added

Total U.S.-China trade in 2018

U.S. exports	Imports
\$179.3 bn	\$557.9 bn
Trade deficit \$378.6 bn	



to U.S.-made cars and auto parts for three months starting January 1

- May 10, 2019:** U.S. pulls the plug on the truce, increasing punitive duties to 25% on \$200 billion in Chinese imports
- May 15:** Trump signs an order barring U.S. companies from using foreign telecoms equipment deemed a security risk — a move aimed at Chinese giant Huawei
The U.S. Commerce Department also announces an effective ban on U.S. companies selling or transferring U.S. technology to Huawei
- May 20:** The U.S. issues a 90-day reprieve on the ban

Chinese goods already under extra tariff
\$200-250 bn
25% tariff

More tariffs
10%, starting September 1 on Chinese goods worth **\$300 bn**

The new tariffs would affect

- \$45 bn** in cellphones
- \$39 bn** in laptops and tablets
- \$5.4 bn** in videogame consoles

SOURCE: USTR, AFP AND CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Saudi women allowed to travel independently

King amends guardianship policy

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

Saudi Arabia on Friday published new laws that loosen restrictions on women by allowing all citizens, women and men alike, to apply for a passport and travel freely, ending a long-standing guardianship policy that had controlled women's freedom of movement.

The development is a potential game-changer for Saudi women's rights.

The kingdom's legal system has long been criticised because it treated adult women as minors and required them to get a man's consent to obtain a passport or travel abroad. Often a woman's male guardian is her father or husband, and in some cases a woman's son.


The changes were widely celebrated by Saudis on Twitter, with many posting memes showing people dashing to the airport with luggage and others hailing the 33-year-old Crown Prince believed to be the force behind these moves. But the changes also drew backlash from conservatives, who posted clips of senior Saudi clerics in past years arguing in favour of guardianship laws.

Other reform measures

Other changes issued in the decrees allow women to register a marriage, divorce or a child's birth, and obtain official family documents, which could ease hurdles women faced in obtaining a national identity card and enrolling their children in school.

Women are now also allowed to be legal guardians of their children, a right previously held only by men.

Still in place, however, are rules that require male consent for a woman to leave prison, exit a domestic



Women over the age of 21 can travel abroad without prior consent. ■ REUTERS

abuse shelter or marry. Women, unlike men, still cannot pass on citizenship to their children and cannot provide consent for their children to marry.

Rights over children

Under the Kingdom's guardianship system, women essentially relied on the "good will" and whims of male relatives to determine the course of their lives. There were cases, for example, of young Saudi women whose parents are divorced, but whose father is the legal guardian, being unable to accept scholarships to study abroad because they did not have permission to travel.

Amnesty International said Friday a lot remains to be done for women's rights in Saudi Arabia but that the new laws could ease the guardianship system. Guardianship laws have "been a stifling system in the daily lives of women in Saudi Arabia," said Lynn Malouf, West Asia's research director at Amnesty.

The new rules, approved by King Salman and his Cabinet, allow any person 21 and older to travel abroad without prior consent and any citizen to apply for a Saudi passport on their own.

It wasn't immediately clear if the new rules go into effect immediately.

China threatens to retaliate against Trump tariffs

U.S. to impose 10% tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese imports from Sept. 1; Beijing says it won't give an inch under pressure

REUTERS
BEIJING/WASHINGTON

China on Friday said it would not be blackmailed and warned of retaliation after U.S. President Donald Trump vowed to slap a 10% tariff on \$300 billion of Chinese imports from next month, sharply escalating a trade row between the world's biggest economies.

Mr. Trump stunned financial markets on Thursday by saying he plans to levy the additional duties from September 1, marking an abrupt end to a truce in a year-long trade war that has slowed global growth and disrupted supply chains.

Beijing would not give an

inch under pressure from Washington, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said.

"If America does pass these tariffs then China will have to take the necessary countermeasures to protect the country's core and fundamental interests," Ms. Hua told a news briefing in Beijing.

"We won't accept any maximum pressure, intimidation or blackmail. On the major issues of principle, we won't give an inch," she said, adding that China hoped the U.S. would "give up its illusions" and return to negotiations based on mutual respect and equality.



High-stakes: People checking products at a discount store in Beijing on Friday. ■ AP

The President later said if trade discussions failed to progress he could raise tariffs further — even beyond the 25% levy he has already imposed on \$250 billion of

imports from China.

Senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi told reporters on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Nations event in Thailand that additional tariffs were "definitely not a constructive way to resolve economic and trade frictions".

Bad behaviour

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was also in Bangkok, decried "decades of bad behaviour" by China on trade and said Mr. Trump had the determination to fix it.

One Chinese official told Reuters it was not the first time Mr. Trump had "flip-flopped", and that though the time between the talks being declared constructive and Mr. Trump's threat of new tariffs was short, officials in Beijing were already

prepared. "Discussion followed by a fight has become the normal pattern," the official said.

Possible retaliatory measures by China could include tariffs, a ban on the export of rare earths that are used in everything from military equipment to consumer electronics, and penalties against U.S. companies in China, analysts say.

So far, Beijing has refrained from slapping tariffs on U.S. crude oil and big aircraft, after cumulatively imposing additional retaliatory tariffs of up to 25% on about \$110 billion of U.S. goods since the trade war broke out last year.

ELSEWHERE



Biden 'surprised' at Obama swipes in debate

WASHINGTON

Democratic front runner Joe Biden has said he was "surprised" at the intensity of criticism levelled at his former boss Barack Obama, saying the popular ex-President has nothing to apologise for. ■ AFP

19 killed in al-Qaeda attack in Yemen

DUBAI

Militant group al-Qaeda attacked an Army camp in Yemen on Friday, killing at least 19 soldiers. The militants briefly took control of the camp in Al Mahfad village before it was retaken by Yemeni forces. ■ AFP

U.S. to pull out troops if Taliban renounces al-Qaeda: report

Eighth round of peace talks are expected to begin in Doha

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A proposed peace deal would see the U.S. withdraw thousands of troops from Afghanistan in exchange for promises from the Taliban that it would renounce al-Qaeda, U.S. media reported on Thursday.

The U.S. and the Taliban are soon expected to begin their eighth round of talks in Doha to reach a deal that would end the U.S.'s 18-year involvement in Afghanistan.

The Washington Post reported that an initial deal would see U.S. troop numbers in the country fall to as low as 8,000 from their current level of around 14,000.

In exchange, the Taliban would abide by a ceasefire and renounce al-Qaeda, whose 9/11 attacks on the U.S. spurred the invasion that ousted the Taliban from power in Afghanistan in 2001, the Post reported, cit-



If a deal comes through, U.S. may reduce troop numbers to as low as 8,000. ■ AFP

ing U.S. officials.

"I would say that they are 80 or 90% of the way there," one official told the paper. "But there is still a long way to go on that last 10 or 20%."

The proposed agreement would also require the Taliban to broker a separate deal with the Afghan government, Fox News reported.

However, an Afghan official last week hinted that the government was preparing for direct talks with the Taliban.

The U.S. has said it wants to see a deal inked by September 1, but any deal requires the Taliban to talk to Kabul.

Kim won't let me down, says Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday underlined his personal support for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, even if he admitted that Pyongyang's recent missile tests "may" violate a UN resolution.

"There may be a UN violation, but Chairman Kim does not want to disappoint me with a violation of trust, there is far too much for North Korea to gain," Mr. Trump said in a series of tweets on the subject.

"Chairman Kim has a great and beautiful vision for his country, and only the U.S., with me as President, can make that vision come true," he added.

U.S. formally withdraws from INF arms treaty

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

The U.S. and Russia terminated a Cold War-era missile pact on Friday in a move that raised the spectre of an arms race between the global superpowers.

The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty limited the use of medium-range missiles, both conventional and nuclear.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced U.S. withdrawal in a statement at the ASEAN meet in Bangkok, minutes after Russia pronounced the treaty to be "dead".

Both sides had signalled their intention to pull out of the treaty for months, trading accusations of breaking the terms of the deal.

Shortly before Mr. Pompeo's announcement, Russia's Foreign Ministry said the deal had been terminated "at the initiative of the U.S."

The Pentagon has said that the U.S. will now accelerate development of new cruise and ballistic missile.



Mike Pompeo

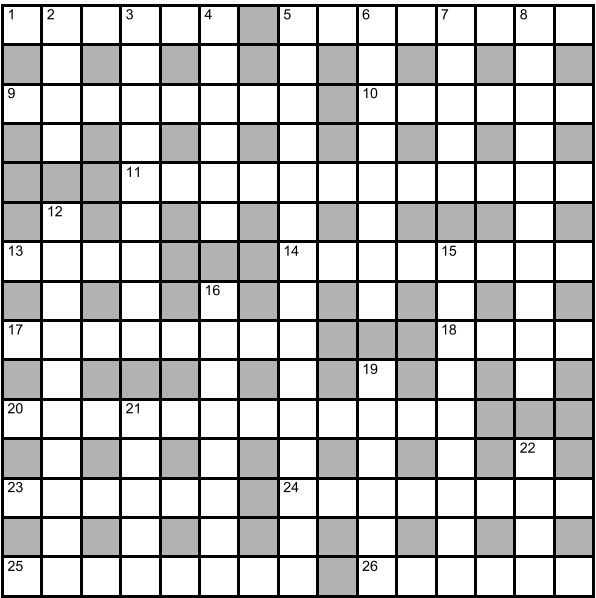
Boris suffers first electoral setback as PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LLANELWEDD

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's governing Conservative Party lost a special election on Friday, leaving it with a one-vote working majority in Parliament as Brexit looms.

In the Conservatives' first electoral test since Mr. Johnson became PM, the party was defeated for the seat of Brecon and Radnorshire in Wales by Jane Dodds of the opposition Liberal Democrats. Mr. Dodds won 43% of the vote, while Conservative Chris Davies, who was fighting to retain the seat after being convicted and fined for expenses fraud, got 39%.

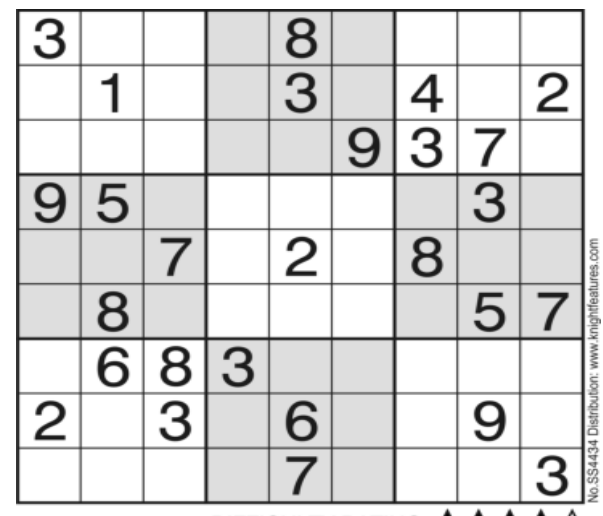
THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12695



- **ACROSS**
- Uncovered formula for synthetic gold leaf (6)
 - Brass, though rejected, has value (8)
 - Team of construction workers in Chicago called about a dog in trouble (4,4)
 - Nothing was first refused (6)
 - Square, say, two plus three hundred and eight, initially,

- (set by Avtaar)
- and then add twenty (4,3,5)
- Rose oil of the Turks and Omanis, originally (4)
 - Veterans not starting to show affection (3,5)
 - Stay after lunchtime, say, chewing a bite of paan (8)
 - Bank lingo (4)
 - Imperial dictator poisoned Asuras with a drop of lime juice (6,6)
 - Concern about a fellow cutting a tree (6)
 - Back off, look to the left and drive around villa's rear (4,4)
 - Reserve rickety UFO ride before starting for roller-coaster (8)
 - Transport van's boot is from a Pacific island (6)
- **DOWN**
- Coach distributes drink for revelry (4)
 - Edmond freaks (3,3,3)
 - Practices what takes place on 07/04? (6)
 - One who has perfect work-life balance? (9,6)
 - One always takes away from these exceptional restaurants — salami, ham, tiramisu, wine, mutton and chicken legs (8)
 - Antique bar demolished in Germany, perhaps? (5)
 - Explosive clothes — cool and wild — for Louis XI, say (3,7)
 - Reform of drop-outs is strongly defended (5,2,3)
 - Get to know a tempestuous cine star (9)
 - Husband's trick shot to start a game (8)
 - Condition, in short, to get into Australian team's first side (6)
 - One Arab volunteer is killed, backing a resident of a Middle Eastern country (5)
 - A perfectly turned out savoury in Barcelona (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12694

F	C	S	I	P	E	S
S	A	G	A	B	S	
T	T	N	L	I	H	M
T	H	W	A	R	E	G
E	L	A	C	C	S	
T	R	A	C	O	F	F
L	S	L	R	X	O	
G	I	L	T	A	R	E
B	E	A	R	M	A	C
B	E	A	R	M	A	C
B	E	A	R	M	A	C
B	E	A	R	M	A	C
B	E	A	R	M	A	C
B	E	A	R	M	A	C
B	E	A	R	M	A	C
B	E	A	R	M	A	C

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Servant and master

Jadabharata was silent and uncaring about worldly matters. One day, King Rahogana was on his way to meet Sage Kapila. There were not enough men to carry his palanquin. Jadabharata happened to be there at the time, and so the king's men asked him to carry the palanquin. Jadabharata did as told, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. But Jadabharata did not walk in sync with the other palanquin bearers, because he was watching his step and walking in such a way that he did not step on any ants. The king asked the palanquin bearers what the problem was, and they pointed to Jadabharata not walking at the same pace as the others. The angry king then addressed Jadabharata sarcastically: "You poor man. You have single-handedly been carrying this palanquin. You are the only one who has been thus burdened. My men have been having a good time." Jadabharata ignored the King's taunts and the journey continued. But Jadabharata continued to walk the same way, and the king said, "You are alive, but look like a dead man. You dare to defy a king. I am going to punish you."

Jadabharata replied, "Oh, king, who says I am supporting anything? If I am said to be a man of more than average weight, then again that description fits the body. What does it have to do with the atma? Stoutness, leanness, mental worries, thirst, hunger, fear, lust, old age, anger, arrogance — these apply to the body. I remain unaffected by them. Master and dasa — this relationship is there only between Paramatma and Jivatma. Today you are a king, if I were to become king, then the master and servant relationship will get reversed. So, I am not your servant and you are not my master. How can your punishment hurt me?"

The king, realising Jadabharata was a jnani, fell at his feet.