

'Trump urged Ukraine's leader to probe Biden'

Transcript reveals details of the controversial July phone conversation

MAGGIE HABERMAN MICHAEL D. SHEAR WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump urged the President of Ukraine to contact Attorney General William Barr about opening a potential corruption investigation connected to former Vice-President Joe Biden, according to the reconstruction of a July phone call at the centre of accusations that Mr. Trump pressured a foreign leader to find dirt on a political rival.

"I would like you to do us a favour," Mr. Trump said in response to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy of Ukraine raising the prospect of acquiring military equipment from the United States. Noting that the United States had "done a lot for Ukraine," Mr. Trump also asked for another inquiry: that the Ukrainians examine an unsubstantiated theory about stolen Democratic emails.

After a whistleblower raised concerns about Mr. Trump's dealings with Ukraine, the Director of National Intelligence and the Inspector General for the intelligence community each referred the complaint for a possible criminal investigation into the President's actions, according to a Justice Department official.

To impeach a President

THE TRIGGER
A whistleblower alleged that in July, Trump pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate Joe Biden's son

HUNTER'S UKRAINE CONNECTION
In 2014, following the fall of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich, President Barack Obama made Vice-President Biden his point person for the country. In the same year, Hunter took up a position at Ukraine's largest private gas company, Burisma, for which he was reportedly paid \$50,000 a month. There was, however, no evidence of any wrongdoing

SUPPORT FOR IMPEACHMENT
More than 150 of the 235 Democratic members in the 435-seat House have shown support for impeachment or the opening of an inquiry. No House Republican has come out in favour of impeachment

There are at least six House committees investigating the President, probes that will now be subsumed under the impeachment proceedings likely to be conducted by the House judiciary committee

Chances of success
In past impeachments, support and opposition ran along party lines, which looks likely in Trump's case as well; Democrats lack a majority in the Senate and, even assuming that all 47 Democratic Senators vote in favour of convicting the President, they need the support of at least 20 Republicans

THE PROCESS
Any member can introduce an impeachment resolution if he/she believes that the President has committed "treason, bribery, or other crimes and misdemeanors"

The motion is sent to the judiciary committee, or any other committee, which reviews evidence or carries out investigation

If the evidence is strong, the committee crafts articles of impeachment and sends them to the full House

The House needs to pass the articles by a simple majority vote; the President will then be deemed as "impeached" by the House

The articles then go to the Senate, where a trial presided by the Chief Justice takes place, with representatives from the House acting as prosecutors and the President and his attorneys presenting his defence

A two-thirds majority is necessary to convict and remove the President

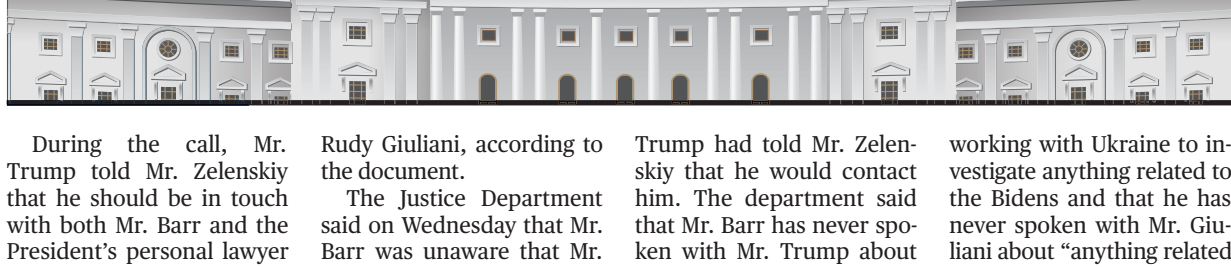
If the President is convicted, the Vice-President takes over the White House

THE PRECEDENTS
No U.S. President has been ousted from office by impeachment. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 to avoid certain removal

Two Presidents beat the process: the House formally impeached Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998, but in both cases they were acquitted in the Senate

THE TRIGGER
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NO VIOLATION OF LAW
The department's criminal division determined that the reconstructed transcript of the call did not show that Mr. Trump had violated campaign finance laws by soliciting from a foreign national a contribution, donation or thing of value.

During the call, Mr. Trump told Mr. Zelenskiy that he should be in touch with both Mr. Barr and the President's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, according to the document.

The Justice Department said on Wednesday that Mr. Barr was unaware that Mr. Trump had told Mr. Zelenskiy that he would contact him. The department said that Mr. Barr has never spoken with Mr. Trump about working with Ukraine to investigate anything related to the Bidens and that he has never spoken with Mr. Giuliani about "anything related

Johnson calls SC verdict 'wrong', challenges Oppn.

Dares Labour to call a confidence vote

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday challenged Opposition MPs to call a confidence vote in his government, after the Supreme Court struck down his decision to suspend Parliament in the run-up to Brexit.

The ruling by Britain's highest court on Tuesday that the suspension was unlawful was a stunning blow to Mr. Johnson's authority just weeks before the country is due leave the European Union on October 31.

But the Conservative leader showed no contrition as he faced MPs in the House of Commons, which had hastily reconvened on Wednesday.

He condemned the verdict as "wrong" and, faced with calls to resign, challenged the main Opposition Labour Party and others to call an immediate confidence vote. "They have until the house rises today to table a motion of no confidence in the government, and we can have that vote tomorrow," he said. "Will they have the courage to act or will they refuse to take responsibility and do nothing but dither and delay... what are they scared of?"

'Rule out no-deal exit'
However, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said that while he wanted Mr. Johnson to resign, he would not back an election until the PM's threat of leaving the EU without a divorce deal was removed. In the week before Parliament was suspended earlier this month, MPs pushed through a law requiring the Premier to delay Brexit by three months if he cannot strike exit terms with Brussels in time. Ad-



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson in London on Wednesday. REUTERS

dresser a rowdy and packed Commons chamber, Mr. Corbyn said: "If he wants an election, get an extension and let's have an election. 'No one can trust this Prime Minister. 'For the good of this country, he should go.'"

Mr. Johnson, who flew back early from the UN General Assembly in New York to address the newly resumed Parliament, accused MPs of trying to undermining the 2016 Brexit vote. "We decided to call that referendum, we promised time and again to respect it. I think the people of this country have had enough of it," he said. "This Parliament must either stand aside and let this government get Brexit done or bring a vote of confidence and finally face the day of reckoning with the voters."

Mr. Johnson said Parliament was "gridlocked, paralysed and refusing to deliver on the priorities of the people".

The Supreme Court ruling is a hammer blow to Mr. Johnson's authority, and comes after a series of defeats in Parliament.

Thunberg, three others, win 'Alternative Nobel'

'Inspired calls for urgent climate action'

ASSOCIATED PRESS COPENHAGEN

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, was among four people named on Wednesday as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award, also known as the 'Alternative Nobel'. Ms. Thunberg is being recognised "for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts," the prize foundation said. It added that Ms. Thunberg "personifies the notion that everyone has the power to create change".

The foundation also gave its 2019 award to Davi Kopenawa and the Hutukara Yanomami Association, representing Brazil's indigenous



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. AP

tribe, for protecting the Amazon forest and its people; Moroccan activist Aminatou Haidar "for her steadfast nonviolent action" for Western Sahara and Chinese lawyer Guo Jianmei for her work for women's rights in China.

Israel PM gets chance to retain power

President nominates Netanyahu to stitch together coalition

REUTERS JERUSALEM

Israel's President tasked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday with assembling a new government after power-sharing talks with his rival, Benny Gantz, failed following an inconclusive election.

Mr. Netanyahu, head of the right-wing Likud party, and Israel's longest-serving leader, still has no clear path to a fifth term after emerging from the September 17 ballot, the second this year, short of a parliamentary majority. "I have decided to give you, sir, the opportunity to assemble a government," President Reuven Rivlin said to Mr. Netanyahu at a nomination ceremony. He will have 28 days to form



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. REUTERS

a coalition and can ask Mr. Rivlin for a two-week extension, if necessary. Mr. Netanyahu's failure to clinch victory in a ballot in April led to last week's election and left him politically weakened.

In the new countdown, Likud has the pledged support of 55 legislators in the 120-member Parliament, against

54 for Mr. Gantz's centrist Blue and White Party. The two parties failed to reach a coalition deal on Tuesday. Former Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman has been keeping his far-right Yisrael Beiteinu party on the fence since the September 17 ballot.

"It became clear that neither Netanyahu nor Gantz had the 61 seats necessary to form a government," Mr. Rivlin said at the ceremony. "Netanyahu's ability to assemble an administration is higher at the moment," the president said, noting that 10 Arab legislators in Mr. Gantz's support bloc of 54, who recommended he nominate the ex-general, did not commit to joining a government.

Rouhani rules out talks with U.S. under sanctions

Doubts sincerity of administration

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE UNITED NATIONS

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday ruled out negotiations with the U.S. so long as sanctions are in place and said he was not interested in a "memento photo" with President Donald Trump.

"I would like to announce that our response to any negotiation under sanctions is negative," Mr. Rouhani said in an address to the UN General Assembly.

As European leaders sought to arrange a tension-reducing encounter between the Iranian and U.S. Presidents, Mr. Rouhani dismissed what he saw a photo-op for the media-hungry

Mr. Trump. "Memento photos are the final stage of negotiations, not the first one," he said. He doubted the sincerity of the U.S. to negotiate, pointing to Trump administration officials' boasts of damage inflicted by sanctions on Iran.

'Iran will never forgive'
"How can someone believe them when the silent killing of a great nation, and pressure on the lives of 83 million Iranians, especially women and children, are welcomed by American government officials?"

"The Iranian nation will never, ever forget and forgive these crimes and these criminals," he said.

ELSEWHERE



Putin urges dialogue as he meets Maduro

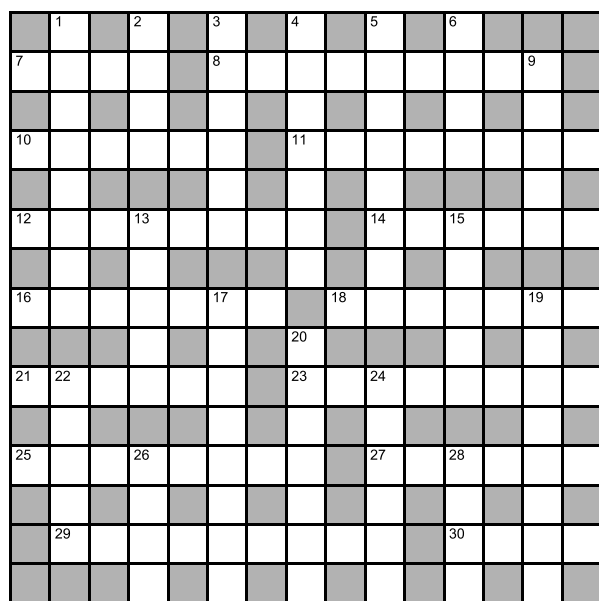
MOSCOW President Vladimir Putin reiterated Russian support for Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro in a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday and called for all sides to take part in talks to end the country's crisis. AFP

Toll in PoK earthquake rises to 38

JATLAN

Rescuers battled along badly damaged roads and combed through toppled buildings on Wednesday to reach victims of an earthquake that killed at least 38 people and injured hundreds more in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The village of Jatlan appeared to be one of the worst affected. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12740



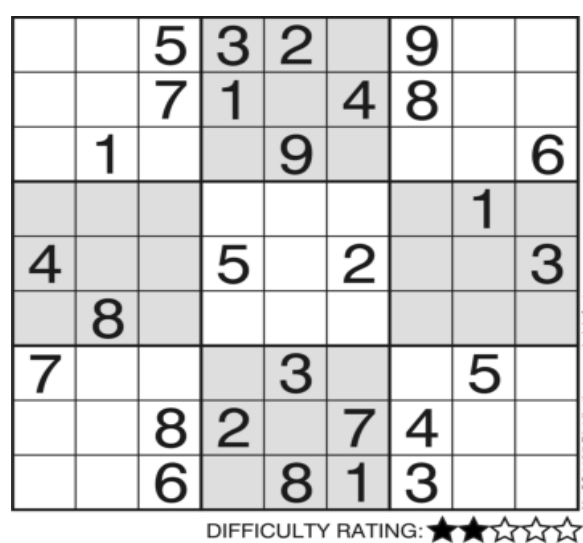
ACROSS

- 7 At first, financial legislation reveals defect (4)
- 8 Cop's at home with corpse mangled around topmost part of thigh (9)
- 10 Drink is returned before the German's assassination (6)
- 11 Beheaded Bond-maids are carted away in suit (8)

- 12 I lay a ham pudding in range (8)
- 14 Add small program goal (6)
- 16 Crush green olive and extract oil ... to settle a score (7)
- 18 Initially procure flower part for animal (7)
- 21 Organised a trek around Akishima, primarily to display martial art (6)
- 23 Indian treated (holding a bit of rice) and brought upon oneself (8)
- 25 Pawnbroker Samuel's country relative? (5,3)
- 27 Reveal peacekeeper's initially mysterious question (6)
- 29 Witnesses noted pens are displaced (9)
- 30 To start with, purple writing fluid shows healthy colour (4)

- 4 Secondhand automobile surprisingly raced us (4-3)
- 5 Encountered a lawyer followed by volunteers providing information about information (8)
- 6 Fragrant oil found in cottonseed (4)
- 9 NORAD's formulated a radioactive gas (5)
- 13 Near a horrible sports venue (5)
- 15 Safe Sellers? (5)
- 17 Ganger is improperly applying lubrication (8)
- 19 Vespers are not odd! Therefore, no good (8)
- 20 Sickness ward's mail's misplaced at first (7)
- 22 Bristled Dewan's dancing (5)
- 24 Flex muscle endlessly over Yankee ... that's inelegant (6)
- 26 Friend returned with penny for a European (4)
- 28 Be listless about light motorcycle having no dynamo at first (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12739

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Sun's praise for Moon

Sastras say that the Moon has sixteen kalas, or phases. The Moon is referred to as Shodasa alankara poorna. Rama shares a similarity with the Moon. Like the sixteen phases of the Moon, Rama has sixteen admirable qualities, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. In the beginning of the Ramayana, Narada visits Valmiki, and that latter asks him a question. Valmiki gives a list of sixteen qualities, and wants to know if there is anyone who has all these qualities. Narada at once says that Rama is the One who has all the qualities listed by Valmiki.

The important thing here is that Valmiki asks Narada to name a human being with these qualities, because it is difficult to find a mortal with all these qualities. The Moon gives us its coolness, but does it expect anything in return? In the same way, Rama gives us countless boons, but expects no quid pro quo. However, the Moon wanes for a fortnight, whereas Rama's glory remains undiminished. Nammazhvar has been described as a Sun in Acharya Hridayam. Nammazhvar the Sun, praises Rama, the Moon! Nammazhvar in his Thiruvaimozhi refers to Rama as 'piran.' Nampillai explains this to mean one who helps. The proper way to help is to offer one's services willingly, and without any expectation from the receiver. And that kind of selfless help is typical of Rama.

Every joy has its foundation in some hardship or suffering. Every pleasure in life has its base in some loss of mental peace. In his Sri Bhashya, Ramanujacharya says that what we think of as a joy is in fact not so. We judge something to be a source of joy or sorrow only on the basis of whatever knowledge we have. As our knowledge base expands, we become wiser. Only Lord Himself is beyond sorrow.