

ELSEWHERE



Johnson presses rival to explain Brexit stance

LONDON British Prime Minister Boris Johnson pressed opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn on Tuesday to tell voters whether he backs U.K. leaving the EU. Mr. Corbyn has struggled with defining his position on Brexit ever since Britons narrowly triggered the divorce in a 2016 referendum. AFP

France to start quotas for economic migrants

PARIS France will start setting quotas for migrant workers from next year, Labour Minister Muriel Penicaud said on Tuesday, as a response to right-wing criticism over immigration policies. Industries lacking qualified candidates will be identified and foreigners hired to fill the gap, Ms. Penicaud said.

Trump urges 'war' on Mexico cartels after 9 Americans killed

Gunmen ambushed a group of Mormons, killing women and children

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump offered on Tuesday to help Mexico "wage war" on its cartels after three women and six children from an American Mormon community were murdered in an area notorious for drug traffickers.

Gunmen ambushed the members of the LeBaron family — a large clan of Mormons who emigrated to Mexico in the late 19th century — as they travelled on a rural road on Monday in a lawless region between the border states of Sonora and Chihuahua.

Mexican officials said six children were wounded and another girl missing after the attack, which left the family's three cars riddled with



The wreckage of a vehicle torched by Mexican cartel members. •AP

bullets and utterly charred. "If Mexico needs or requests help in cleaning out these monsters, the U.S.

stands ready, willing & able to get involved and do the job quickly and effectively," Mr. Trump said in a tweet.

He praised Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador for prioritising the fight against drug trafficking, but said "the cartels have become so large and powerful that you sometimes need an army to defeat an army!"

"This is the time for Mexico, with the help of the United States, to wage WAR on the drug cartels and wipe them off the face of the earth. We merely await a call from your great new President!"

Mr. Lopez Obrador said he would call Mr. Trump and accept "all necessary cooperation."

But the left-wing populist, who has declared an end to

Mexico's "drug wars", said he was not looking for a new one.

Mexico rules out war "We don't agree (with Trump) on that. We respect those who think that way, but it goes against our convictions. War is the worst thing there is," he told a news conference. "War is synonymous with irrationality."

Shocked, outraged members of the LeBaron family took to social media to call for people's prayers and condemn the lawless violence gripping much of the border region. The victims "were ambushed by the Mexican cartels; shot, burned, and murdered in cold blood. These were innocent civilians," said a family member.

Crackdown, concessions fail to quell Chile protests

Demonstrators demand welfare and a new Constitution

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

Those who tend to deny the larger political reverberations from the domestic protests in different parts of the world in 2019 as hyperbole may better think again. The spiralling protests against the now rescinded subway fare hike have forced Chile to withdraw as host of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation trade summit later this month, as well as the annual COP25 climate summit scheduled in December.

The global significance of the two events cannot be exaggerated, just as the disruptive potential from Santiago's unrest to combat inequality cannot go unacknowledged. Hong Kong, Ecuador, Peru, Sudan and Algeria all saw a similar surge of public anger in recent months where protesters demanded reforms and accountability.

According to official figures, some 1.2 million demonstrators took part in a rally in Santiago on October 25, hailed as the largest in the country's history. The loss to businesses due protests is estimated at \$1.4 billion.

Protesters have won significant successes in recent days to safeguard and consolidate their hard-won democratic guarantees of 30 years. They have forced the centre-right President Sebastian Pinera, a former airline and media magnate who is now in his non-consecutive second term as President, to withdraw the emergency measures he clamped within days of the outbreak of opposition to the subway fare hike.

Mr. Pinera initially de-



Spiralling protests: People protesting against Chile's government in Santiago on Monday. •REUTERS

scribed the mass mobilisation as the enemy's declaration of war on the state, call the military on to the streets, impose night-time curfews and extended the emergency to counter large-scale destruction of property.

NEWS ANALYSIS

At least 20 people have been reported dead in the crackdown that followed, with hospitals unable to cope with medicines and equipment to treat the wounded.

Promises of reform

Many activists have been denied legal recourse, according to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet. In a sign of a climbdown, the government has reversed the commuter fares, announced a guaranteed minimum wage, subsidised medicines and promised reforms to the pension system. In an attempt to ease tensions, Mr. Pinera had the entire Cabinet resign in a sweeping reshuffle.

The newly appointed Finance Minister is expected to raise taxes on the rich in a

bid to redress entrenched inequalities in society, without jeopardising the country's growth. But the reform package, estimated to cost \$1.2 billion a year, is not big enough to meet the challenge, say economists. No

less significant is the offer of dialogue to resolve the continuing deadlock. As the movement has expanded to include wider political demands, the government seems to have recognised the long-drawn nature of the campaign.

But the demonstrators are no longer content with extracting piecemeal concessions from the centre-right government.

Foremost among their demands are calls for a new Constitution to replace the charter from the Pinochet era. Another is the expansion of universal education to the tertiary sector. A member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the South American country is emblematic of stability and prosperity in the region. That could no longer be taken for granted unless the right lessons are drawn from the continuing unrest.

U.S. begins formal pullout from Paris deal

The withdrawal will take a year — until just after the 2020 U.S. Presidential elections

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON

The world's climate action efforts were left on shakier ground on Monday after the United States notified the United Nations of its formal withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the 2015 global agreement for countries to cut emissions and reverse global warming.

President Donald Trump had said in 2017 that he was taking the U.S. — the world's second largest CO₂ emitter — out of the deal. Monday was the first day the rules of the agreement permitted the U.S. to begin that process. The withdrawal will take a

year — until just after the 2020 U.S. Presidential elections.

"President Trump made the decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement because of the unfair economic burden imposed on American workers, businesses, and taxpayers by U.S. pledges made under the Agreement," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a press statement on Monday.

Pragmatic model

"In international climate discussions, we will continue to offer a realistic and pragmatic model — backed by a re-



Donald Trump

cord of real world results — showing innovation and open markets lead to greater prosperity, fewer emissions,

and more secure sources of energy," Mr. Pompeo said.

The U.S. would have to, by 2025, cut its emissions to 26%-28% below the 2005 levels as part of its contribution to the Paris goal of keeping global temperature increases in this century to within 2 degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial temperature averages.

'America isolated'

President Trump has, in the past, called climate change a hoax created by China and his administration has reversed several Obama-era climate policies — including, now, the decision to be a

part of the Paris Agreement.

"This is not America first; once again, it's America isolated," former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in a *Washington Post* op-ed.

"The EU with our partners stand ready to strengthen cooperation with all parties to implement it," the European Union's Climate Action Commissioner, Miguel Arias Cañete, tweeted on Tuesday.

"We will continue working with stakeholders and entities in the United States who remain committed to ambitious climate action."

Xi voices 'trust' in Lam, concerns over protests

They met to discuss Hong Kong unrest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SHANGHAI

Chinese President Xi Jinping has expressed a "high degree of trust" in Hong Kong's unpopular leader Carrie Lam as the two met after months of violent protests in the semi-autonomous city.

Their meeting in Shanghai on Monday followed another weekend of violence in Hong Kong that was marked by a knife attack and the vandalising of an office of China's official Xinhua news agency. Mr. Xi said Ms. Lam has "done a lot of hard work" and strived to stabilise the situation in Hong Kong, according to a Xinhua statement.



Carrie Lam

"Xi voiced the central government's high degree of trust in Lam and full acknowledgement of the work of her and her governance team," the news agency said.

Ms. Lam told reporters on Tuesday that Mr. Xi expressed concern over the violence.

Baghdadi's sister held, says Turkey

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ISTANBUL

Turkish forces in northern Syria have detained a sister of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State group who was killed in a U.S. raid, a senior Turkish official said on Tuesday. The official named the woman as Rasmiya Awad, and said she was born in 1954.

The woman was accompanied by her husband, her daughter-in-law and five children. "The three adults are being interrogated at this time," the official said.

"What she knows about the IS can significantly expand our understanding of the group," he said.

Deadlock continues in Pak.

Differences emerge in talks over PM's resignation & fresh poll

MEHMAL SARFAZ LAHORE

A government delegation led by Defence Minister Pervaiz Khattak met Jamiat Ulema-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) representatives and other Opposition leaders, who are leading a sit-in in Islamabad demanding Prime Minister Imran Khan's resignation, on Tuesday, but failed to resolve the deadlock.

"So far, we are holding on to our demands. Our stance is the same as before," JUI-F leader Akram Durrani said. "We have our own stance; they [Opposition] have their own stance," said the Defence Minister.

"We are trying to find a middle ground so that both the government and the Op-



JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman during the 'Azadi March' in Islamabad. •AFP/FILE

position can find a way out. On many things, we have agreed to their demands. Talks were held in a very good atmosphere. We will

talk to our leadership," Mr. Khattak added.

He did not say which were the demands the government had agreed to. Reports indicated that the two points on which the government did not agree were the Prime Minister's resignation and fresh elections. The protesters had also demanded an end to the Army's interference during elections, and the protection of the Constitution.

Pakistan Muslim League-Q leaders Chaudhry Parwez Elahi and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Monday met Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the leader of the JUI-F, regarding the "Azadi March". Mr. Elahi is the Speaker of Punjab Assembly.

Trump invites Xi to U.S. to sign trade agreement

We're close to a phase one deal: official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has invited his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to sign the phase one of a bilateral trade deal when it is agreed upon, according to a top White House official.

Trade talks between the two countries began in November last year but have not yielded desired results even after more than a dozen rounds of negotiations.

The two countries have failed to reach any agreement to resolve the trade dispute that escalated after Mr. Trump slapped huge tariffs on Chinese goods, prompting tit-for-tat responses from China.

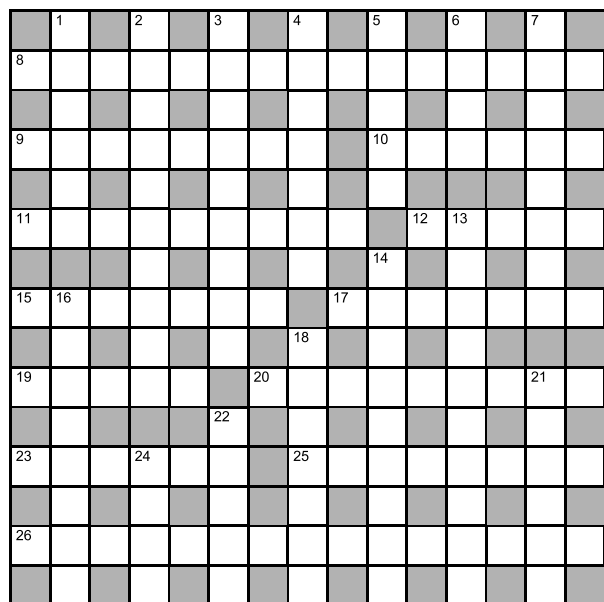
U.S. National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien, who is one of the most senior members of the Washington delegation in Bangkok for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting, said that the U.S. wants "great relations" with China.

"President Trump has invited President Xi to the United States if we are able to get that deal to sign phase one trade agreement..." he said.

"I think we're relatively close to an agreement, a phase one agreement on trade that would make trade fairer and freer and more reciprocal between the U.S. and China," he said.

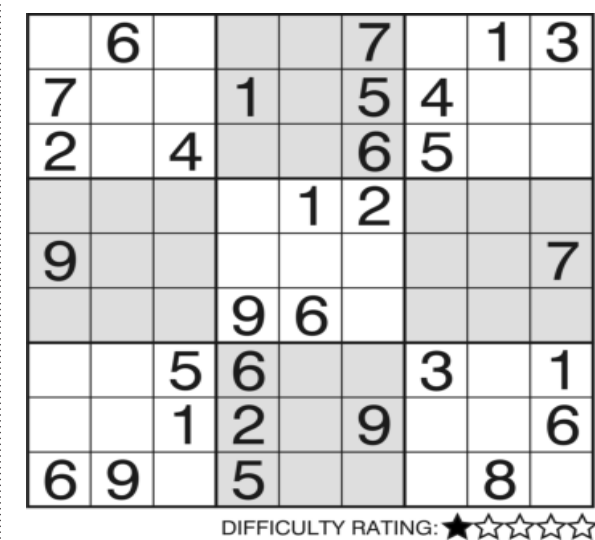
THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12773

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- (set by Lightning)
- 12 Smooth track primarily for Olympics, maybe (5)
 - 15 Misrepresent velocity of electron in estimate (7)
 - 17 They could spark cricketing ties (7)
 - 19 Segment of cruise in eastern river (5)
 - 20 Lament circling short Mediterranean island beside eastern city (9)
 - 23 Musty outside black farm building (6)
 - 25 It's a bargain getting cats and dogs for scraps (8)
 - 26 Distressed gunmen react to universal resistance with rebuttal (15)
 - 4 Transgression by fellow breaking old barrier (7)
 - 5 America united by a liberal general (5)
 - 6 Get rid of charge to go around river (4)
 - 7 With extreme care, pierce rings for example, showing good taste (8)
 - 13 Emptiness in heart, perhaps? Get this device (6,4)
 - 14 Closing early, arrived to join game at university (9)
 - 16 Joy where European community ousted a ballot (8)
 - 18 Striker from South America on a high — he could deliver (7)
 - 21 Sodium to contaminate? Not one floating (6)
 - 22 Renegade returned sly look capturing bishop (5)
 - 24 Financial institution to suppress Krona (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12772

I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	T			
G	L	O	B	E	B	A	G	A	T	E	L	L	E
A	N	T	H	E	S	E	R						
P	O	S	T	E	R	I	O	R	S	A	G	R	
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	T	I	M	E	S
S	W	A	M	I		W	A	R	I	A	N	D	
W	R	A	N	G	L	E	R		O	P			
A	R	X	L	L		U	S	H	E	R			
L	I	C	E		S	P	R	I	N	G	R	O	L
K	H	P	R	C	S	R	I						
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	T	I	M	E	S
R	S	P	S	E	E	H	E						
T	R	A	N	S	F	E	R	R	E	R			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Testing time for Him

Vaishnavite Acharya Embar said that Lord Narayana faced three dangers! We face many dangers in life, but how can the Supreme One be threatened? The three occasions when the Lord was worried were when Prahlada, Gajendra and Draupadi were in danger, explained M.A. Venkatakrishnan, in a discourse. Prahlada faced death multiple times, but every time he was saved by the Lord. Had he consented to give up his bhakti towards the Lord and had instead praised his father, he would not have faced constant threats to his life. But Prahlada would rather die than compromise on his belief. Such jnana came to him, because he had listened to a narration of Lord Narayana's Supremacy, even when he was in his mother Kayatu's womb. Thus, Prahlada was born with jnana and bhakti and this helped him confront his father. When Hiranyakasipu finally asked Prahlada where his much-celebrated God Hari could be found, Prahlada said that He was everywhere. Hiranyakasipu then pointed to a pillar and asked if Hari was inside that pillar, and Prahlada said He was. Hiranyakasipu then struck the pillar.

Vaishnavite Acharya Embar says that at this juncture, the Lord faced a danger! The Lord had to ensure that He was present in that particular pillar. Otherwise, Prahlada's words would not be proved true. Not that being in a particular place is difficult for the Lord who is Omnipresent. But He wanted to make haste to appear as Narasimha, the moment the pillar was struck.

The Lord, according to Embar, was similarly anxious when a crocodile grabbed the foot of Gajendra, the elephant. The Lord rushed to save the elephant. Draupadi called out to Him, when the Kauravas tried to disrobe her, and again He was anxious to help her at once.



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