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

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

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



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

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

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 referen-

lawmakers over Brexit.

dum, with possible outcomes ranging from a nodeal exit to abandoning the whole endeavour.

An alliance of opposition lawmakers and rebels from Mr. Johnson's own Conservative Party passed the Bill that became law on Monday having received the assent of Queen Elizabeth.

Speaker John Bercow, who The law, which seeks to played a key role in the Brexit crisis, took a veiled swipe block a no-deal exit, will force Mr. Johnson to seek a at Mr. Johnson as he announced on Monday he three-month extension to

the October 31 deadline unwould stand down from the less Parliament has either approved a deal or consent-

Irish border

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 realistic ones, legally binding and workable and we haven't received such proposals to

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.

Panel to probe Trump for impeachment

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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.

would have been 'disastrous' Would have 'thrown Afghanistan under the bus': diplomats SUHASINI HAIDAR KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE Criticising the United States for having carried out talks with the Taliban without involving the Afghan government or regional players, the Iranian Ambassador to India

Impact of U.S.-Taliban deal

Final straw: People shopping at a busy market in the old city of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. • AP

said here that Tehran is

"worried" about the pros-

pect of a Taliban-led govern-

ment in Kabul. Iran's wor-

concerns over the deal,

which Indian diplomats said

would have "thrown Afghan-

"Taliban doesn't recognise a Republic of the peo-

ple; it wants to establish an

'Emirate', where all orders

will come from one central-

ised non-elected power. We

hope that will not happen,"

said Iranian Ambassador Ali

Chegeni at an interaction or-

ganised by the Indian Asso-

ciation of Foreign Affairs

Correspondents (IAFAC) on

Reacting to U.S. President

Donald Trump's decision to

cancel the deal with the Tali-

ban that was reportedly in

its final stages, Mr. Chegeni

said the main problem with

the deal being negotiated

between U.S. special envoy

Zalmay Khalilzad and Tali-

ban representatives in Doha

was that Afghan President

Ashraf Ghani's government

was not at the table for the

Iran was invited to region-

al talks on the Afghanistan

peace process in Beijing, at-

tended by China, Russia,

U.S. and Pakistan, but had

declined to attend because

the Ghani government was

Monday.

Kabul excluded

matched

istan under the bus.'

not represented. India has yet to formally respond to the dramatic turn of events, which led to the U.S. cancelling a planned meeting with Taliban leaders and with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at 'Camp David' over the weekend to announce a peace deal. Officials said they would prefer to take a cautious approach, in the event Washington tried to salvage talks with

Revival possible "I don't think the deal has been completely jettisoned yet," said former Ambassador to Afghanistan Amar Sinha, who is now a member of the National Security Advisory Board, and represented India in a "non-official capacity" at the Moscow talks with the Taliban.

the Taliban again.

"I think India should be happy that Afghanistan has been saved from being thrown under a bus for the moment. The deal would have put a question mark over everything from the government and constitution

to the election process in Afghanistan," Mr. Sinha said, referring to the Presidential elections in Afghanistan due on September 28.

It was clear, however that the two biggest losers from the development were Pakistan, that controlled various Taliban leaders, as well as Mr. Khalilzad, who had spent the last year preparing the deal, Mr. Sinha said.

Former diplomat Rajiv Dogra warned that the talks had only been put on "pause" and not cancelled

He said the main sticking point for the Taliban controlled by the Pakistani military, had become the U.S. desire to maintain intelligence operatives and a 5,000-strong contingent of troops in Afghanistan, which would have weakened the Pakistani military's grip in a post-deal Afghanistan.

Former Special Envoy to the United Nations Chinmaya Garekhan said the "mindless acts of violence" perpetrated by the Taliban were the final straw

U.K. Parliament speaker to step down

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

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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.

Mr. Bercow has served as speaker of Parliament's lower chamber for 10 years.

"If the house votes tonight for an early general election,

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

British Airways grounds

Monday it has been forced to

from U.K. airports on the first

"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. AFP

cancel almost all its flights

flights over pilots' stir

British Airways said on

day of a strike by pilots.

in his bail conditions. AEP

my tenure as speaker and MP will end when this Parliament ends," Mr. Bercow told the chamber.

"If the house does not so 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 Minis-

ter 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".

ed by October 19 to leave

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 specif-

ed by whatever may take

place in Parliament," Mr.

Johnson said in Dublin.

"I'm absolutely undaunt-

"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.,"

House of Commons

Mr. Johnson said.

without one.

ic proposals.

Mr. Bercow was first elected as an MP for the centreright 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.

Kremlin suffers losses

It follows a crackdown on protesters

in Moscow city vote

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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

11 Make standard design of mails

12 Guru was playing with ex-IPL

13 Well, love's unconditional! (5)

champions initially (5)

ultimately covered by

frustrated burglary (9)

cadet...too gruesome (9)

Iragi forces and got killed in

23 Pan-fried flounder with a pinch

Simla with dope is afire (7)

Universal Studios is fired (7)

27 Remake of Ant Man is touching

28 Nobel Peace laureate crossed

country for headgear (7)

movement, ignoring final

2 In these devices, Americans are

1 Guys trapped in women's

reminder (7)

shot (7)

DOWN

26 Loyal European working with

of wasabi is awesome (9)

25 Cave in the central part of

22 Uncontrollable lament over

15 Third degree murder,

17 Servant, wielding rifle,

19 Joined hands with

the end (5)

own goal (5)

after adding one major tip at

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

Overture comes after Pompeo said he wanted talks resumed

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 Fe-

China backs our stand, says Pakistan Army chief +

Islamabad backs Beijing's core interests

China and Pakistan appear to have addressed their "core" concerns over Xinjiang and Kashmir during the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councillor 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

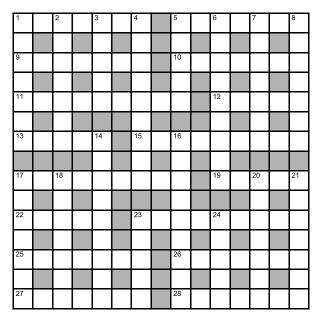
Mr. Wang also said that Beijing will "firmly support the Pakistani government in

achieving national stability and development and prosperity; and firmly support Pakistan to play a more constructive role in regional international affairs," a Chi nese 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 inter-

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-Tali-

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12726



CM YK

ACROSS

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

(set by Avtaar)

3 Tongue of rat is yellowish amber on top (5)

4 Raj started with this company

7 Flipping a second time, rodent

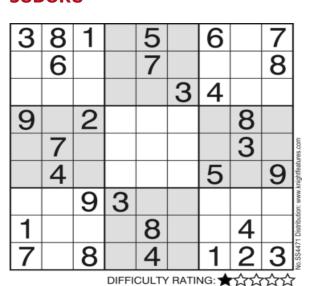
- **5** By its very nature, badger's not endearing (3,2)
- 6 Emissions going up in cities, no? I suffer! (9)

(4,5)

- almost falls (7) 8 Guy pursued by jailers chucking vessels is not a Jew revolutionary followers of the
 - 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
 - 18 Member's password is "Turner" (3,4)
 - 20 Suspend one of vicar's followers breaking into port
 - 21 Gambian capital manufactured ultimate in brewed masala
 - holiday (5) 24 Alien terrorists seize access

23 Forcefully take wife on

SUDOKU



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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 avataras 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 avataras, out of His compassion for us, and steers us towards Him. And of His many avataras, Rama and Krishna are considered the most complete avataras. And yet even among those privileged to live in the time of these avataras, 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.