Protesters want Imran Khan to resign

Islamist party leader Maulana Rehman leads thousands to capital, gives PM a two-day ultimatum

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

Tens of thousands of protesters, led by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman, took out a march in Islamabad on Friday, demanding the resignation of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"You have two days, we cannot show more patience," Mr. Rehman warned the Premier. If Mr. Khan doesn't resign in two days, "he will not be able to stop people from entering the Prime Minister House", he said.

"Nawaz Sharif had heard this, so had Asif Zardari. Now, they [establishment] should also hear what we are saying," said Maulana in a pointed message to the establishment.

Message in numbers: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam supporters offering Friday prayers in Islamabad. • AP

'Stay here'

"Only the people of Pakistan have the right to rule over Pakistan; no institution has the right to impose itself over us," said Mr. Rehman.

"Stay here my friends, do not move... they have to resign in two days, you the people will decide what your decision is. It was your vote that was snatched from you, so you have to decide about your vote."

He ended his speech by saying that all decisions will be taken through consensus.

Originally the plan was that the 'Azadi March' would start on October 27 and go to Islamabad on October 31, but the caravan got delayed and reached the capital on Friday.

Opposition leaders joined Maulana in the capital on Friday. Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif also addressed the rally.

Mr. Bhutto-Zardari questioned the role of the Army in the 2018 elections. He said that such things make the role of the institutions controversial. "This Army is not any political party's, or Imran Khan's. This is the people's army – Pakistan's Army. We want to keep our institutions uncontroversial and non-political."

Opposition platform

He thanked Mr. Rehman for bringing all Opposition parties together on a platform. "We will send this Selected Prime Minister home."

Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif criticised the government over its mismanagement of the economy. He said that after the ouster of the government and forming a new government, "we will put the country on the right track within six months."

Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed a public rally in Gilgit-Baltistan where he took on the 'Azadi March', saying, "we will send food for the protesters but will not offer the Opposition any NRO," referring to a deal.

'We don't need a military solution to security risks'

JVP leader says Sri Lanka needs a sound political response

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka does not need a military response to tackle prevalent national security concerns; the country needs a sound political response, according to Anura Kumara Dissanayake, leader and presidential candidate of the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

In an interview to *The Hindu* on Thursday, at the JVP headquarters near the Sri Lankan Parliament, Mr. Dissanayake sought to debunk the "national security" pitch made by prominent contestant Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a former Defence Secretary, drawing many who want a "strong leader".

His main opponent and the ruling United National Party's (UNP) candidate Sajith Premadasa, too, has promised to involve former Army commander Sarath Fonseka in national security affairs.

Challenging both, Mr. Dissanayake said the "national security threat", which has emerged a key election issue following the Easter Sunday terror bombings, must be compared to the civil war years. "The LTTE had its own army, navy and even an air force. They controlled parts of the country. That situation warranted a military strategy and response in the interest of national security."

The current threat is more a case of extremist elements in one community attacking people of another community, he noted. "That is essentially what happened in the Easter attacks. That is also what happened in Digana [2018]." The April 21 serial blasts, which investigators have attributed to a local Islamist group, were carried out in churches and high-end hotels, killing over 250 people. Authorities who probed the violence in the town of Digana, near Kandy, last year, found that Sinhalese mobs carried out targeted attacks on shops and homes of Muslims.

Communal tensions witnessed in the last few years did not originate from within the communities, Mr. Dissanayake argued. They were "planted" by political actors for their own narrow gains.

"In such a situation, what can MiG aeroplanes, multi-barrels, brigades and army generals do? They cannot solve the problem," he said. Racism and religious extremism had become part of a "political project" in Sri Lanka and therefore, needed a political solution. "Only an alternative political force or movement can solve the problem."

A third force

It is such a political movement that the JVP aims to build, not only to ensure national and public security, but also to challenge and replace "the entrenched, self-serving" politics of Sri Lanka's two main political parties that have alternated in power since independence.

The candidacy of JVP MP Dissanayake, 50, is significant. Not so much for the party's electoral base – it polled about 5.75 % of the votes in the local polls last year – but more for its leader's growing appeal.

Mr. Dissanayake's sharp and evocative interventions in Parliament, also seen during the country's infamous 52-day constitutional crisis in October 2018, won him many fans, particularly among intellectuals, artistes and the youth.

A staunch campaigner of the abolition of executive presidency, Mr. Dissanayake took the plunge this poll because the party couldn't see itself supporting another candidate again. It is the first time in nearly 20 years that the JVP is fielding its own candidate in the presidential election. In 2015, their campaign was fiercely critical of the then incumbent Rajapaksas, effectively pointing voters to the Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe combine.

"But it is the same [Mr. Wickremesinghe's] UNP that protected the Rajapaksas and created an environment where a family member could enter this contest. The UNP has no moral right now to ask the people to defeat the Rajapaksas," he said.

In fact, some dreading the return of the "repressive" Rajapaka rule have been pressuring the JVP to divert its supporters to Mr. Premadasa. They fear that Mr. Dissanayake's candidacy might split the anti-Rajapaksa vote.

"We appreciate their concern, but it is very unfair to ask us to do this again and again. We want to build our political and socio-economic vision for the long-term. The movement for change has to begin now," Mr. Dissanayake said.

ELSEWHERE

Chandrika backs Sajith Premadasa for President

COLOMBO

Former President of Sri Lanka Chandrika Kumaratunga on Thursday pledged support to Sajith Premadasa, candidate of the United National Party in the November 16 presidential election, while her Sri Lanka Freedom Party is officially backing Gotabaya Rajapaksa of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (People's Party or SLPP).

Six killed in Halloween parties in California, Utah

CALIFORNIA

Four people were killed and at least three wounded at a Halloween night party shooting at a rental house in the San Francisco Bay Area. The home had been rented out for what was supposed to be a family reunion, but more than 100 people showed up. Police arrived after reports of shooting. In Utah, a 22-year-old man was stabbed to death and a 23-year-old man was fatally shot at a halloween party. AP

Spain to host COP25 climate summit in Dec.

MADRID

Spain will host the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) climate summit in December, the UN said on Friday, after Chile abandoned plans to hold it due to deadly anti-government protests. "We are pleased to announce the COP Bureau has agreed that COP25 will take place from 2-13 December in Madrid," United Nations climate chief Patricia Espinosa said on Twitter. AFP

U.S. agency grounds Chinese drones

Dept. of Interior's decision comes amid concern that UAVs pose security risk

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of the Interior has grounded its fleet of Chinese-made drones as it conducts a review of the programme.

Nick Goodwin, an Interior Department spokesman, did not provide a reason for the decision but it comes amid U.S. security concerns over Chinese electronics.

Mr. Goodwin said the review had been ordered by Interior Department Secretary David Bernhardt. "Until this review is completed, the Secretary has directed that drones manufactured in China or made from Chinese components be grounded."

Exceptions would be made for drones that are being used for emergency purposes such as fighting wildfires, search and rescue, and dealing with natural disasters, Mr. Goodwin said.

According to sources, the Interior Department has a fleet of 810 drones, almost all built by Chinese companies.

Only 24 are U.S.-made and even those have Chinese electronic components, the sources said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued a warning in May that Chinese-made drones could pose a security risk.

The U.S. has taken steps against China's Huawei by banning American companies from selling or transferring U.S. technology to the Chinese telecoms giant.

U.S. intelligence believes Huawei is backed by the Chinese military and that its equipment could provide Beijing's spy agencies a backdoor into the communications networks of other countries.

China's Foreign Ministry said on Friday that it was "still seeking further understanding of the specific situation" but called for the U.S. to provide a "non-discriminatory environment for Chinese companies".

"We urge the U.S. to stop abusing the concept of national security, stop exaggerating the so-called China threat, and stop oppressing Chinese companies without reason," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

The Chinese company DJI produces about 70% of the world's commercial drones.

Won't allow separatism in Hong Kong: China

Top leadership vows to ensure stability

REUTERS
BEIJING

China will "perfect" the way the leader of Hong Kong is appointed and replaced, and won't tolerate separatism or threats to national security there, a senior Chinese official said on Friday after a meeting of the top leadership.

On Thursday, the party vowed to ensure Hong Kong's stability, following a closed-door, four-day meeting of the ruling Communist Party's leaders in Beijing, signalling its importance to the stability-obsessed party.

What started as opposition to a now-withdrawn Extradition Bill has grown into a pro-democracy movement against what is seen as Beijing's tightening grip on the Asian financial hub.

The party has decided to "perfect" the system for appointing and replacing the leaders of Hong Kong and Macau and other senior officials there, he said, without giving details.

The party will "firmly safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests, safeguard the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macau, and will not tolerate any challenges to the bottom line of 'one country, two systems'," said Shen Chunyao, director of the Hong Kong, Macau and Basic Law Commission.

U.S. President urges Johnson to form alliance with Farage's party

Trump says Corbyn would be 'so bad' for U.K. if he wins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump ruffled a few feathers in the U.K. on Thursday when he backed "fantastic" British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and categorised Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn as "so bad" for Britain if he wins the election, which will be held on December 12.

In an interview with LBC Radio with host and far-right Brexit Party Leader Nigel Farage on the phone overnight on Thursday, Mr. Trump pushed for an alliance between the Conservatives and Mr. Farage's party as an "unstoppable" force for the December 12 polls.

"I have great relationships with many of the leaders, including Boris who's a fantastic man – I think he's the exact right guy for the times," Mr. Trump said.

"I know that you and him will end up doing something that could be terrific – if you and he get together it's [an] unstoppable force," he said.

In reference to Mr. Corbyn, the U.S. President was scathing.

"Corbyn would be so bad for your country, he'd be so bad, he'd take you in such a bad way. He'd take you into such bad places. But your country has tremendous potential, it's a great country," Mr. Trump said.

Corbyn hits back

The remarks prompted Mr. Corbyn to take to Twitter to accuse the U.S. President of "trying to interfere" in Britain's internal affairs to get "his friend Boris Johnson elected".

However, in his characteristic style, Mr. Trump went on to also criticise Mr. Johnson for his Brexit deal struck with the European Union (EU), as damaging for U.S.-U.K. trade relations, forcing Downing Street to dismiss the concerns.

Beijing can slap tariffs of $3.6 bn on U.S. goods: WTO

'Anti-dumping duties caused loss to China'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

A World Trade Organization arbitrator on Friday authorised China to slap tariffs on U.S. imports worth up to $3.58 billion annually in a years-long dispute over U.S. anti-dumping practices, a trade official said.

China had asked the WTO for permission to hit the U.S. with more than $7 billion in tariffs in the case.

But the WTO ruling said it had determined that the illegal U.S. anti-dumping practices had caused "nullification or impairment of benefits accruing to China" to the tune of $3,579.128 million, and that Beijing could impose tariffs on goods not exceeding that amount per year.

The decision marks the first time the WTO has authorised China to impose tariffs in a trade dispute.

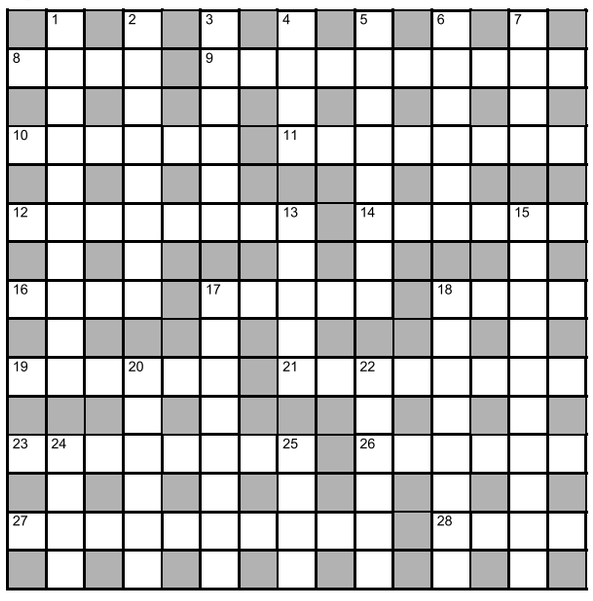
Beijing still needs to formally request the right to impose that or a lesser sum in tariffs, but it would take opposition from every WTO member to block such a request.

In this specific case, China alleged that the United States, in violation of WTO rules, was continuing a practice known as "zeroing", which calculates the price of imports compared to the normal value in the U.S. to determine predatory pricing.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12770

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles

(set by Incognito)



ACROSS

8 Rice wine for Munro? (4)
9 Opposition in occupied France retards electrical supply (10)
10 A graduate can usually select, at first, a counting machine (6)
11 Early fighter fires confusedly around mine (8)
12 Carriage entrance found on the way to the attic (8)
14 Match following a holy book (6)
16 Tribe diverted canal after losing initial approval (4)
17 Lions' self-respect (5)
18 Type of excuse without a leg to stand on (4)
19 Some type of people get into an empty tanker to make a sort of bullet (6)
21 Hopping stag eaten without a stop (8)
23 Everything consumed by veterinarian? Thanks. Capital! (8)
26 Ably managed to include Eastern Wales' initial governing principle (3-3)
27 Unique selling proposition dispatchers adopted for holding up pants (10)
28 Animal found by team returning to surround an engineer (4)

DOWN

1 Feline felon or thief who nicks Tom, perhaps? (10)
2 Locking fastener made by learner, in China, having personal identification number (8)
3 Take it easy in a post office and get the magic word (6)
4 Pakistani intelligence agency's terror outfit's god (4)
5 Guess Tim got into a car without a bit of trouble (8)
6 Befuddle female in revised fable (6)
7 Mufasa's brother was a confused rascal after losing a pound (4)
13 Bars protests (5)
15 A sci-fi feat one may achieve by going to and fro across the International Date Line (4,6)
17 Austere people Rita puns about (8)
18 Inner garments to hang around, that is, unmentionables (8)
20 Middle-eastern head of state caught a little Indian python here, initially (6)
22 Tigers collectively hide and attack (6)
24 Impartial umpire held a chemical compound (4)
25 Tools usually seen in graphs (4)

To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12769

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Single pointed dhyana

Generally all who worship God are said to be His devotees and each individual, according to his background, upbringing, and his inherent vasanas, gets established in some kind of personal relationship with God. This idea is explained by Narada to Yudhishtira during the Rajasuya yaga when Sisupala, a sworn Krishna hater, attains Sayujya with the Lord, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse. During the 'Agra Puja,' it is decided that Krishna is to be honoured as the most preeminent person. Sisupala, one of Krishna's cousins, who nurtures hatred against him since birth, is against the idea. He waits for the puja to be over and then starts slandering Krishna in the most abusive language. The whole assembly is shocked into silence and disgust.

More amazing is the fact that at one point of time, the Sudarsana chakra from Krishna's hand cuts off Sisupala's head, and a jyoti from his body merges with Krishna's feet.

Yudhishtira asks Narada how this could happen to one who has sinned in this manner against the Lord. Then Narada explains that what matters is the individual's mind that has to attain single pointedness with God. This can happen owing to many reasons. It can be love, hatred, fear, anger, friendship, kinship and bhakti. For instance, when medicine is administered, there are many ways by which it can be taken; it can be swallowed with water or milk, it can be powdered or dissolved in water and so on. But whatever way is chosen, it is important that it is taken. Likewise what is important is dhyana and to attain single pointedness in meditation. Prahlada attained Him through bhakti and the Gopis through Kama. Not all can cast aspersions on God like Sisupala. He is destined to show enmity to God and then finally attain Him.