

From shock vote to divorce deal

Britain and the EU reached on Thursday a draft Brexit deal but Britain's road out of the bloc still remains bumpy

Draft deal

November 13, 2018: British and EU negotiators reach a draft divorce agreement

January 15, 2019: In the first Parliament vote on the deal, MPs vote **432 to 202** against

March 12: The House of Commons rejects the deal again by **391 to 242**

March 29: Parliament votes against it for a third time by **344 to 286**

•The EU agrees to delay Brexit until May 22 and then until October 31

PM Johnson

May 24: May announces that she will step down as Conservative leader on June 7

July 23: Brexit figurehead Boris Johnson is voted new Conservative leader, becoming Prime Minister the next day

October 17: U.K. and EU leaders agree on a new Brexit deal

What's in the deal?

- The U.K. will honour EU rules till the end of 2020
- The U.K. will pay an estimated £39 bn 'divorce Bill'
- The rights of EU citizens living in the U.K. and U.K. citizens in the EU will be guaranteed
- Northern Ireland will be aligned with the EU single market for goods while it will legally part with the EU
- There will be customs borders between Great Britain and the Irish island

Vote to leave

June 23, 2016: Britons choose to leave the 28-nation EU by 52 to 48% of votes

- The shock outcome prompts Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron to resign the next day
- July 13: Theresa May, the Interior Minister who also backed remaining in the EU, becomes Prime Minister
- The Brexit deadline is set for March 29, 2019

Lost majority

June 8, 2017: Britons vote in snap parliamentary polls. The Conservatives lose their majority and are forced to strike a deal for support from Northern Ireland's hardline Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)

What happens next

MPs back the deal → Brexit legislation by October 31 → Approved → Brexit on October 31

MPs reject the deal → If legislation is not ready by Oct. 31, the U.K. asks for a delay → EU rejects → The U.K. resumes talks with the EU for another deal → Brexit

The government is required to ask for a delay until Jan. 31 → EU approves → Brexit on October 31

The government is required to ask for a delay until Jan. 31 → EU rejects → The U.K. resumes talks with the EU for another deal → Brexit

We are unhappy with this deal and as it stands we will vote against it, although obviously we will need to see all of the last details of it. — JEREMY CORBYN, Labour leader

These proposals are not, in our view, beneficial to the economic well-being of Northern Ireland and they undermine the integrity of the Union, DUP, WHICH BACKS JOHNSON'S GOVERNMENT, SAID IN A STATEMENT

Johnson scrambles for votes on Brexit

PM, whose party has 286 MPs, has to get the support of 320 lawmakers to pass the agreement

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday urged MPs “to come together” and support his “excellent” Brexit deal without any more delay.

But he is facing a desperate scramble for votes to pass the deal in Parliament, as his Conservative government is well short of a majority.

MPs will debate his new agreement at a rare weekend sitting of Parliament – only the fifth time since 1939 there has been a Saturday

session in Parliament.

Mr. Johnson's chances hinge on what four key groups decide to do. They are – the Conservatives' Democratic Unionist Party allies from Northern Ireland; the European Research Group (ERG) of hardcore Conservative eurosceptics; expelled anti-no deal Conservatives; and Brexit-reconciled Labour MPs. The DUP has already rejected the new deal and the ERG tends to follow their lead.

The House of Commons has 650 seats. But in practice

there are 639 votes up for grabs. The seven MPs from the Irish republican party, Sinn Féin, do not take their seats, while the speaker and his three deputies – two Labour MPs and one Conservative – do not vote.

Absolute majority

That means 320 votes are needed for an absolute majority. Support for the deal that Mr. Johnson's predecessor Theresa May struck with Brussels peaked at 286 at the third time of asking.

There are now a maxi-

mum 287 Conservative votes – if the ERG faction backs the new deal.

The DUP allies command 10 votes – but the Northern Irish party has said they cannot support the new deal.

Dom Walsh, a policy analyst, said that without DUP support, the numbers were now “very, very tight”. “It's theoretically possible to get a deal through without the DUP, but staggeringly unlikely,” he tweeted.

By his calculations, Mr. Johnson would need to convince every ERG rebel, every

former Conservative who voted for Ms. May's deal (19), every Labour and independent MP who did so (nine) plus five extra Labour MPs – just to get a majority of one.

Mr. Johnson had ousted 21 Conservatives for voting against the government to stop a no-deal Brexit. “They don't owe Johnson anything and have burned their bridges. But most of them wanted a deal and voted for one, and left to avoid no deal,” said Tim Bale, the deputy director of U.K. in a Changing Europe, a think-tank.

Hong Kong lawmakers heckle Lam, dragged out by guards

The legislature opened its doors for a new session on Wednesday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE HONG KONG

Pro-democracy lawmakers were dragged out of Hong Kong's legislature by security guards on Thursday after they heckled the city's pro-Beijing leader for a second day running, the latest outburst of political rancour in the strife-torn city.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam has faced an outpouring of anger from her oppo-

nents since the legislature opened its doors for a new session on Wednesday, three months after the building was trashed by masked protesters.

Ms. Lam was unable to give a State of the Union-style policy speech on Wednesday after pro-democracy lawmakers, who form a minority on the pro-Beijing-stacked legislature, repeatedly interrupted her.

Instead, she was forced to deliver the address via a pre-recorded video.

Ms. Lam returned to the Legislative Council on Thursday to answer questions from lawmakers about the content of that policy speech.

But chaos erupted once again as her opponents chanted slogans and were dragged one-by-one from the chamber.

ELSEWHERE



Democrat Congressman Elijah Cummings is dead

BALTIMORE

Maryland Representative Elijah E. Cummings, a sharecropper's son who rose to become a civil rights champion and the Chairman of one of the U.S. House Committees leading an impeachment inquiry on President Donald Trump, died on Thursday of health complications. He was 68. Mr. Cummings was a formidable orator who advocated for the poor in his black-majority district. He probed the President's dealings, including inquiry in 2019 relating to Mr. Trump's family members serving in the White House. AP

Turkey agrees to Syria ceasefire

120-hour pause to let Kurds pull out of the 'safe zone'

ASSOCIATED PRESS ANKARA

U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence announced on Thursday that Turkey has agreed to a ceasefire to allow the Kurdish forces it was battling to safely withdraw from an area in northern Syria.

Mr. Pence spoke after he met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. He said that President Donald Trump made it clear that had Turkey not agreed, the U.S. would impose more economic sanctions. However, the agreement essentially gives the Turks what they had sought to achieve with their military operation in the first place, removal of the Kurdish forces from the border “safe zone.”



Mike Pence, right, with Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. • REUTERS

Mr. Pence said Turkey had agreed to a “pause in military operations for 120 hours” to allow the Kurds to withdraw. He said the U.S. and Turkey had “mutually committed to a peaceful resolution and future for the safe zone.”

After the Kurdish forces are cleared from the safe

zone, Turkey has committed to a permanent ceasefire but is under no obligation to withdraw troops. That, according to one U.S. official, is tantamount to allowing Turkey to occupy the safe zone.

In addition, the deal gives Turkey relief from sanctions the administration had imposed.

Russian protester flees country to avoid prison amid crackdown

Gubaidulin threw a plastic bottle at police during July rally

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MOSCOW

A Russian protester who faces up to five years in prison for throwing a plastic bottle at police said on Thursday that he fled the country amid an unrelenting crackdown on the opposition.

Aidar Gubaidulin, a 26-year-old programmer, was among more than a dozen people who were arrested following anti-government protests demanding fair elections this summer.

He fled the country this week after realising he could soon be given a lengthy jail term, his lawyer Maxim Pashkov said.



Aidar Gubaidulin

“This decision did not come easy to me but the events of the last few days left me no choice,” Mr. Gubaidulin said on Facebook.

“I've left the country and will not return anytime soon.”

Mr. Gubaidulin, who tossed an empty plastic bottle towards the police at a July rally but did not hit anyone, was arrested and charged with mass unrest.

He was later released from pre-trial detention and eventually charged with threatening to use violence against the police.

Mr. Pashkov said Mr. Gubaidulin decided to leave Russia after a court on Monday upheld the conviction of another demonstrator, Konstantin Kotov, who had been jailed for four years over peaceful protests.

“This affected him very much,” Mr. Pashkov said.

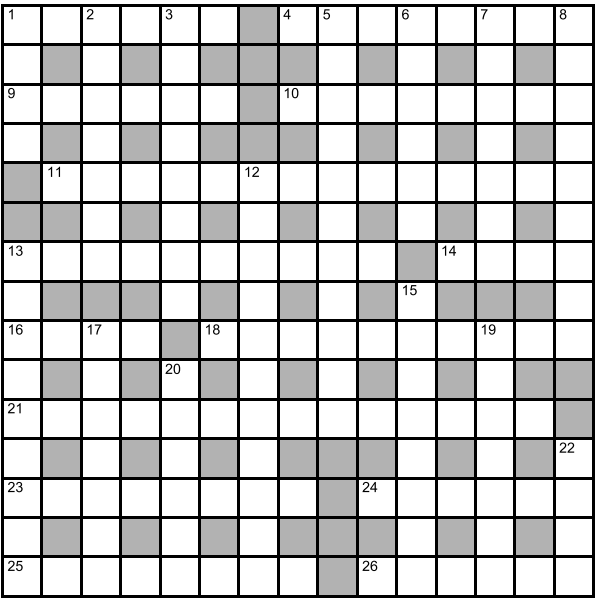
Trump pushed Kiev to probe Biden: envoy

REUTERS WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump directed senior U.S. officials to talk directly to his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, about U.S. policy in Ukraine, raising concern that the President was outsourcing American foreign policy to a private citizen, the U.S. Ambassador to the EU said on Thursday.

Gordon Sondland told lawmakers in the House of Representatives impeachment inquiry against Mr. Trump that he did not understand “until much later” that Mr. Giuliani's agenda included a push for Ukraine to probe a domestic political rival, former Vice-President Joe Biden.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12758



The crossword is also available online at crossword.thehindu.com

ACROSS

- 1 Shell shocked Yankee's debut game (6)
- 4 Moulding a rock star (female) (8)
- 9 Maids following with dogs (6)
- 10 Girl from Kozhikode married an amateur boxer (8)
- 11 Judge breaking Carol's lock leads to tension (8,6)

(set by Avtaar)

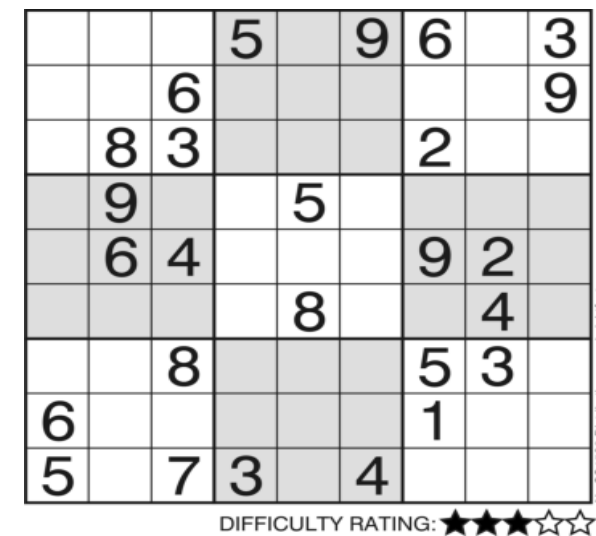
- 13 England snaps in the middle...legislative body invites courts...mainly to get relief (4,6)
- 14 One's essentially following...ending in servile class (4)
- 16 Cry of injured wolf when tail is cut by hunter, basically (4)
- 18 Poem "Princess is pregnant with a pretty girl" (7,3)
- 21 Man out travelling to India with East European group for trekking at high altitudes (14)
- 23 Rooney, for one, stayed, making a comeback after forward Ole Solskjaer's finally brought back (3,5)
- 24 Put money on trendy underwear (6)
- 25 Student spread gossip about girl's ultimate make-up (3,5)
- 26 Rule about visiting America's North East (6)

DOWN

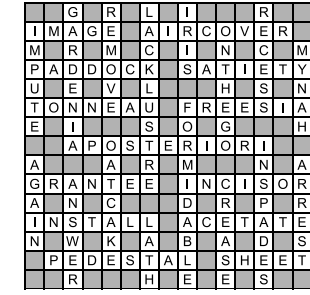
- 1 Chopped cashew nut kernels (4)
- 2 Where you may find small kids playing checkers after leaving the gate of kindergarten (7)

- 3 Shows how extraordinary sex gets ordinary (8)
- 5 Military staff? (7,4)
- 6 Property seized by arboreal types (6)
- 7 Gilchrist's sixes in the beginning together with Warne's spin – they could chew their target (7)
- 8 That is, say, withdrawn after the French papers attacked violently (4,5)
- 12 Forces heard in Auckland, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dhaka, Hanoi, Islamabad, Jakarta, Kiev, London and Rome, say (11)
- 13 E.H. Palmer (explorer, chiefly) – got murdered – was he this? (9)
- 15 They hold devices, ultimately for entering houses and closing of rooms (3,5)
- 17 Finished under stress (5,2)
- 19 Did learn about the New Testament's beacon (7)
- 20 An intern catches you following closely (2,4)
- 22 Growth around the edges of eyesockets (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12757



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Thought, word and deed

Sastras lay great emphasis on “Tri karana Suddhi” by which a jivatma learns to coordinate his speech and action with what his mind thinks. This is the basis for the jivatma's moral and spiritual excellence. Generally the three are not aligned since the mind is fickle by nature and hence the jivatma is warned to be ever watchful and control its wayward behaviour, pointed out Muktuk Sri Srinivasan in a discourse. Sometimes harsh words are said in anger, wrong acts done on the spur of the moment and sinful thoughts keep crossing the mind. Very often one's external behaviour may not reflect the feelings of greed, jealousy, desire, hatred, etc, which taint the mind. This is tantamount to dishonesty.

Even realised souls are not exempt from these mental activities within. But they will immediately realise the wrongness of their thoughts and cut it out immediately. The story of a Vedic scholar who attends a debate on sastras organised by a king is quoted to illustrate the typical ways by which people tend to be hypocritical when they fall a prey to evil thoughts. At the end of the sadas when the scholars are honoured, this scholar feels that the reward is not enough but departs thanking the king profusely. But his dissatisfaction is somehow brought to the king's notice. He is summoned to the court but the scholar saves his skin by saying that what he meant was only through the munificence of the king or God can one's poverty can be alleviated and that whatever is given by others can only be sufficient for meeting small expenses. The king is pleased and gives him more money. But the scholar lacks tri-karana suddhi.

One has to rise above rajas and tamas and consciously cultivate Satva guna to get over hypocritical behaviour to remain pure in thought, word and deed.