

From Leave shock to court ruling

From the Brexit referendum result to the Supreme Court's ruling that PM Boris Johnson's suspension of Parliament was illegal, here are the key milestones on Britain's road out of the EU:

Since coming to power, Boris Johnson has belied his image as a jovial mophead by revealing a ruthless streak — but that has failed to protect him from a series of humiliating blows against his authority.



Demonstrators calling for the Parliament to be recalled outside the Supreme Court in central London on Tuesday. AFP

A VOTE TO LEAVE June 23, 2016: In a referendum, Britons choose to leave the 28-nation EU by a 52-48% margin. Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron resigns the next day.

EXIT PROCESS March 29, 2017: The government sets a two-year timetable for withdrawal. The Brexit deadline is set at March 29, 2019. LOST MAJORITY June 8, 2017: Britons vote in snap parliamentary elections. The Conservatives lose their parliamentary majority and are forced to strike a deal for support from Northern Ireland's hardline Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

forced to strike a deal for support from Northern Ireland's hardline Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). DRAFT DEAL November 13, 2018: Britain and EU negotiate a draft divorce agreement. May faces backlash from her own party over the deal's terms.

Jan. 15, 2019: In the first Parliament vote on the deal, MPs reject the deal by 432 votes to 202.

March 12: The deal is rejected again by 391 to 242 votes.

March 29: MPs vote against it for a third time by 344 to 286.

MAY GONE May 24: PM Theresa May resigns. July 23: Boris Johnson is voted new Conservative leader. He becomes PM.

He promises to take U.K. out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal.



PARLIAMENT SUSPENDED August 28: To prevent MPs from hindering his plan, the PM forces the Parliament's suspension till Oct. 14.

'SUSPENSION UNLAWFUL' September 14: Supreme Court rules that the decision to suspend the Parliament was 'unlawful'.

A setback to Boris Johnson

'Suspension of the House is within the scope of judicial review'

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

The U.K. Supreme Court's unanimous verdict that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's prorogation of Parliament is a precedent-setting judgment. Foremost, Britain's highest court has affirmed that the question of the suspension of Parliament fell well within the domain of judicial review. Only days earlier, the High Court in London upheld the government's contention that the decision was outside its remit, as it pertained to the realm of high politics and policy, over which the courts had no jurisdiction.

reignty of Parliament and the authority of elected representatives has been finally restored. The court's position on that question also assumes immense relevance given that Mr. Johnson has not emphatically ruled out another suspension in the event of the judgment going against the government.

the EU on October 31. Lady Hale sought to differentiate between a parliamentary recess and a prorogation. Even though the two houses do not meet in the former case, MPs can nevertheless transact urgent legislative business, she pointed out. Conversely, prorogation totally deprives Parliament any opportunity to scrutinise legislation to secure an orderly withdrawal.

NEWS ANALYSIS

But in its judgment on Tuesday, the Supreme Court has pronounced decisively that any future suspension of the chamber would be apt for legal scrutiny.

The 11 British justices also ruled that the shutting down of the two chambers for five crucial weeks before the country's landmark transition amounted to the silencing of the legislature, nay the suspension of parliamentary democracy itself. This categorical position is a direct rebuff to the government's attempt to gloss over its true intentions, namely to subvert the democratic process in the guise of commencing a new parliamentary session to introduce fresh legislation.

The political fallout Tuesday's judgment reflects a similarity with the stance of the Scottish court, which earlier ruled on the prorogation of Parliament. The judges held that the circumstances leading up to the government's decision led them to conclude that it was unlawful. The verdict will hopefully settle the confrontation between U.K.'s legislature and the government.

The fallout from the judgment has been predictably explosive, with loud cries for Mr. Johnson's resignation. It is not inconceivable that his tenure goes down in history as among the most short-lived in British premiership.

Parliament's sovereignty This was precisely the issue former Prime Minister John Major had raised in his intervention in this case. The controversy over the sove-

Corbyn asks Prime Minister to step down

British Labour leader promises to hold the government to account when the Parliament resumes today

REUTERS BRIGHTON

British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn called on Boris Johnson on Tuesday to resign and demanded a new election after the Supreme Court ruled that the Prime Minister's move to suspend Parliament was unlawful.

Mr. Corbyn was one of several opposition lawmakers to increase the pressure on Mr. Johnson, whose headline strategy to take Britain out of the European Union, with or

without a deal, on October 31 appeared to be unravelling after the court ruling.

'Johnson Out!'

"Tomorrow Parliament will return. The government will be held to account for what it has done. Boris Johnson has been found to have misled the country. This unelected Prime Minister should now resign," Mr. Corbyn told his party to thunderous applause and shouts of "Johnson Out!"

"I invite Boris Johnson, in the historic words, to consider his position. And become the shortest-serving Prime Minister there's ever been," Mr. Corbyn.

Mr. Johnson will not quit, Downing Street sources said, but the Prime Minister will face an angry Parliament on Wednesday, where lawmakers will try their utmost to prevent him from orchestrating a so-called no-deal Brexit.

Britain is due to leave the

EU on October 31, but Brexit is more uncertain than ever, with few able to predict when, how or even whether the country will exit.

"So obey the law, take no deal off the table, and have an election to elect a government that respects democracy, that respects the rule of law and brings power back to the people, not usurps it in the way that Boris Johnson has done," he said.

Mr. Corbyn brought his closing speech forward by a

day. The court decision took the heat off Mr. Corbyn, who just a day earlier had frustrated many of his own pro-EU lawmakers by successfully pushing through his Brexit strategy — to try to win an election, and then hold a special conference to determine how Labour should campaign in any second referendum.

Many members and lawmakers said it was time for Labour to start campaigning to 'remain' in the EU.

U.K. will leave EU on Oct. 31 as per the law, says Johnson

'The exciting thing for us now is to get a good Brexit deal'

REUTERS NEW YORK

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Tuesday that the Supreme Court ruling against him had hindered his attempt to get a Brexit deal but that as the law currently stood, the United Kingdom would leave the European Union on October 31.

As the law currently

stands, the U.K. leaves the EU on October 31st come what may but the exciting thing for us now is to get a good deal," Mr. Johnson told reporters in New York.

"And that is what we are working on. And to be honest it is not made much easier by this kind of stuff in Parliament or in the courts," he said.

"As the law stands, we

leave on October 31 and I am hopeful that we will get a deal and I think what the people want is to see parliamentarians coming together working in the national interest to get this thing done and that is what we are going to do," he added.

"We should have an election," he said in brief comments to reporters as he left a meeting here.

Sri Lanka battered by heavy rain, flash floods

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

One person died and over 45,000 people have been affected in flash floods in Sri Lanka, following incessant rain in the island over the past two days.

One person was reported dead in the southern district of Galle, and thousands across Sri Lanka's Southern and Western provinces have been affected and displaced, according to a spokesman of the Disaster Management Centre. "We have issued landslide warnings in certain areas because this rain and volume at this time is unexpected," Pradeep Kodippili told The Hindu on Tuesday.

Over 100 mm rainfall was

recorded in several districts, and upto 200 mm has been predicted by the Meteorological Department in the next two days.

Sri Lanka has two main monsoons — Southwest (May to September) and Northeast (December to February), supplemented by two inter-monsoons in March-April and October-November. The current spell, according to officials, is not a scheduled one and its high volume has affected thousands of people.

Parts of Sri Lanka have experienced recurring floods in recent years, even as some areas were affected by droughts. Nearly 100 people died in 2017, in floods that hit southern districts.

At UN, Trump denounces Iran but says there is a path to peace

He urged other nations to join the U.S. to build pressure

REUTERS NEW YORK

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday denounced Iran's "blood lust" and called on other nations to join the United States to pressure Iran after attacks on Saudi oil facilities, but said there is a path to peace.

"America knows that while anyone can make war, only the most courageous can choose peace," Mr. Trump said in an address to the United Nations General Assembly.

"All nations have a duty to act. No responsible government should subsidise Iran's blood lust. As long as Iran's



Donald Trump

menacing behaviour continues sanctions will not be lifted, they will be tightened," he added.

Mr. Trump also had a stern message for China and its President, Xi Jinping, in what was his third annual

appearance at the UN, saying the world is watching how Beijing handles mass demonstrations in Hong Kong that has raised concerns about a potential Chinese crackdown.

"How China chooses to handle the situation will say a great deal about its role in the world in the future. We are all counting on President Xi as a great leader," he said.

The September 14 attacks in Saudi Arabia have rattled the West Asia and raised concerns about a broader war. Mr. Trump has shown restraint in the crisis, holding back from military retaliation, at least for now.

Trump slammed for mocking Greta's speech

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEW YORK

U.S. President Donald Trump stirred fresh outrage on social media Monday with a tweet mocking an impassioned speech made by 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg at the UN climate summit in New York.

Her voice shaking with emotion in an address that was the defining moment of the summit, Ms. Thunberg accused world leaders of betraying her generation by failing to act on rising emissions, repeating the words "how dare you" four times.

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words, and yet I'm one of the lucky ones," she said. "People are

suffering. People are dying."

"She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!" climate-skeptic Trump tweeted a few hours later, alongside a clip of the speech.

The trolling of the teen activist — who suffers from Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism — racked up more than 16,000 responses in three hours, many of them attacking the President. "Donald Trump picking on an innocent young girl is absolutely disgusting!" wrote one user.

A video surfaced showing the teen glowering at the President as he passed by with his entourage.

ELSEWHERE



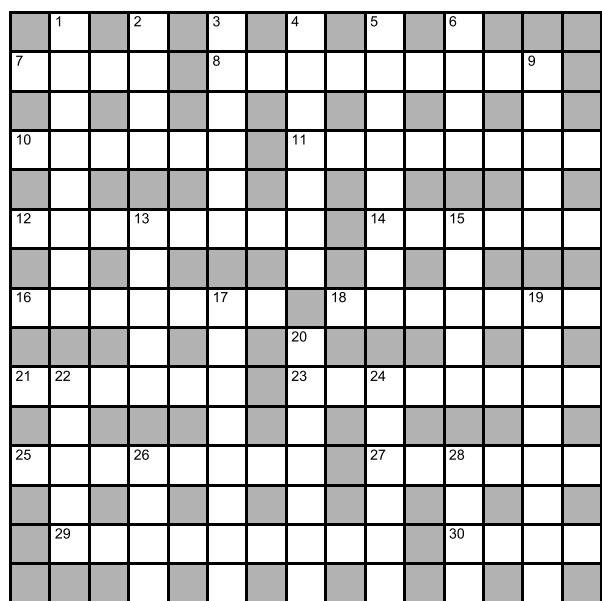
Trump froze Ukraine aid before call to Zelensky

WASHINGTON U.S. President Donald Trump ordered \$400 mn in aid to Ukraine to be frozen days before he allegedly asked President Volodymyr Zelensky to probe the son of Joe Biden, reports said. AFP

Egypt arrests journalists after protests against Sisi

CAIRO In the wake of protests calling for President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's ouster, the government ordered arrests of three Egyptian journalists. The scribes covered protests following a football match in Cairo on Friday night. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12739



ACROSS

- 7 Englishman returns title (4)
8 Buys brew packed in bags (9)
10 Romeo, sir, is to some extent an ancestor of Horus (6)
11 Closely hold, grabbing a parish priest, conveying appreciation (8)
12 They make money from cavities? (8)

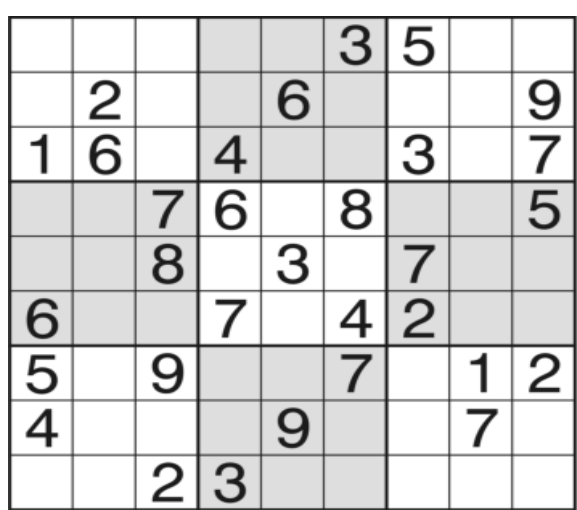
DOWN

- 1 Masters run after hot pets (8)
2 Costly honey (4)
3 Jerks destroy maps in ship (6)
4 Accurate composition accompanied by third note of C Major scale (7)

(set by Incognito)

- 14 King and journalist with minor under guardianship (6)
16 Choir dancing around stone gets the bird (7)
18 Tomato puree with a bit of nut for a Turk (7)
21 A smile may result from misinterpretation of these internet messages (1-5)
23 God! That is a famous author! (8)
25 Composer saint hugs wounded cherub (8)
27 Top Frenchmen in clubs, perhaps (6)
29 A model gift for now (2,7)
30 Street has good device for roasting meat (4)
5 Least expensive primate to be housed in container (8)
6 Fast! Snake has swallowed tail of iguana (1,1,1,1)
9 Sister catches one confused Spanish gentleman (5)
13 Star is agitated by setter producing bones (5)
15 Tiger, perhaps, in forests (5)
17 Molluscoid female student around fantastic sets (8)
19 In the beginning, sailor in Italy has one egg (2,6)
20 On board, travelling cheat hurts (7)
22 Doctor has tea or coffee (5)
24 Model sister appears for exam once again (6)
26 Unique Selling Proposition of special American mail service (1,1,1,1)
28 Initially, May alone supported Secret Service (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12738

Grid showing the solution for puzzle 12738.

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

Grid showing the solution for yesterday's Sudoku.

FAITH

The great logician

In Kamba Ramayanam, Prahlada says to Hiranyakasipu, "Vishnu is there in your words too." Hiranyakasipu denies the existence of the Lord. How can the Lord be in His words then? To understand this, we have to read a verse by Namazhvar, said M.A. Venkatakrisnan in a discourse. Namazhvar says that if you say God exists, He does. If you say He does not exist, that means He exists. Commentators, explaining Namazhvar's verse, have based their explanation on Kooratazhvan's interpretations. Kooratazhvan was a great logician. What Namazhvar's words mean is that you can only prove something positively. You cannot offer negative proof. If you say there is no pot, then all it means is that there is no pot here. It does not mean that there is no such thing as a pot. If you say there is no God, then all it means is that you cannot see God. It does not mean there is no God. Suppose, just for argument's sake, you ask a man to talk of something that does not exist. Suppose he says there is no Kamadhenu. Then you ask him how he knows about Kamadhenu. Suppose he says he read about it in sacred texts, then his statement is illogical. How can he quote from texts which speak of Kamadhenu's existence, and then say he does not believe Kamadhenu exists? You then tell him to talk of something else that does not exist. He says, "Lotuses in the sky or rabbits with horns." Obviously, there are no lotuses in the sky, or rabbits with horns. But in each case, he has taken the names of things that do exist. Lotuses, the sky, rabbits and horns all of them are real. So, in order to try to talk of something that does not exist, he had to rely on things that do exist. Thus, there can only be positive proof, no negative proof. So, when Hiranyakasipu is denying God, God is in his words.