



Doctors in U.K. advise Sharif be shifted to U.S.

LONDON
Pakistan's ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is undergoing treatment in London, has shown no improvement in his platelet count and the doctors have advised that he be shifted to the U.S. for better medical care, a PML-N official said. Medical reports showed there was 88% blockage in the arteries circulating blood to his brain. PTI

'Old man' Trump is bluffing: North Korea

SEOUL
North Korea on Monday slammed President Trump for "bluffing" and called him "an old man bereft of patience" as it ramps up pressure on U.S. over frozen nuclear talks. "I'd be surprised if N. Korea acted hostility [sic]," Mr. Trump said on Saturday. AFP

Miss South Africa wins Miss Universe crown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ATLANTA

Miss South Africa was crowned Miss Universe on Sunday in Atlanta after a lavish ceremony filled with glitter and heartfelt speeches about female empowerment.

Zozibini Tunzi, 26, finished first ahead of the Puerto Rican and Mexican finalists in a flashy televised event, hosted by TV personality Steve Harvey.

Ms. Tunzi earned cheers during her closing speech, a new segment of the competition, in which she talked about wanting to empower young women to feel confident. "I grew up in a world where a woman who looks like me, with my kind of skin

U.K.'s poll campaign enters final stage

Johnson is hoping the election will hand his ruling Conservatives a majority to push Brexit with the EU

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Britain's election campaign entered its frenetic final straight on Monday with Prime Minister Boris Johnson trying to lock in the votes needed to draw a line under years of arguments and paralysis over European Union membership.

Mr. Johnson is hoping Thursday's poll will hand his ruling Conservatives a majority, to allow him to push through his Brexit divorce deal with Brussels.

Parliament deadlocked
Parliament has been deadlocked since the result of the last election in 2017, which saw the Tories lose their majority and weaken their ability to implement the result of the 2016 referendum on EU membership.

The main Opposition Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn is trying to upset the



Brexit ahead: Boris Johnson, centre, at Fergusons Transport's warehouse in Washington, England, on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

odds and usher in Britain's first leftist government in nine years.

The veteran socialist has promised to negotiate his own EU divorce deal and then put it up for a vote in a new referendum that could still keep Britain partially tied to Europe – or simply cancel Brexit outright.

Opinion polls show the Conservatives maintaining a

healthy lead. But Mr. Johnson needs to win at least half of the House of Commons seats because his party has no clear partners among the smaller parties.

Some polls suggest the vote could produce another hung Parliament that extends U.K.'s political paralysis and further frustrates businesses and Brussels.

"We're taking nothing for

Johnson questions public funding for the BBC

LONDON
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday questioned why the BBC should continue to be supported by an annual fee paid by all viewing households, one of the biggest hints to date that Britain's main news provider could be upended. The BBC has a central presence in British cultural life, with its content reaching almost 92% of the population. REUTERS

granted," Mr. Johnson said during a visit to a fish market in the northeastern port of Grimsby. "We're working very, very hard across the whole country."

'Red wall'

The northeast of England bore the brunt of some of the global changes that made U.K. industries uncompetitive and forced the country

to open up its fishing waters to the other 27 EU states. Grimsby is part of a so-called "red wall" that traditionally backs Labour because of its support for trade unions and emphasis on social spending.

The deep ideological divide between the two main parties has produced a fractious and highly personal campaign that appears to have done little to change the minds of voters' who opposed or supported Brexit from the start.

Mr. Johnson has faced constant questions over his trustworthiness and Mr. Corbyn has been put on the back foot over anti-Semitism within his party. Mr. Corbyn's main attack line has been to accuse Mr. Johnson of opening up Britain's cherished National Health Service to U.S. businesses as part of a post-Brexit trade deal with President Donald Trump.

5 dead in New Zealand volcano eruption

Two dozen people feared missing and presumed dead, according to police

ASSOCIATED PRESS WHAKATANE

A volcano on a New Zealand island erupted on Monday as tourists were exploring the moon-like surface, killing five people and leaving perhaps two dozen others missing and presumed dead. Eighteen others were rescued, some of them severely burned.

Police said that the site was still too dangerous hours later for rescuers to search for the missing but that aircraft had seen no signs of life.

"Based on the information we have, we do not believe there are any survivors on the island," police said in a statement.



An aerial photo of White Island after the volcanic eruption in New Zealand on Monday. AP

Putin, Zelensky meet in first-ever Paris summit

French- and German-mediated talks seek to end 5-year conflict in eastern Ukraine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Monday met Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky for the first time ever at a Paris summit aimed at agreeing measures to help end five years of conflict in the east of Ukraine.

No comprehensive peace deal is expected from the meeting – mediated by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel – but diplomats hope the summit will help to bolster trust between the two men.

The four-way talks are expected to be followed by a hotly-awaited bilateral meet-



Key talks: (From left) Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, France's Emmanuel Macron, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Germany's Angela Merkel in Paris on Monday. AFP

ing between wily ex-KGB agent Putin and ex-comedian Zelensky who won the presidency this year.

Thousands have been

ing off a conflict that deepened Russia's estrangement from the West. Separatists seized control of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions shortly after Russia's annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea.

The issue of Crimea, whose seizure gave Mr. Putin a popularity boost at home but led to international sanctions against Moscow, is not on the table at this summit. Its aims include agreeing to disband illegal militias, the departure of foreign fighters from Donetsk and Lugansk, and Ukraine taking back control of its border with Russia, according to a French presidential source.

Finland gets world's youngest PM

Social Democrats pick 34-year-old Sanna Marin for the top post

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE HELSINKI

Finland's Social Democrats elected a 34-year-old former Transport Minister to the post of Prime Minister on Sunday, making her the youngest head of government in the country's history.

Sanna Marin narrowly won Sunday's vote to replace outgoing leader Antti Rinne, who resigned on Tuesday after losing the confidence of the coalition partner Centre Party over his handling of a postal strike.

"We have a lot of work to do to rebuild trust," Ms. Marin told reporters, while de-



Sanna Marin

flecting questions about her age.

"I have never thought about my age or gender, I think of the reasons I got into politics and those things for which we have won the trust of the electorate."

People in Xinjiang camps have graduated: China

'They have jobs and are living happily'

ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIJING

People who were at vocational training centres in China's far west Xinjiang have all "graduated" and are living happy lives, an official said on Monday. But Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities from the region say their family members continue to be arbitrarily detained in camps and prisons.

Shohrat Zakir, Xinjiang's Uighur Governor, made the remarks during a press briefing, days after the U.S. Congress' approved the Uighur Human Rights Policy Act. "When the lives of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang were seriously threatened by terrorism, the U.S. turned a deaf ear," Mr. Zakir said at a press briefing. "On the contrary, now that Xinjiang society is steadily developing and people of all ethnicities are living and working in peace, the U.S. feels uneasy, and attacks and smears Xinjiang."

The U.S. legislation condemns the mass detentions of an estimated more than 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and others. It also raises possible sanctions against Chinese government officials deemed responsible for human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

Former detainees and their relatives have said that the centres for "re-education" were essentially prisons, where they were forced to renounce Islam and express gratitude to the ruling Communist Party. They were subject to indoctrination and torture, the detainees said.

While Chinese authorities have described the detentions as a form of vocational training, classified documents recently leaked



Shohrat Zakir

to a consortium of news organisations revealed a deliberate strategy to lock up ethnic minorities even though they had not committed any crimes.

Xu Hairong, the Communist Party chief of Urumqi city, Xinjiang's capital, did not dispute the documents' authenticity. He said, however, that there was no such thing as "detention camps."

'Smear' campaigns

"The reports by *The New York Times*, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and other foreign media organisations are purely malicious attempts to smear and discredit Xinjiang's vocational education centers and its counter-terrorism and deradicalization efforts," Mr. Xu said.

All those in the centres who were studying Mandarin Chinese, law, vocational skills and deradicalisation have "graduated" and found stable employment, Mr. Zakir said, adding that others such as village officials, farmers and unemployed high school graduates continue to enroll on a rolling basis in programmes that allow them to "come and go freely." Some ex-detainees have told AP they were forced to sign job contracts and barred from leaving factory grounds during weekdays.

Swiss employee told to undergo medical test

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO

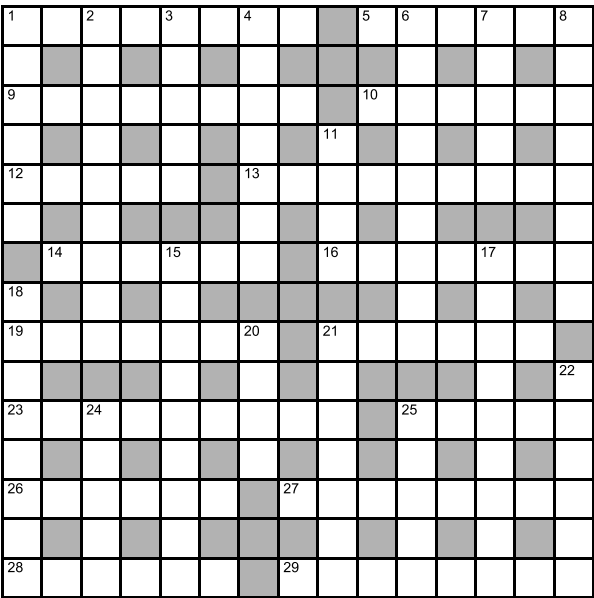
A Sri Lankan court on Monday ordered a Swiss embassy employee at the centre of an argument between Colombo and Bern to undergo a medical examination, after she said she was abducted and sexually assaulted.

The Sri Lankan national alleged she was kidnapped and forced to divulge sensitive details about her work in November, a day after a senior police officer sought asylum in Switzerland.

The police officer had been investigating several cases involving members of the Rajapaksa family.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12802

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(set by Lightning)

- 12 At last prune thin tree (5)
- 13 Badly torn, left with hope to the top of Arctic (5,4)
- 14 These days, reasonable to change for the better (6)
- 16 Having great knowledge, energy and appeal amidst uneducated (7)
- 19 Parrot caught in segment of short wall (7)
- 21 Was her papa escorted by Tenzing, perhaps? (6)
- 23 Cook sees range with enthusiasm (9)
- 25 Issue about a large reception room (5)
- 26 Indeed I go ahead and stop at a line of uniform pressure (6)
- 27 Curtailed order entering pit to get drug (8)
- 28 Mother goes inside, agrees to people on the move (6)
- 29 Can't Jade move nearby? (8)
- 3 Sport grand gem on the outside (5)
- 4 Medical examiner's detailed report finally shows part of pastern (7)
- 6 Rearrange university hub close to building for social gathering (9)
- 7 Sales pitch in southern city broadcast wirelessly (5)
- 8 See democrat meet engineer that is reputable (8)
- 11 Payment to acquire recipe open to all (4)
- 15 Advantage of top agency (5,4)
- 17 Reckless one, primarily misreading heart rate, injected with IV (9)
- 18 Potentially help a leader going back to planet at its farthest from the sun (8)
- 20 Going north, encounter swarm (4)
- 21 Postpone pay after under-secretary returns (7)
- 22 Introduce saint, not wanting to move outside (6)
- 24 Prepare grand chamber (5)
- 25 One idolized four breaking cryptographic algorithm (5)

DOWN

- 1 Pull nationalist to promised land (6)
- 2 Essentially uniting everyone by command – it's a difficult task (4,5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12801

C	T	E	A	I	S	F							
C	O	I	R	E	L	T	V	E	S				
R	E	L	T	V	E	S							
B	A	N	A	N	A	S	T	O	M	A	C	H	S
L	S	I	I	T	I	L							
E	S	Q	I	R	E	S	C	A	S	H	E	W	
N	R												
P	A	G	E	C	H	I	P	S	I	N	F	O	
K													
P	E	P	P	E	R	S	E	A	S	H	O	R	
V	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	R	U	B	B	E	
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
B	A	C	K	W	A	T	E	R	S	T	I	C	
M	S	L	M	S	S	E							

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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



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