

House to vote on impeachment probe

We are taking this step to eliminate any doubt about the process, says Speaker Nancy Pelosi

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

In a change in strategy, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, announced that the House will hold a formal vote on the impeachment inquiry. The vote, which is planned for Thursday, comes some five weeks after House Democrats launched an inquiry into whether President Donald Trump had violated his oath of office by pressuring Ukraine's President to investigate Mr. Trump's political opponents.

Members of the House will now have to go on record with where they stand on the impeachment – a politically risky situation for House Democrats who are from districts with a thin Democratic majority, one of the reasons why Ms. Pelosi had been hesitant to hold such a vote in the first place.

The move also comes in the face of the Trump administration insisting that the ongoing inquiry is not consti-

tutionally valid having not been put to vote. White House Counsel Pat Cipollone had written to Democratic leaders in the House and Ms. Pelosi in early October, saying the White House would not cooperate with the inquiry. Some State Department officials have defied the White House's order not to testify.

A federal court last week had, however, ruled that the inquiry was legal. Nevertheless, Ms. Pelosi is not taking any chance. "We are taking this step to eliminate any doubt as to whether the Trump Administration may withhold documents, prevent witness testimony, disregard duly authorised subpoenas, or continue obstructing the House of Representatives," Ms. Pelosi said on Monday in a letter to her Democratic colleagues.

The House Resolution posted on Ms. Pelosi's website read: "Directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as



President Donald Trump in Chicago on Monday. • AP

part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes."

"This resolution establishes the procedure for hearings that are open to the American people, authorises the disclosure of deposition transcripts... and sets forth due process rights for the

President and his Counsel," Ms. Pelosi said, suggesting that the next phase is likely to involve witnesses testifying in open session.

Sole power
According to the U.S. Constitution, the House has the "sole power" to impeach a President, and if impeached, a President is tried by the Senate and removed only if convicted there. The President is likely to be impeached given that the Democrats have a 234-197

majority over the Republicans.

The Republicans introduced a resolution in the Senate last Thursday condemning the House inquiry. On Monday, the White House and Republicans on Capitol Hill criticised the planned vote.

"Speaker Pelosi is finally admitting what the rest of America already knew – that Democrats were conducting an unauthorised impeachment proceeding, refusing to give the President due process, and their secret, shady, closed door depositions are completely and irreversibly illegitimate," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

However, Mr. Trump reacted differently, asking his colleagues on the Hill to focus on the case itself. "I'd rather go into the details of the case rather than process," Mr. Trump told reporters on Monday. "Process is good but I think you ought to look at the case."

Islamic State after Baghdadi

His death is a blow to IS, but insurgency is likely to continue

STANLY JOHNY

The death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the founder leader of the Islamic State (IS), is a signal moment in the fight against terrorism. Baghdadi blew himself up in an underground tunnel in a Syrian village where he was hiding when he was surrounded by U.S. special forces. In the few years he led the IS, the 48-year-old had overseen the rise and retreat of the IS.

Who's Baghdadi?

Born in Iraq's Samarra, Baghdadi, whose real name was Ibrahim Awwad bin Ibrahim al-Badri, did his primary education in his hometown and higher studies in Baghdad. He graduated and finished his doctoral research in the Saddam Centre for the Reciting of the Quran. His initial political activism was with the Muslim Brotherhood. While the Brotherhood stood for mainstream politics, Baghdadi was more attracted towards the writings of Sayyid Qutb, the radical Islamist who was hanged in Egypt in 1966.

In 2004, he was arrested in Fallujah where he went to meet a friend who was on America's wanted list. He was transferred to Camp Bucca, a U.S.-run detention centre in southern Iraq. During his 10-month stay in Bucca, Baghdadi emerged as a religious leader of the inmates. Some of the inmates recalled him as an energetic scholar and a crazy football fan (he was called the 'Maradona of Camp Bucca'). In Bucca, Baghdadi established a network of both Saddam-era military leaders and Islamist radicals, who would rise to the top command of the IS in a few years.

After Abu Musab Zarqawi and two of his successors (Abu Ayub al-Misri and Omar al-Baghdadi) were



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

killed by American attacks, the leadership of a weakened al-Qaeda in Iraq fell into Abu Bakr Baghdadi's hands. The group had already renamed itself as the Islamic State in Iraq, revealing its ambitions for power. When the civil crisis broke out in Syria in 2011, Baghdadi found an opportunity to regroup his organisation. He despatched a group of jihadists across the border to

fight against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. This group, under the leadership of Abu Mohammad al-Julani, would become Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's Syria branch. The IS is a breakaway faction of al-Nusra. Under Baghdadi's leadership, the IS grew fast by attracting thousands of youth from around the world and expanding territories quickly.

The fall of the Caliphate
The fall began in Kobane, the Syrian border town, in early 2015, when Kurdish People Protection Units (YPG) militias defeated the IS. After that, the YPG took back most of the border region with help from the U.S. In central Syria, the IS was stopped in the outskirts of the ancient city Palmyra by the government forces. In Iraq, they faced resistance from the Iraqi Army. Surrounded by enemies, the IS

remained concentrated on the core of its territory, spread from Der Ezzor in eastern Syria to Mosul in Iraq. But after its expansion was stopped, the U.S.-allied troops started attacking this core. The Syrian Democratic Forces, led by the YPG, attacked the IS in Syria while in Iraq, the Iraqi Army, Iran-trained Shia militias and the Peshmerga of Iraqi Kurdistan led the charge. They liberated all the major cities such as Raqqa, Der Ezzour, Fallujah, Ramadi and Mosul one by one, with help from the U.S. By mid-2018, the IS Caliphate was physically destroyed, and its soldiers were on the run.

What's next?
While the IS is certainly on the backfoot now, the insurgency is not defeated yet. The death of Zarqawi did not bring an end to AQI. The death of Osama bin Laden did not mean that al-Qaeda central was finished. The IS is primarily an insurgency that tried to establish a proto-state. The organisational structure, which is largely decentralised with autonomous cells taking their own tactical decisions, also means that the group will survive the loss of its leaders. Even after it lost territories, IS cells continued to carry out terror attacks in Iraq and Syria. As long as Iraq and Syria remain chaotic and lawless, the IS remains would continue to find opportunities to strike a comeback.

The group also has loyalist factions and affiliates in different parts of the world. The Boko Haram in Nigeria is an IS affiliate. The IS has a province in Afghanistan. It has operational units in Libya and Egypt's Sinai. All these suggests, the threats from the IS are far from over despite the losses it suffered.

Lebanon PM resigns over mass protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned on Tuesday, bowing to anti-government demonstrators shortly after Hezbollah supporters rampaged through the main protest camp in Beirut, chasing away protesters.

The Prime Minister said he was stepping down after hitting a "dead end" in trying to resolve the crisis, which has paralysed the country for nearly two weeks.

Nawaz Sharif fighting for life: doctor

Islamabad High Court grants bail to the former PM on medical grounds

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted bail on medical grounds to former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for eight weeks.

Mr. Sharif's personal doctor said he remains 'critical and unstable'.

Mr. Sharif's brother Shehbaz Sharif had filed a plea seeking the suspension of his brother's sentence in the in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case. He had been sentenced to seven years in

jail for corruption with regard to the setting up of Al-Azizia Steel Mills in Saudi Arabia by his family. The court had granted interim bail to the former Prime Minister on Saturday in the same case.



Nawaz Sharif

ter remains critical and unstable. There is a strong suspicion of malignancy due to enlarged lymph nodes. It is very early to say what has to

be done. Many tests and scans are pending and diagnosis of his condition has still not been made."

Dr. Khan had earlier said in the court that there is a fear that Mr. Sharif may lose his life due to his worsening condition.

Mr. Sharif was brought to the hospital last week after his platelets count dropped to a critical level and kept fluctuating. He also suffered a minor heart attack on Saturday while being treated at a Services Hospital in Lahore.

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court extends stay on death penalty

Sirisena had vowed to hang 'at least one drug dealer'

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Tuesday extended an earlier interim order on the death penalty, preventing any attempt by President Maithripala Sirisena from ordering the execution of drug convicts during his last month in office.

Vowing to hang drug offenders, President Sirisena said in June that he had signed death warrants for four persons convicted in cases of drug offence. "They will be carried out soon," he told the media then. However, following over a dozen petitions challenging the de-

cision, the top court stayed the move early in July, preventing the country's first hanging in over four decades. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court extended the interim order until December 9.

Earlier this month, Mr. Sirisena promised to hang "at least one drug dealer" before his tenure ends, if the Supreme Court gave a favourable ruling, according to a report published in the English daily *The Island*.

'To save the nation'
Sri Lanka has maintained a moratorium on capital punishment since 1976 and not

executed anyone in 43 years, though more than 400 persons have received confirmed death sentences.

Justifying his decision then, President Sirisena said: "I signed the document to execute the drug offenders not with hatred and cruelty towards anyone, but to save the nation and the future generation from the drug menace, which is our worst social catastrophe."

Presidential hopeful Sajith Premadasa has endorsed the death penalty, though his UNP is against it. Other contestants, including Gotabaya Rajapaksa, have not commented on the issue.

U.K. heads towards pre-Christmas poll

With Labour Party's backing, Johnson is pushing a Bill that calls for Dec. 12 election

REUTERS
LONDON

Britain was heading towards its first December election in almost a century after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bet on breaking the Brexit deadlock with an early ballot gained support from opposition parties on Tuesday.

As the European Union agreed a third delay to the divorce that was originally supposed to take place on March 29, the U.K., its Parliament and its electorate remain divided on how or indeed whether to go ahead with Brexit.

Mr. Johnson, who had promised to deliver Brexit on October 31, has repeatedly demanded an election to end what he casts as a night-



Early ballot: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaking in the House of Commons in London on Tuesday. • AP

mare paralysis that is sapping public trust in politicians by preventing any Brexit outcome at all.

After Parliament refused Mr. Johnson his third demand for an election on Monday, he will try to force a Bill through Parliament on Tuesday that calls for a De-

cember 12 election. It needs a simple majority in Parliament.

The opposition Labour Party's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, said the condition of ruling out a no-deal Brexit had been met so he would support an election.

"Whatever date the House

decides the election will be, I'm ready for it, we're ready for it," Mr. Corbyn said. "The Labour Party loves a debate but they also love the end of the debate, and this is the end of the debate: we are going out there to win," he said.

The first Christmas election in Britain since 1923 would be highly unpredictable: Brexit has variously fatigued and enraged swathes of voters while eroding traditional loyalties to the two major parties, Conservative and Labour.

Some politicians feel an election so close to Christmas could irritate voters, while campaigning and getting the voters out could be hampered by cold weather.

ELSEWHERE



Hong Kong bars activist from contesting election

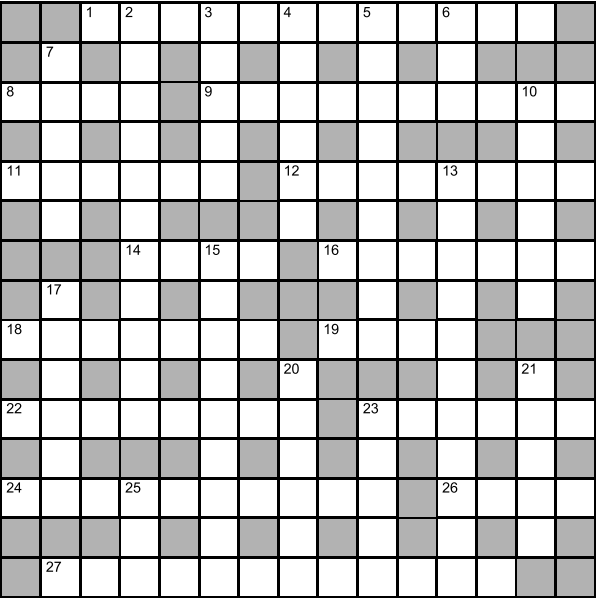
HONG KONG
Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong was barred on Tuesday from standing in upcoming local elections after months of huge and frequently violent protests in the city. • AFP

U.S. plans to bar purchases from Huawei and ZTE

WASHINGTON
The U.S. plans to vote on November 19 to designate China's Huawei and ZTE as national security risks, barring their U.S. rural carrier customers from tapping an \$8.5 billion government fund to purchase equipment or services. • REUTERS

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12767

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ACROSS

- 1 Battering collapses at final in Edgbaston kept one engrossed (4,1,5,2)
- 8 Lead cut short by tea (4)
- 9 Drives from bat showing positive energy, with runs in boundaries (10)
- 11 Point saved run easily being quick (6)
- 12 Case of century (not out)

- (set by Buzzer)
- certain to become object of admiration (8)
 - 14 Utter pace getting a wicket (4)
 - 16 Nearly bowl a maiden to end the innings (7)
 - 18 Hide in field remaining outside ring (7)
 - 19 Grand century on return to tie (4)
 - 22 One out beaten in flight having hollow stance (8)
 - 23 Top ball breaking off stump (6)
 - 24 Deserve bye, throw being wild over fielder's head (2,6,2)
 - 26 Has a problem scoring right off the bat (1,1,1,1)
 - 27 Opening batting, tense except for power play (12)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 This game, bit sticky so to speak (2,2,5,2)
 - 3 Love West Indies, during peak of their time that is (2,3)
 - 4 Shot clips base part of bat's handle (6)
 - 5 Unfurling late sweep, is rolling on (9)
 - 6 Rule change to a mode of dismissal in the middle (3)
 - 7 Bit tough chasing second (5)
 - 10 Most remarkable attributes of spinner are standout (6)
 - 13 Mostly good team, semi-poor in the past (4,4,3)
 - 15 Players on field in a difficult spot after dropping catch? (6-3)
 - 17 Line say close to edge of crease results in extra (3,3)
 - 20 Bye is merely bonus conceded occasionally (3,3)
 - 21 One big hit brings belief ... (5)
 - 23 ... one about fellow not in good form (5)
 - 25 Stumped perhaps by defeat with lead in excess (3)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12766

WHIPPETS RAFFIA
I B A R K S R L
S P E C T R A N A S C E N T
E R A N I E N E
S W I N G S I G H T S E E R
T A O C H H T E
I O E N T E R T A I N I N G
S O N G A N D A N G E
A E E C H T L
B U L L F I N C H Y A H O O
E I E T E F R U
L A N T A N A L I E D O W N
L E S S L O E N G
A E R A T E P R O T E G E E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Ethics of war

After the Gitaopadesa to Arjuna is over and when all is ready for the Mahabharata war to begin, Yudhishtira puts away his weapons, discards his armour, gets down from the chariot and walks towards the Kaurava army. All are puzzled and perplexed. Arjuna goes after Yudhishtira to learn the reason for this sudden and strange reaction. Yudhishtira, immersed in his own thoughts, does not give any reply. The all-knowing Krishna tells Arjuna that perhaps Yudhishtira wishes to get the permission of the elders and preceptors under whom the Pandavas had been trained.

In a discourse, Sri B. Sundarkumar drew attention to the fact that if Yudhishtira seeking permission from members of the opposing camp is to be appreciated as a worthy gesture, equally creditable is the way the elders respond. For when Yudhishtira approaches the great stalwarts, Bhishma, Drona, Kripa and Salya in succession, they all agree in one voice that what he has done is right and that they would never have pardoned him if he had gone ahead and fought without seeking their permission. Bhishma is happy to bless Yudhishtira. He says that success is sure for him since he is always aligned to dharma. Dharma and victory are synonymous. It hence follows that wherever there is dharma, there is Krishna; and wherever Krishna is, there is victory.

To Yudhishtira's query as to how to defeat him, the grand old Pitamaha, ever invincible, tells him that the secret will be given away on the night of the ninth day of battle. He also explains that he is indebted to the Kauravas. Man is a slave to wealth, but the irony is that wealth is not subservient to any one. Drona, Kripa and Salya also echo somewhat similar sentiments on loyalty and the inevitable obligation that gets attached to those who are dependent on others.