

# Queen green lights law to delay Brexit

PM needs to postpone it to 2020 unless he gets a deal; Parliament also likely to reject his snap poll plans

REUTERS LONDON

A Bill demanding that Prime Minister Boris Johnson delay Britain's withdrawal from the European Union on October 31 if he cannot get a divorce deal became law on Monday but his office insisted that Brexit would happen by that date, "no ifs and buts".



Tough talks: Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, left, with his British counterpart Boris Johnson in Dublin on Monday.

Parliament was also likely to reject Mr. Johnson's call on Monday for a snap general election, which he is seeking in order to break a deadlock over Brexit that has intensified since he took office in July pledging to get on with the departure. "The Prime Minister is very clear that he will take this country out of the EU on October 31st no ifs or buts, he will not sanction any more pointless delays," Mr. Johnson's office said after the Bill became law. Mr. Johnson was due to

suspend Parliament for over a month from Monday after it votes on his latest demand for a snap election. He had set up the suspension - called a prorogation - last month in what opponents cast as an attempt to sideline lawmakers over Brexit. The departure from the EU, the United Kingdom's most significant geopolitical move in decades, remains in question more than three years since the 2016 referendum.

It was unclear what Mr. Johnson's next move would be: while the law will oblige him to seek a delay unless he can strike a new deal, EU leaders have repeatedly said they have received no specific proposals. "I'm absolutely undaunted by whatever may take place in Parliament," Mr. Johnson said in Dublin. "We must get Brexit done because the U.K. must come out on October 31, or else I fear that permanent damage will be done to confidence in our democracy in the U.K.," Mr. Johnson said. House of Commons Speaker John Bercow, who played a key role in the Brexit crisis, took a veiled swipe at Mr. Johnson as he announced on Monday he

would stand down from the role. Ireland told Mr. Johnson on Monday that he must make specific proposals on the future of the Irish border if there is to be any hope of averting a no-deal Brexit, saying Dublin cannot rely on simple promises.

"In the absence of agreed alternative arrangements, no backstop is no deal for us," Mr. Varadkar told reporters. "We are open to alternatives, but they must be realistic ones, legally binding and workable and we haven't received such proposals to date."

### Irish border

The blunt remarks by Mr. Varadkar indicate the difficulty of Mr. Johnson's gamble of using the threat of a no-deal exit to convince Germany and France that they must rewrite an exit agreement struck last November.

# U.K. Parliament speaker to step down

John Bercow had branded suspension of the House by PM a 'constitutional outrage'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

John Bercow, the speaker of Britain's House of Commons, announced on Monday that he would step down within weeks. The man at the centre of more than three years of fiery Brexit debates in Parliament, Mr. Bercow has been a controversial figure - much criticised by supporters of Brexit and praised by its opponents.

my tenure as speaker and MP will end when this Parliament ends," Mr. Bercow told the chamber. "If the house does not vote, I have concluded that the least disruptive and most democratic course of action would be for me to stand down at the close of business on Thursday, October 31."

Mr. Bercow, 56, is best known for presiding over debates, bellowing "Order! Order!" at unruly MPs and admonishing lawmakers who displease him. Ever since the 2016 EU membership referendum,



John Bercow

he has been influential in defending the right of Parliament to have its say on the tortuous Brexit process. He branded Prime Minister Boris Johnson's suspension of Parliament, which runs from the end of Monday's debates until October 14, as a "constitutional outrage" designed to "stop Parliament debating Brexit".

Mr. Bercow was first elected as an MP for the centre-right Conservative Party, but he was elevated to the Speaker's position in 2009. However, his interventions in Brexit debates have prompted accusations from his former colleagues that he is biased both against the Conservative government and Brexit itself.

# Panel to probe Trump for impeachment

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

The Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee moved to intensify their impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump as whiffs of new scandal surrounding the White House emerged related to Mr. Trump's business and his lawyer's involvement in Ukraine.

The Senate could vote down the effort, but the investigation could add pressure on Mr. Trump ahead of presidential polls.

## ELSEWHERE



### Hong Kong activist on way to Germany, U.S.

Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong said he was making his way to Germany on Monday and later to the U.S. after he was released from a brief spell in custody following a mistake in his bail conditions.

### British Airways grounds flights over pilots' stir

British Airways said on Monday it has been forced to cancel almost all its flights from U.K. airports on the first day of a strike by pilots. "After many months of trying to resolve the pay dispute, we are extremely sorry that it has come to this," BA said in a statement.

# Kremlin suffers losses in Moscow city vote

It follows a crackdown on protesters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MOSCOW

Pro-Kremlin candidates suffered major losses in a Moscow city election, results showed on Monday, following a police crackdown on anti-government protesters over the summer.

But President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov played down the losses, pointing to other regional elections on Sunday, in which the ruling party was "very successful".

Demonstrations broke out in the capital after top opposition figures were barred from standing in the city vote, but they widened in scope after a harsh response from authorities. Kremlin-backed candidates previously held 38 of



Alexei Navalny

the Moscow Assembly's 45 seats, but after voting that was down to 25.

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who called the protests after his allies were kept off the ballot paper, put the losses down to his "Smart Voting" plan. The campaign called on Muscovites to back the politician most likely to beat a pro-Kremlin candidate.

# North Korea willing to resume talks with U.S. in late September

Overture comes after Pompeo said he wanted talks resumed

REUTERS SEOUL

North Korea is willing to restart talks with the U.S. in late September over its nuclear programme, a senior North Korean diplomat said on Monday, following a protracted deadlock since a failed summit in February.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had set a year-end deadline in April for the U.S. to show more flexibility and agreed with U.S. President Donald Trump to reopen working-level talks when they met again in June, but that has not happened.

The latest overture came from Vice North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui, who said Pyongyang was



Kim Jong-un

willing to have "comprehensive discussions" with the U.S. in late September at a time and place agreed between both sides.

On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped to return to denuclearisation talks with North

Korea. But Ms. Choe highlighted that Washington should present a new approach or the talks could fall apart again. "I want to believe that the U.S. side would come out with an alternative based on a calculation method that serves both sides' interests and is acceptable to us," Ms. Choe said in a statement. "If the U.S. side toys with an old scenario that has nothing to do with the new method at working-level talks which would be held after difficulties, a deal between the two sides may come to an end."

Negotiations broke down at a meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim in February.

# China backs our stand, says Pakistan Army chief

Islamabad backs Beijing's core interests

ATUL ANEJA BEIJING

China and Pakistan appear to have addressed their "core" concerns over Xinjiang and Kashmir during the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councilor Wang Yi to Islamabad.

During a meeting with Pakistan's Army chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday, Mr. Wang pledged support for Pakistan's "sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity," in a veiled message of reassurance to Pakistan, which apprehends further changes in the status quo after India revoked special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5.

Mr. Wang also said that Beijing will "firmly support the Pakistani government in

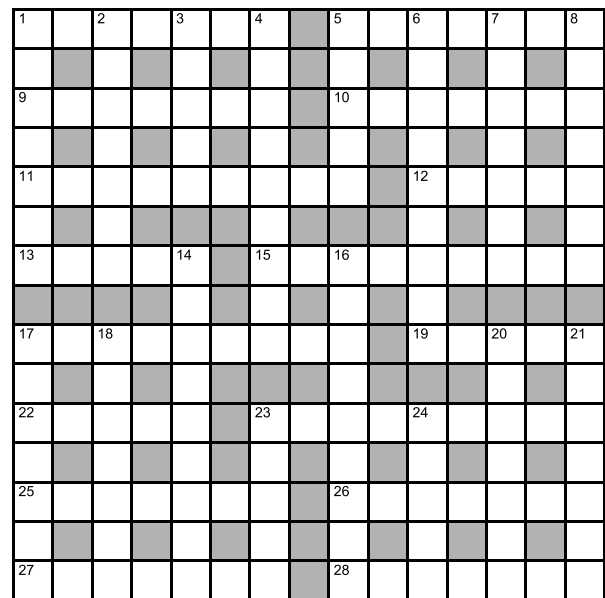
achieving national stability and development and prosperity; and firmly support Pakistan to play a more constructive role in regional international affairs," a Chinese Foreign Ministry read out on the Wang-Bajwa meeting said.

The statement quoted General Bajwa, as saying that Pakistan "will continue to support China on issues involving China's core interests".

Analysts see this as an apparent message of support in Xinjiang, where Beijing has exercised zero tolerance to Uyghur Muslims, who are demanding a separate statehood. Radical Uyghur separatists are suspected to have links with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12726

(set by Avtaar)



### ACROSS

- 1 Little one starts to marinade Indian chutney dressing (7)
5 "Mark's 1% Soft Feni" and gin cocktail without ice, to start with (7)
9 Quiet crossword setter invites Avtaar with son, mom, stepmom etc (7)
10 Hold back burden (7)

- 11 Make standard design of mails after adding one major tip at the end (9)
12 Guru was playing with ex-IPL champions initially (5)
13 Well, love's unconditional! (5)
15 Third degree murder, ultimately covered by cadet...too gruesome (9)
17 Servant, wielding rifle, frustrated burglary (9)
19 Joined hands with revolutionary followers of the Iraqi forces and got killed in the end (5)
22 Uncontrollable lament over own goal (5)
23 Pan-fried flounder with a pinch of wasabi is awesome (9)
25 Cave in the central part of Simla with dope is afire (7)
26 Loyal European working with Universal Studios is fired (7)
27 Remake of Ant Man is touching (7)
28 Nobel Peace laureate crossed country for headgear (7)

- 3 Tongue of rat is yellowish amber on top (5)
4 Raj started with this company (4,5)
5 By its very nature, badger's not endearing (3,2)
6 Emissions going up in cities, no? I suffer! (9)
7 Flipping a second time, rodent almost falls (7)
8 Guy pursued by jailers chucking vessels is not a Jew (7)
14 Girl, slightly drunk, enters shop to unload goods (9)
16 Uncle packed hollowed nuts and made a good amount of money (7,2)
17 Tough priests don't give up (7)
18 Member's password is "Turner" (3,4)
20 Suspend one of vicar's followers breaking into port (7)
21 Gambian capital manufactured ultimate in brewed masala lassi (7)
23 Forcefully take wife on holiday (5)
24 Alien terrorists seize access (5)

## SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 8, 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 2, 7, 8, 4, 3, 4, 8, 7, 4, 9, 3, 9, 2, 5, 6, 4, 9, 7, 8, 3, 1, 2, 7, 2, 3, 6, 4, 1, 5, 8, 9, 8, 9, 1, 2, 5, 3, 4, 6, 7, 6, 3, 8, 7, 9, 2, 1, 5, 4, 1, 7, 2, 4, 8, 5, 6, 9, 3, 9, 4, 5, 3, 1, 6, 2, 7, 8.

Solution to puzzle 12725 and solution to yesterday's Sudoku. Includes a difficulty rating of 3 stars.

## FAITH

### Principal preceptor

Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Nayanar wrote a work, Acharya Hridayam, extolling Nammazhvar, said Kidambi Narayanan, in a discourse. Acharya Hridayam likens Nammazhvar to the Sun. When the Sun rises and spreads its light, we begin to see things around us clearly, and we can distinguish between what we need and what we do not need. Likewise, Nammazhvar helps us to distinguish between right and wrong; he gives us knowledge about the Supreme One. However, it is the Supreme One Himself who is said to be like the Sun. Rama is referred to as Rama Divakara and Krishna as Achyutha Bhanu. The Lord took avatars to get rid of our ajnana. If a child runs away from mother, she gives chase, to ensure that no harm befalls it. In the same way, because we move away from the right path, the Lord takes avatars, out of His compassion for us, and steers us towards Him. And of His many avatars, Rama and Krishna are considered the most complete avatars. And yet even among those privileged to live in the time of these avatars, and who were blessed to interact with them, many were caught in ajnana. Soorpanakha, Ravana, Indrajit, and even Dasaratha were such people. After the Kurukshetra war, Arjuna boasts to a group of hunters that he has just won a mega war, and so, defeating them is child's play. But, Arjuna loses to the hunters. Vyasa tells him that he won the Kurukshetra war, because Krishna was with him. He has lost now, because Krishna is not beside him. So, despite the Lord's advice, Arjuna did not realise that it was Krishna who had led him to victory. But Nammazhvar succeeded in achieving what even Rama and Krishna did not, by turning us towards God, and thus, he became principal preceptor to all. That is why Acharya Hridayam refers him as Vakula Bhushana Bhaskara.