

Would rather die than delay Brexit: Boris

British Parliament set to vote on Monday on a motion calling for an early election

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Boxed in by opponents and abandoned politically even by his own brother, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson struggled Thursday to keep his Brexit plans on track, and he accused lawmakers of thwarting democracy by blocking his call for a new election.

Mr. Johnson remained determined to secure an election after lawmakers rejected his call for a snap poll on October 25. Lawmakers moved to stop the U.K. leaving the European Union next month without a divorce deal. House of Commons leader Jacob Rees-Mogg told Parliament that a vote would be held on Monday on a new motion calling for an election in October.

It's uncertain whether it will pass, with opposition parties divided over whether to agree to an election now. Mr. Johnson said he would

"rather be dead in a ditch" than delay Brexit any further, and insisted that whether or not Britain left the EU as planned on Oct. 31 must be "a matter for the people of this country to decide."

"I don't want an election at all, but frankly I cannot see any other way," he said, flanked by cadets at a police academy on what felt very much like an election campaign stop.

Earlier, he called the rejection of a snap election "a cowardly insult to democracy."

Mr. Johnson's determination to lead Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 faces strong opposition from lawmakers, including members of his own Conservative Party who oppose a no-deal Brexit.

In a personal blow, the Prime Minister's brother, Jo Johnson, quit the government, saying he could no longer endure the conflict "between family loyalty and



A file photo of Jo Johnson, Conservative MP and brother of PM Johnson, who quit the government on Thursday. • AFP

the national interest."

Mr. Jo had served as a Minister in his older brother's government, despite his opposition to leaving the EU without a divorce deal.

After just six weeks into the Prime Minister's office, his plans to lead the U.K. out of the EU are in crisis. He is caught between the EU, which refuses to renegotiate the deal it struck with Mr. Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May. A majority of law-

makers are opposed to leaving without an agreement. Most economists say a no-deal Brexit would cause severe economic disruption and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Mr. Johnson's solution is to seek an election that could shake up Parliament and produce a less troublesome crop of lawmakers. It's a risky gambit as opinion polls don't point to a clear majority for the Conservatives.

PM's brother quits U.K. govt

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was dealt a fresh blow on Thursday when his brother Jo Johnson quit the government, saying he could no longer reconcile "family loyalty and national interest."

Mr. Jo had campaigned strongly against Britain's exit from the European Union in 2016, a position that put him at odds with his older and more famous brother Boris. But he took a job as Universities and Science Minister.

"In recent weeks I've been torn between family loyalty and the national interest - it's an unresolvable tension & time for others to take on my roles as MP & Minister," he tweeted.

U.S., China set to resume trade talks in Washington

New tariffs to make it difficult for them to hammer out a deal

ALEXANDRA STEVENSON
SHANGHAI

The U.S. and China will hold trade talks in Washington early next month, officials from both countries said on Thursday, but new tariffs will make it difficult to find a way to end their economic clash.

Liu He, a top Chinese economic official and Beijing's top trade negotiator, will travel to Washington in October, State media said. Mr. Liu spoke on Thursday morning with Robert Lighthizer, the U.S. trade representative, and Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary. Mr. Lighthizer's office said that deputy-level meetings would take place before the talks.

If held as scheduled, the talks would take place after new U.S. tariffs kick in,



Next stop: Workers making cowboy boots for export to the U.S. at a factory in Dongguan, China. • NYT

which could make it difficult for the two sides to reach a deal.

President Donald Trump has said he would raise tariffs to 30% from the current 25% on \$250 billion in Chinese goods. Those tariffs cover everything from cars to aircraft parts.

On Sunday, Washington began charging a 15% tax on more than \$100 billion

worth of Chinese imports. Beijing retaliated with its own increased tariffs. Both countries plan to impose still more tariffs in December, barring a breakthrough in talks.

Businesses in both the United States and China have begun to express concern about a trade war that has dragged on for more than a year. NY TIMES

ELSEWHERE



Pope takes message of peace to Mozambique

MAPUTO
Pope Francis praised Mozambique's President Felipe Nyusi and opposition leaders on Thursday for their courage in signing a landmark peace accord, as he opened a visit to the African nation by calling for a future where reconciliation and sustainable development become "weapons of peace." AP

Italy nominates Gentiloni as EU Commissioner

ROME
Italy has put forward former centre-left Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni as its candidate for the incoming European Commission, one of his colleagues in the Democratic Party (PD) said Thursday. Gentiloni, 64, was premier from 2016-18. AFP

South Africa shuts embassy in Nigeria

JOHANNESBURG
South Africa said on Thursday it had closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria following violence against South African businesses carried out in reprisal for attacks on foreign-owned stores in Johannesburg. The embassy in Abuja and consulate in Lagos were shut. AFP

Trump's West Asia envoy set to resign

WASHINGTON
Jason Greenblatt, U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy tasked with developing a plan to bring peace between Israel and the Palestinians, is leaving the White House. His departure casts further doubt on the peace plan's future. AP

We meet everyone, Indian envoy on meeting with Bannon

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

India's Ambassador to the U.S. Harsh Vardhan Shringla met with former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon at the latter's house in Washington DC. Their meeting included a discussion on India, Russia, China and domestic politics in the U.S., according to Mr. Shringla. "He's someone who has high regard for India and wants to see strong relations [between the U.S. and India]," Mr. Shringla said.

Mr. Shringla's comments to *The Hindu* were in the context of a tweet he had

written summarising the meeting. "A pleasure to meet the legendary ideology and 'Dharma' warrior @StephenBannon, an avid follower of the #Hindu epic the #BhagvadGita," the tweet, which was subsequently deleted, said.

As a former head of Breitbart, the alt-right news website, and as someone who served in leadership roles at Cambridge Analytica, the data analytics firm involved in a scandal around the unethical harvesting of Facebook profiles, Mr. Bannon is a divisive figure.

Too much was being read

into their meeting, Mr. Shringla told *The Hindu*, adding that some from 'across the border' [an apparent reference to Pakistan] were imparting conspiratorial angles to it. "Don't look into it as a conspiracy," Mr. Shringla said. Some websites had linked the meeting to the tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

"We meet everyone from Bernie Sanders to Steve Bannon," he said, adding that in his role he had to meet people of different ideological views but it did not imply one subscribed to those views.

Lam calls for dialogue, resumption of order

Protesters vow to keep up campaign

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Hong Kong's leader on Thursday urged pro-democracy protesters to end their demonstrations after her surprise decision to bow to one of their key demands was condemned as too little, too late.

Carrie Lam, the city's pro-Beijing chief executive, surprised many on Wednesday when after three months of rallies she suddenly announced she was scrapping a hugely unpopular extradition law.

Millions of people have taken to Hong Kong's streets since June in the biggest challenge to China's rule of semi-autonomous city since

its handover from the British in 1997.

The protests were sparked by a proposed Bill allowing extraditions to mainland China.

At a press conference on Thursday, she continued her conciliatory tone, saying her decision to fully withdraw the Bill was an attempt "to help prevent violence and stop chaos as soon as possible, resume the social order and help our economy and people's livelihood to move forward."

Since Ms. Lam's announcement on Wednesday, there has been condemnation across the protest spectrum with activists vowing to keep up their campaign.

Trump keeps defending wrong map of Hurricane Dorian's path

He displayed a map showing edited path, which is against the law

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Trouble is raining down on U.S. President Donald Trump, who appears to have given Americans incorrect information on Hurricane Dorian's trajectory.

During an Oval Office press briefing on Wednesday, Mr. Trump displayed a map from the National Hurricane Center showing the storm's predicted path.

As he held up the poster to give the journalists a better view, it became clear the map had been edited: Dorian's cone had been extended with what appeared to be black marker to include the

REUTERS
KABUL

A Taliban suicide blast in the centre of Kabul killed at least 10 people and wounded more than 40 on Thursday, destroying cars and shops in an area near the headquarters of Afghanistan's NATO force and the U.S. embassy, officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack even as the insurgents and U.S. officials have been negotiating a deal on a U.S. troop withdrawal in exchange for Taliban security guarantees. "At least 10 civilians have been killed and 42 injured



Surge in violence: Resolute Support (RS) forces at the site of a car bomb explosion in Kabul on Thursday. • AP

were taken to hospitals," said Nasrat Rahimi, a spokesman for the interior ministry.

Video footage and photo-

San Francisco calls NRA a domestic terrorist group

'It exists to spread pro-gun propaganda'

MARIEL PADILLA
SAN FRANCISCO

Unsettled by recent mass shootings across the nation, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution this week declaring the National Rifle Association a domestic terrorist organisation.

The resolution was introduced by Supervisor Catherine Stefani on July 30, two days after a shooting at a garlic festival in Gilroy, California, in which three people were killed and more than a dozen injured.

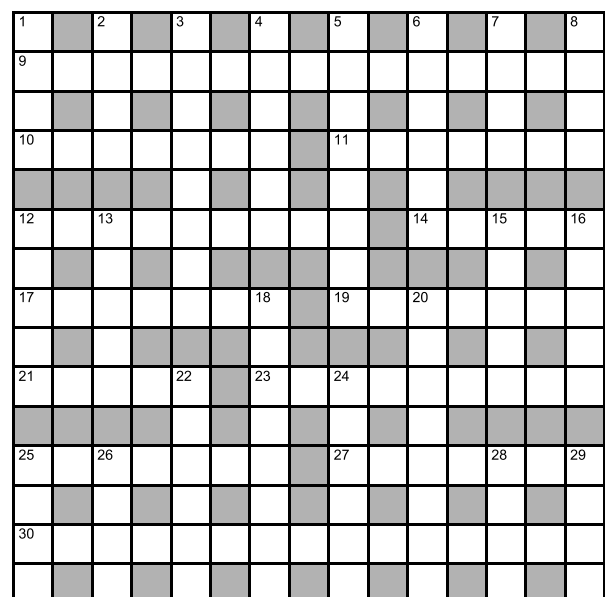
Before the resolution was put to a vote on Tuesday, Ms. Stefani spoke about the "carnage across this country," also citing mass shoot-

ings last month in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio.

Ms. Stefani said the NRA conspires to limit gun violence research, restrict gun violence data sharing and block every piece of sensible gun violence prevention legislation proposed at local, State and federal levels. "The NRA exists to spread pro-gun propaganda and put weapons in the hands of those who would harm and terrorize us," Stefani said. "Nobody has done more to fan the flames of gun violence than the NRA."

Ms. Stefani said, "I firmly believe that words matter, and I think this is a step in fighting the negative impact of the NRA." NY TIMES

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12723



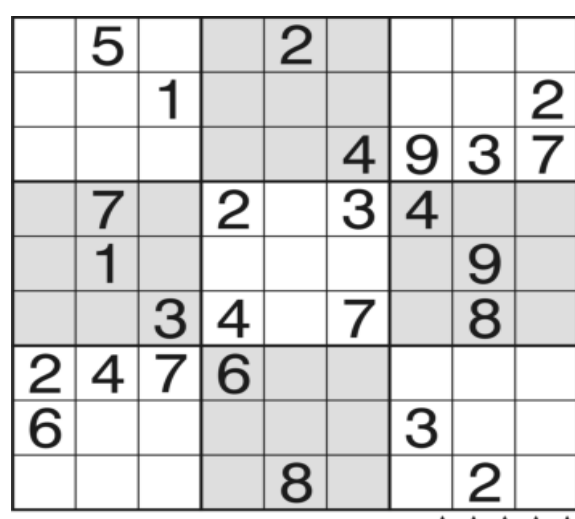
(set by Hypatia)

- 14 A little dog fight starting near swamp (5)
- 17 Spice and flavour from reddish orange natural sources (7)
- 19 Patent Hypatia had registered in first lady's book (7)
- 21 Stretchy fabric from two fashion capitals (5)
- 23 Jane's casual clothes (4,5)
- 25 Upset when flat earning rent's gutted (7)
- 27 Bother hiring nurse before a disaster (7)
- 30 MI associate and double "O" shot on the US shores (1,8,3,3)
- 6 That man needing parking is escorted and assisted (6)
- 7 Reportedly manufactured cleaner (4)
- 8 Delay support (4)
- 12 Burning issue? (5)
- 13 Terrific or Terrible? (5)
- 15 Talk show hostess invites European leaving Hungary for entertainment (5)
- 16 Perhaps re-do records? (5)
- 18 Name country entertaining British before the French duke, say (8)
- 20 Casting a spell, criminal's hot and smashing (8)

DOWN

- 1 Impressed by old woman knocking girl out (4)
- 2 Spouse nearly adopted a homeless child (4)
- 3 Bear ought to get climbing again (8)
- 4 Something charged for running behind time (6)
- 5 I drop bananas with a bit of Ragi, picking up say, a breakfast dish (8)
- 22 Batting after putting up century abroad (3-3)
- 24 Disunity in party is getting messy (6)
- 25 Animal's tail flicked by leg (4)
- 26 Avoiding the restless Cheetah attacking in hunger (4)
- 28 Trace a cat (4)
- 29 Out briefly at regular intervals to submit (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12722

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | R | C | I | C | K | W | | |
| E | U | R | E | K | A | N | E | O |
| R | W | T | N | N | R | | | |
| D | O | M | I | N | E | R | | |
| Z | R | E | U | R | A | E | | |
| D | O | G | E | A | R | E | R | A |
| N | | | | | | | | |
| D | E | N | S | E | R | E | D | O |
| A | S | P | I | R | E | J | N | L |
| H | P | A | M | A | H | A | | |
| W | I | C | K | E | R | B | A | D |
| V | E | N | I | L | D | E | V | O |
| R | E | N | O | U | N | C | E | E |
| R | T | G | R | R | N | T | | |

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Bhagiratha Prayatna

The story of how Bhagiratha of the Ikshvaku race brings the celestial Ganga to earth is described in the many puranas and the Itihasas. In a discourse, Swami Paramasukananda drew attention to how posterity has come to associate Bhagiratha's name with the value of tremendous effort, austere penance and determination by which even the most formidable challenges can be overcome. It shows that self confidence, tenacity and above all faith in God are of utmost importance when pursuing any goal, worldly or spiritual. Bhagiratha's sole aim is to redeem his ancestors, the sons of King Sagara, who had been reduced to ashes in the hermitage of Lord Kapila.

The story goes that during the Aswamedha yaga performed by Sagara, the sacrificial horse goes missing. His sons go in search of it and find it in the ashram of Sage Kapila. In a fit of haughtiness they raise their weapons against the sage who is steeped in meditation. This act reduces them to ashes. Amshuman, the grandson of Sagara, follows the footprints of his uncles and finds the horse near the heap of ashes. He also sees Lord Kapila and is told that the forbears would be relieved of their sin if the sacred waters of the Ganga are sprinkled on the ashes. Though Amshuman and later his son Dilipa try to bring the Ganga during their lifetime, they fail. It is left to Dilipa's son, the righteous Bhagiratha to take up the responsibility of saving his forefathers. He understands the importance of honouring the family tradition and the duties of the progeny towards the family ancestors.

He renounces kingly responsibilities and devotes his entire time and effort to somehow see Goddess Ganga and request her to come to earth.