

# We will shut down entire Pakistan: cleric

Maulana Fazlur Rehman says the protests will continue, and Imran Khan's government should go

MEHMAL SARFRAZ  
LAHORE

As the two-day ultimatum he issued to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan expired on Sunday night, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said his supporters will continue the sit-in until their goals are met.

"We have decided that we will not go to any tribunal or Election Commission or any court. The PTI's (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) foreign funding case is still lying around with the Election Commission after five years. This 'illegitimate' ruler's foreign funding case has not been decided, how will this Election Commission settle rigging cases?" he said while addressing 'Azadi March' in the capital on Sunday.

"This is a movement. After this march, we will not stop our journey... Today, we



**Standoff continues:** Maulana Fazlur Rehman, centre, waving to his supporters in Islamabad on Sunday. •AP

have shut down Islamabad. Tomorrow we will shut down the entire country. Today, we have a huge rally here; tomorrow we will make the entire Pakistan a rally-ground," he said.

"Whenever there is an election, there is interfe-

rence... Our Army, which is respectable for us, needs to ensure that next time, it will have nothing to do with the elections of Pakistan. Such interferences have made our institution controversial. We have to go back to the supremacy of the Constitution."

On Monday, Mr. Rehman convened an all-party conference (APC) in Islamabad to chart out their future strategy. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif did not attend the meeting.

### Talks with govt.

A government delegation led by Defence Minister Pervez Khattak also met members of the JUI-F in Islamabad. Mr. Khattak said he hoped something good would come out of it.

Mr. Rehman announced at the march that it has been decided by all Opposition parties that the protest will continue. "All rumours should be put to rest about divisions in the Opposition. They have told me that they will be by my side."

He said the government

delegation came with some conditions. "I told them that we will be the ones giving conditions, not you." He also criticised Mr. Khan for thinking that Narendra Modi will resolve the Kashmir issue. "He [Imran Khan] thought Modi will be a blessing for him. He said Kashmir issue will be resolved if Modi wins elections. Modi was successful. Look at how he resolved Kashmir!" Maulana added that the government will have to go. Referring to Mr. Khan, he said: "He was 'selected' earlier but he has now been rejected."

In another development, the Lahore High Court on Monday granted bail to Nawaz Sharif's daughter, Maryam Nawaz, in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case. She will not be allowed to travel abroad during her bail. The court asked Ms. Nawaz to surrender her passport.

# Iran announces latest nuclear deal violations

Rallies mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of U.S. Embassy takeover

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TEHRAN

Iran announced on Monday its latest violations of the nuclear deal with world powers, saying that it now operates twice as many advanced centrifuges banned by the 2015 accord and is working on a prototype that's 50 times faster than those allowed by the deal.

The announcement came as the country marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1979 U.S. Embassy takeover that started a 444-day hostage crisis.

By starting up these advanced centrifuges, Iran further cuts into the one year that experts estimate Tehran would need to have enough material for building a nuclear weapon if it chose to pursue one.



Protesters at a rally to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis. •AFP

The nuclear deal limited Iran to using only 5,060 first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to enrich uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas.

Meanwhile, thousands of protesters rallied outside the former U.S. embassy in Tehran. Rallies also took place in several other cities.

### U.S. sanctions

The U.S. is sanctioning members of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's inner circle.

Separately, the administration is issuing an up to \$20 million reward for information about missing former FBI agent Robert Levinson. He disappeared in Iran in 2007 but the Iranian government has never acknowledged arresting him.

# 5 protesters killed in Iraq

Despite crackdown, demonstrators continue to gather

REUTERS  
BAGHDAD

At least five people were killed as Iraqi security forces opened fire on protesters in Baghdad on Monday as thousands continued to gather in the largest wave of anti-government protests for decades.

A Reuters witness saw one man shot dead, his body carried away by fellow protesters, when security forces opened fire with live rounds on demonstrators near Baghdad's Ahrar bridge.

A Reuters cameraman saw at least four others get killed.

However, security and medical sources put the toll



**Chaos on the streets:** Demonstrators blocking the Al-Sanak bridge during a protest in Baghdad. •REUTERS

at one dead and 22 wounded, adding that rubber bullets and tear gas, not live ammunition, were used. The Interior Ministry could not be immediately reached for comment.

More than 250 Iraqis have

been killed in demonstrations since the start of October against a government they see as corrupt and beholden to foreign interests. Monday's deaths were in addition to three protesters killed late on Sunday.

# Lebanon in turmoil after demonstrators block key roads

Politicians fail to make progress on appointing a new govt.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIRUT

Demonstrators in Lebanon blocked key roads on Monday after a weekend of mass rallies confirmed that political promises had failed to extinguish the unprecedented protest movement.

Nationwide cross-sectarian rallies have gripped Lebanon since October 17, demanding a complete overhaul of a political system deemed inefficient and corrupt.

The movement forced the government to resign last week and has spurred a raft

of promises from political leaders, who have vowed to enact serious reforms to combat corruption.

But on Monday demonstrators battled on, vowing to keep up their street movement until all their demands are met, including the formation of a technocratic government.

"The people in power are not serious" about forming a new government, said Aadi, a 30-year-old demonstrator. "They think we are playing".

In the capital Beirut, they sat cross-legged on a key flyover and gathered near

the Central Bank, which protesters blame for fuelling Lebanon's economic crisis.

Lebanon's under-fire political class has repeatedly warned against the chaos a government resignation would cause, but they have yet to make progress on appointing a replacement.

President Michel Aoun has asked the outgoing government to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new one can be formed, but Lebanon has entered a phase of acute political uncertainty, even by its own dysfunctional standards.

## ELSEWHERE



### MPs vote on Speaker after Bercow's departure

LONDON  
The U.K. Parliament will select a new Speaker on Monday. Seven MPs are running to replace John Bercow, who placed himself front and centre of the Brexit saga to frustrate Britain's departure from the EU. •AFP

### Trump officials defy impeachment subpoena

WASHINGTON  
The lead lawyer for the National Security Council defied a subpoena on Monday to appear in an impeachment hearing, as did other White House witnesses, following President Donald Trump's orders not to cooperate. •AP

# 'Saudi Prince's rise saw reforms, but repressions too deepened'

HRW says critics of the kingdom still face various sanctions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DUBAI

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has pursued landmark reforms since coming to power, but his rise has been accompanied by "deepening repression and abusive practices", Human Rights Watch said Monday.

Despite a perception that the outcry over the October 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi had left the Saudis chastened, critics of the kingdom are still being vigorously pursued with measures such as arbitrary travel bans and harassment of their families, it said.



Mohammed bin Salman

"Detaining citizens for peaceful criticism of the government's policies or human rights advocacy is not a new phenomenon in Saudi Arabia," the New York-based group said in a report.

"But what has made the post-2017 arrest waves notable and different, however, is the sheer number and range of individuals targeted over a short period of time as well as the introduction of new repressive practices."

Since becoming de facto ruler two years ago, Prince Mohammed has been on a modernisation drive with reforms, including allowing women to drive, receive passports and travel abroad without permission from male relatives.

However, HRW said those moves were a smokescreen for the ongoing detention of dozens of dissidents.

# Indian taken hostage in Myanmar dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
YANGON

A 60-year-old Indian national has died in Myanmar after being taken hostage by an ethnic rebel group in the country's restive Rakhine province, media reports said on Monday.

Vinoo Gopal was among 10 people, including four Indians and U. Whei Tin — a lawmaker from Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, abducted on Sunday by the Arakan Army from two boats, *The Irrawaddy* newspaper reported.

The Indian workers were part of the ongoing construction on the Kaldan Multi-Modal Transit Transportation Project.

# 41 migrants found alive in a truck in Greece

Most of them are Afghans; none injured

REUTERS  
ATHENS

Greek police found 41 migrants, mostly Afghans, hiding in a refrigerated truck at a motorway in northern Greece on Monday, officials said.

The discovery came 10 days after 39 bodies, all believed to be Vietnamese migrants, were discovered in the back of a refrigerated truck near London. Two people have been charged in Britain and eight in Vietnam over the deaths.

The refrigeration system in the truck had not been turned on, and none of the migrants were injured, though some asked for medical assistance, a Greek police official said.



Emergency staff attending to migrants inside the truck in Xanthi, Greece. •AFP

# Turkey says it will send back IS prisoners

REUTERS  
ANKARA

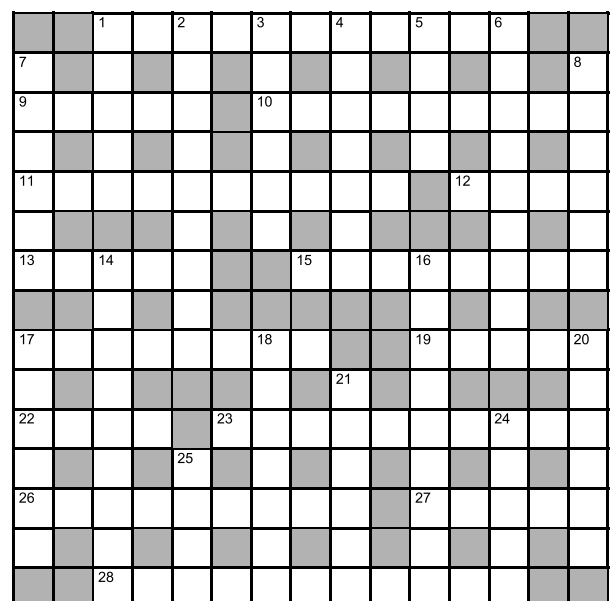
Turkey said on Monday it would send jihadist prisoners back to their countries of origin, regardless of whether they had been stripped of citizenship.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu said Turkey had nearly 1,200 foreign members of the Islamic State group (IS) in custody, and had captured 287 during its recent Syria operations.

"The world has devised a new method. They say 'Let's strip them of their citizenship. Let them be tried where they are'. It is impossible for us to accept this view... We will send Daesh (IS) members to their countries,"

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12772

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



(set by Incognito)

- 12 Anagram "anagram" after clumsy man leaves for city (4)
- 13 Indian mystic floated in front of setter (5)
- 15 Madly ran crazy state (8)
- 17 Horse-handler Wagner works using both hands (8)
- 19 Wildly rush around English theatre employee (5)
- 22 Deliberately misinforms, I hear, Head Residents (4)
- 23 Jump and turn over to get something to eat (6,4)
- 26 Bite hazel-nuts for 'ER'? (9)
- 27 Number of occasions victim escapes to some extent (5)
- 28 Person who gives orders for dislocation and mutilation of errant serf in front of King (11)
- 4 Gin's returned by Earl by air-sent back to African country (7)
- 5 Consumes European pastas regularly (4)
- 6 Wire for great help foolishly (9)
- 7 Early Christian celebrations in renovated parsonage after Ron was expelled (6)
- 8 Medieval officer held gunners in captivity (6)
- 14 Revolutionary saint built around Roman structure (9)
- 16 Orgy tunes composed for teenager (9)
- 17 Phantom's pedestrian, perhaps (6)
- 18 Fast train, say (7)
- 20 Tail half of saurel is hot. Enjoy! (6)
- 21 Fruit Chile processed before the end of June (6)
- 24 Snail obtained from outdoor merchant (5)
- 25 Father follows Oscar (4)

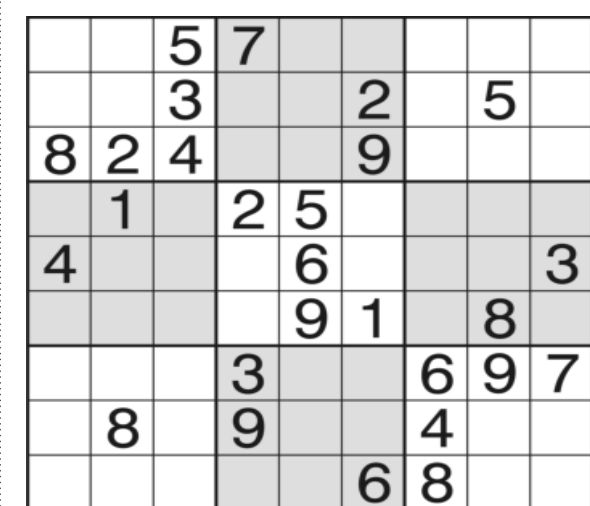
### ACROSS

- 1 Free India from French writer's diatribe expressing no trust, for starters (11)
- 9 To a large extent, goblet's shattered, but it's round (5)
- 10 Game girl carries a gun (9)
- 11 Backs advertisements pasted around capital city (10)

### DOWN

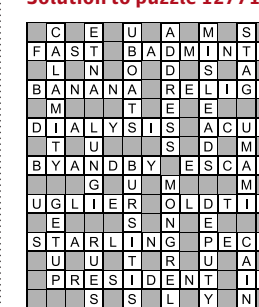
- 1 Presses for some golf clubs (5)
- 2 Increasing depth of river enclosure in Germany (9)
- 3 Local insurance company's open to all (6)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### Solution to puzzle 12771



### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



## FAITH

# Placing trust in God

Nayanmars, Azhvars and other saints have expressed their desire to be with God always. Their outpourings in verse are moving expressions of their love for God, said M.A. Manickavelu, in a discourse. Manickavachagar sings that he wants nothing anymore. He does not seek relatives, fame, or even the company of scholars. How does any of this matter to a devotee whose only attachment is to Lord Siva's feet? And Manickavachagar is interested only in seeking refuge at Siva's feet, which are adorned with anklets. Kulasekara Azhvar says that he would rather be a fish in one of the streams in Tirumala, than be ruler either on this earth or in the celestial world.

Vallalar, in his Deivamanimalai says that placing his trust in other gods, instead of in Muruga of Kanda Kottam, is like eating the bitter neem fruit, when sweet fruits are available. If he does not worship Muruga, but turns his attention to others, then he will be like a man who waters weeds instead of paddy crops. Abhirami Bhattar, in his Abhirami Andadi, says, "Oh beautiful Mother Abhirami! It is praise of You alone, which will always occupy my thoughts. I will always be with Your devotees. Every day I will recite Your praises as given in the Agamas."

It is hard to judge people. They may speak kind words to us, but in their hearts, they may nurse hatred against us. The didactic Tamil work Pazhamozhi Nanuru says that if a man speaks ill of his friend, we should not trust him, for how long will it take for him to betray us? Pazhamozhi Nanuru is right to caution us about the nature of people. But there is no need for second thoughts, when it comes to placing our trust in God. He will never let down those who are devoted to Him. That is why jnanis ache for His merciful glances.