

# Parliament suspension unlawful: court

Scottish court rules that British PM Johnson's move ahead of Brexit was an attempt to 'stymie Parliament'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
EDINBURGH

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered a fresh blow on Wednesday when a Scottish court ruled that his controversial decision to suspend Parliament in the run-up to Brexit was unlawful.

The government immediately appealed, with the case set to be heard in the Supreme Court next Tuesday, and Parliament set to remain shut in the meantime.

Mr. Johnson says the decision to suspend – or prorogue – Parliament until October 14 is a routine move allowing his government to launch a new legislative agenda.

But critics accuse him of trying to silence parliamentary opposition to his threat to leave the European Union on October 31 even if he has failed to agree divorce terms with Brussels.

If Mr. Johnson fails to secure a deal he insists the country will leave anyway, to the outrage of many MPs who believe a "no deal" exit would bring huge disruption.

After the legal ruling, the



**Fresh perspective:** Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson attending a history class with pupils during a visit to the Pimlico Primary School in London on Tuesday. • AFP

Opposition Labour party demanded that Mr. Johnson urgently recall Parliament, which was suspended for five weeks on Tuesday.

However, a government source said that "nothing is changing" until the case was concluded.

The case, brought by 78 British lawmakers, was rejected by a Scottish lower court last week but was overturned on Wednesday by the Inner House, Scotland's Supreme Civil Court.

It found that Mr. Johnson's

advice to Queen Elizabeth II to prorogue Parliament "was unlawful because it had the purpose of stymieing Parliament", a summary judgment said.

A British government spokesman said: "We are disappointed by today's decision, and will appeal to the U.K. Supreme Court."

"The U.K. government needs to bring forward a strong domestic legislative agenda. Proroguing Parliament is the legal and necessary way of delivering this."

He noted a separate legal challenge to prorogation brought at the High Court in London last week had failed.

### 'Recall Parliament'

Labour's Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer welcomed the ruling, saying: "No one in their right mind believed Boris Johnson's reason for shutting down Parliament."

"I urge the Prime Minister to immediately recall Parliament so we can debate this judgment and decide what happens next."

Scotland's First Minister, Scottish National Party (SNP) leader Nicola Sturgeon, echoed his call.

"The immediate political implications are clear... Parliament must be recalled immediately to allow the essential work of scrutiny to continue," she tweeted.

The summary judgment said the court would make an order declaring that Mr. Johnson's advice to the Queen and the subsequent prorogation was "null and of no effect". However, the government source said there would be no order issued ahead of next week's appeal.

Legal commentator David Allen Green suggested that the case was likely to fail when it reached the Supreme Court, pointing out that Scottish law was different from that of England and Wales.

"That is why I and others would have put the chances of the action succeeding in London as zero. And that is why cannily the action was launched in Scotland, where judges and the law would be far more receptive," he tweeted.

# Fighting intensifies in northern Afghanistan after talks collapse

We will hit the Taliban harder than ever: Trump

REUTERS  
KABUL/ WASHINGTON

Fighting has picked up in several areas of northern Afghanistan, officials said on Wednesday, days after the collapse of talks between the U.S. and the Taliban aimed at agreeing the withdrawal of thousands of U.S. troops.

Officials said there was fighting in at least 10 provinces, with the heaviest clashes in the northern regions of Takhar, Baghlan, Kunduz and Badakhshan, where the Taliban have been pressing security forces for weeks.

On Wednesday, security forces retook the district of Koran-Wa-Monjan in Badakhshan, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The district, which fell to the Taliban in July, had offered the insurgents valuable mining revenues from its rich reserves of the famous blue lapis lazuli stone.

It was the third district security forces have secured



An Afghan National Army soldier searching a vehicle in Kabul. • AP

during a push in the province over recent days after Yamgan and Warduj, which the Taliban had held for the past four years.

In the neighbouring province of Takhar, however, local officials said this week government forces had pulled out of Yangi Qala and Darqad districts, while fighting was going on in Khawja Ghar and Ishkamesh district.

"It is a tactical retreat to avoid civilian casualties in the area. We have fresh forces in the area and soon the districts will be recaptured," said Jawad Hejri, a spokesman for the Takhar Provincial Governor. The latest fighting under-

scored expectations of an escalation in violence following U.S. President Donald Trump's abrupt cancellation of talks with the Taliban aimed at withdrawing U.S. troops and opening the way to an end to 18 years of war in Afghanistan.

President Trump pledged on Wednesday to hit the Taliban "harder" than ever as America marked the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that led the country into war in Afghanistan. He warned that "an unprecedented" U.S. military assault against the Taliban will continue.

Mr. Trump said that over "the last four days" U.S. forces have "hit our enemy harder than they have ever been hit before and that will continue."

Mr. Trump also warned militants against ever carrying out an attack in the U.S. again.

"If for any reason, they come back to our country, we will go wherever they are, and use power, the likes of which the United States has never used before," Mr. Trump said.

(With AFP inputs)

## ELSEWHERE



### Trudeau launches election campaign

OTTAWA  
Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau launched his reelection campaign on Wednesday, saying that Canadians need to decide whether they want to return to the "failed policies" of a Conservative government that believes in cuts and austerity. Mr. Trudeau kicked off his bid to remain in office ahead of an October 21 vote after meeting the country's Governor General and dissolving Parliament. "Canadians have an important choice to make," he said. • AP

# Bolton tough but not smart, says Trump

'His comments set back talks with North Korea'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he fired controversial National Security Adviser John Bolton for not being "smart," particularly in his comments seen as threatening North Korea's dictator.

In his first full account of the Tuesday sacking, Mr. Trump homed in on Mr. Bolton's strained relationship with Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader whom Mr. Trump frequently describes as a friend.

Mr. Trump said discord between him and the hawk-



Former U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton. • AP

ish adviser goes back to early 2018 when Mr. Bolton said that the denuclearisation of Libya under then leader Muammer Qadhafi could be a model for North Korea.

"That was not a good statement to make," Mr. Trump told reporters in the White House. "Just take a look at what happened with

Qadhafi." "We were set back very badly when John Bolton talked about the Libyan model," he said. "He's using that to make a deal with North Korea?"

Mr. Trump said that Mr. Kim "wanted nothing to do with John Bolton" after that and "I don't blame Kim." "That's not a question of

being tough, that's a question of being not smart."

Mr. Trump said he also differed with Mr. Bolton on the former UN Ambassador's encouragement of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

But the relationship in the White House became unworkable because of personality clashes, the President said.

"He's somebody that I actually had a very good relationship with, but he wasn't getting along with people in the administration who I consider very important," he said.

"You know, John wasn't in line with what we were doing."

Mr. Trump said he has five people in line for the job, which he expects to fill next week.

# Anger at Netanyahu's annexation pledge

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
CAIRO

Arab and Muslim countries Wednesday led a wave of outcry warning of disastrous consequences for the stagnant Israeli-Palestinian peace process, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to annex a key part of the occupied West Bank if re-elected.

"The announcement constitutes a dangerous development and a new Israeli aggression," Arab Foreign Ministers said.

They also warned in a statement of "the ramifications of these dangerous, illegal and irresponsible" moves saying it would "undermine the chances of progress in the peace process".

Mr. Netanyahu's pledge involves extending Israel's sovereignty over the Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea which account for one-third of the West Bank if he wins next week's elections. However, it would not include annexing any Palestinian cities.

# Khashoggi's last words revealed

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TURKEY

In his final words, slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi urged his killers not to cover his mouth because he suffered from asthma and could suffocate, according to Turkey's *Sabah* newspaper.

*Sabah* newspaper, which is close to Turkey's government, published new details of a recording of Khashoggi's conversation with members of a Saudi hit squad sent to kill him. The paper says the recording of Khashoggi's grisly October 2, 2018, killing at the Saudi Consulate in



Jamal Khashoggi

Istanbul was obtained by Turkey's intelligence agency.

According to the transcript, Maher Mutreb, a member of the Saudi hit squad, tells Khashoggi that he has to be taken back to Riyadh because of an Interpol

order against him. The journalist objects, saying there is no legal case against him.

Mutreb is later heard saying, "Help us, so that we can help you. Because in the end, we will take you to Saudi Arabia. And if you don't help us, you know what will happen in the end."

*Sabah* also published Khashoggi's last words before he was apparently drugged and lost consciousness. "Don't cover my mouth," he told his killers, according to *Sabah*. "I have asthma, don't do it. You'll suffocate me."

# California passes Bill that will reshape gig economy

It will enhance contract workers' rights

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

In a major legislative development that could have a profound impact on the gig economy, California's State Senate passed, 29 to 11, a Bill requiring ride hailing companies like Uber and Lyft to treat their contract workers as employees.

The Bill, which is likely to pass the State Assembly and get the Governor's signature to become law, will enhance workers' rights, increase costs for gig economy companies and potentially have knock-on effects in other States.

The Bill, known as AB 5, is a consequence of a California Supreme Court 2018 ruling on employee status and could cost Uber and Lyft \$3,625 per driver as per a report from Barclays, released in June.

### Various benefits

Overall, the legislative changes could cost Uber \$500 million and Lyft \$290 million, by giving their workers paid leave, minimum wages, health benefits, collective bargaining rights and so forth.

Uber and Lyft have been opposed to the Bill and had, on August 29, announced a \$60 million fund to support a 2020 State ballot measure – a mechanism that asks



The Bill requires companies like Uber to treat contract workers as employees.

eligible voters whether they approve or reject a proposed law.

The companies' drivers work as independent contractors and do not get paid medical leave, minimum wage and other benefits that employees are entitled to. Uber and Lyft have said that their ballot measure would seek to maintain drivers in independent contractor status but give them some protections and rights as regards minimum wage, collective bargaining and health care. DoorDash – a food delivery company – said it would contribute \$30 million to the fund.

The State Assembly will vote on AB 5 later this week. California Governor Gavin Newsom is expected to sign the Bill as he has already endorsed it. If passed and signed, the Bill will become law on January 1.

# China waives tariffs on many U.S. products

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING/ WASHINGTON

China on Wednesday said it would spare a number of U.S. products from punitive tariffs in what is seen as an olive branch by Beijing in the protracted trade war ahead of high-level talks next month.

However, the goods do not include big-ticket agricultural items that could be crucial to the ultimate success of any agreement between the two sides, whose stand-off is dragging on the global economy.

The exemptions will become effective on September 17 and be valid for a year, according to the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, which released two lists that include seafood products and anti-cancer drugs.

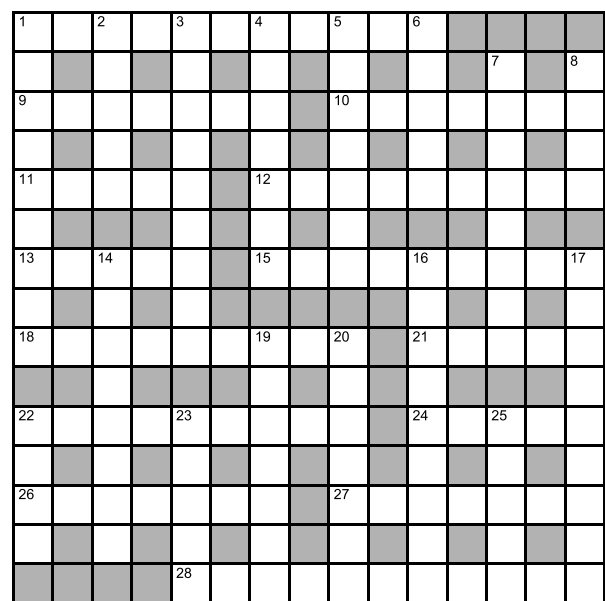
The lists mark the first time Beijing has announced products to be excluded from tariffs. The gesture lifted equities markets long buffeted by the ups and downs in the conflict now entering its second year.

U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed the decision on Wednesday. "It was a big move," Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House.

He reiterated that Beijing was under pressure to strike a bargain as its economy weakens, which he attributed to U.S. actions.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12728

(set by Gridman)



### ACROSS

- Father's straight test to first cattle farmer (11)
- Sense some of the small amount is lost (7)
- Writer and worker holding diamond ornament (7)
- Central tray has the thing – a dish from India (5)

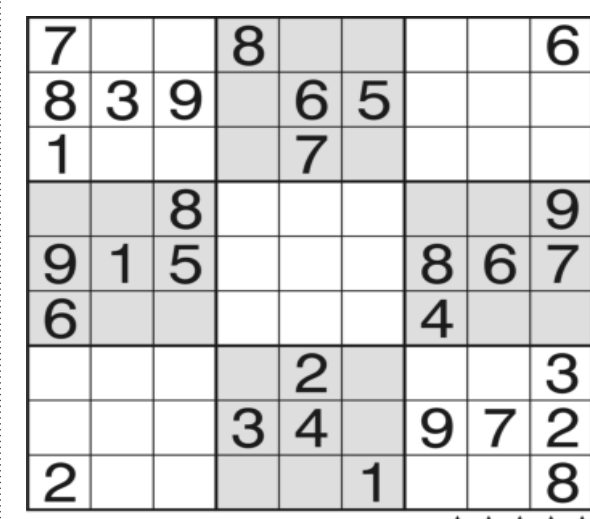
### DOWN

- Irish prop provided for church post (9)
- Sanely all kids took it initially as woman manifestation (5)
- Egg-bearing Di dropped out of avoidupois programme (9)

- Check learner dropping copy (9)
- Large mammal's joint by river (5)
- The man's tales merge into accounts of the past (9)
- Compel boss to get fastener (5,4)
- Delete article in Gaelic (5)
- Knock down hospital in open fight (9)
- Investigators with journalist are in place (5)
- One Goth moving and moving constantly (2,3,2)
- Pig and mare portrayed in a pithy statement (7)
- Lighters of mine? (6,5)

- A faulty gun – his – causes woe (7)
- Suggests one member utters falsehood (7)
- Some squat on gangway for vehicle (5)
- Church leaves one central vicary (8)
- Surprise greatly by heads-up (4)
- Dispatched beforehand some select gifts (8)
- People outside city have extra parts exchanged (9)
- PET massed around old relatives (9)
- Disgust of gentleman over run-out (4-3)
- Wide stretches on eastern street are maximally damp (7)
- Bob and Joe lose their heads as it is played (4)
- Hardy girl clasps tip of rugged lock (5)
- Monotonous sound that runs me down by half (5)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12727									Solution to yesterday's Sudoku													
O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O	D	4	6	2	7	5	1	9	3	8					
R	A	I	L	I	N	N	B	A	C	9	5	8	2	3	6	7	4	1				
B	A	I	L	I	F	A	D	V	I	S	O	R	7	1	3	9	8	4	2	5	6	
I	M	O	A	S	I	H	E						2	7	9	8	6	3	5	1	4	
T	R	O	L	L	I	N	G	A	B	O	D	E	6	3	1	4	9	5	8	7	2	
E	N	E	T	A	T	U	N						5	8	4	1	7	2	6	9	3	
R	A	I	S	E	P	A	U	L	E	T	T	E	3	9	7	6	1	8	4	2	5	
S	R	U	N	A	B	O	U	T	S	A	M	M	L	8	4	5	3	2	7	1	6	9
S	A	N	D	O	C	O	G	I	L	I	P		1	2	6	5	4	9	3	8	7	
T	A	C	K	Y	I	S	O	C	E	L	E	S										
I	R	L	G	U	U	I	L	I														
G	L	O	R	I	F	Y	R	E	L	A	T	E										
M	S	K	I	F	S	A	I	E														
A	N	S	W	E	R	R	A	R	A	R	D											

## FAITH

### Bhakti alone matters

Yogiswara Hari, son of Rishhabadeva, tells King Nimi about the sins that Bhagavatas will never commit, said P.T. Seshadri, in a discourse. They will not discriminate between Bhagavatas on any grounds, whatsoever. He who practises such discrimination will go to naraka, says Hari. They will not treat anyone as inferior, on the basis of the body that an atma inhabits. In other words, whether one is a man, or woman, or asura, or rakshasa, there will be no difference in the way a Bhagavata treats them. A devotee may be young or old. But a true Bhagavata does not mock any of them. A devotee may be in any of the four asramas – he may be a Brahmachari, a grihastha, a vanaprastha or a sanyasi. This is immaterial to the Bhagavata.

One example of a grihastha having total attachment to the Lord is Kooratazhvan. In fact, his wife and sons were equally devoted to the Lord. A devotee may have some physical infirmity. But a Bhagavata does not make fun of him for this reason. Looking down upon someone because of his physical appearance is a sin a Bhagavata will not commit. There was an Araiya in Srirangam temple, whose eyesight was not good, because of his age. He used to keep a salagrama in a box along with betel leaves and arca nuts. Because he could not see well, he would often put the salagrama into his mouth, thinking it was an arca nut. Realising it was his Salagrama, he would then wash it and put it back in the box.

The priest of the temple said it was a sin to put the sacred Salagrama into his mouth. The Araiya then gave the Salagrama to the priest. But that night, the Lord appeared in the priest's dream, and said that though the priest looked after Him well, He preferred to be in the Araiya's betel box! So, the Lord showed to Him that bhakti alone matters.