

Trump to face two impeachment charges

Democrats in the House of Representatives accuse him of abusing power and obstructing Congress

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump is being formally charged with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in the impeachment inquiry into his dealings with Ukraine, leading House Democrats announced on Tuesday.

The House Judiciary Committee will vote on the articles later this week, before recommending them to the full House, the committee's chairman Jerrold Nadler said at a press briefing, where the House's Democratic leadership, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi were present.

Mr. Trump is the fourth President in American history to face the prospect of a House impeachment, after Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon (who resigned before the vote) and Bill Clinton.

Senate trial
If the House votes next week, and if they vote to impeach Mr Trump (as a Democrat-controlled House is likely to), he will have to stand trial in the Senate – a process that could commence early next year. Current indications are



Impeachment roadmap: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi addressing the media in Washington. •AFP

that Mr. Trump will not be convicted by the Senate, which is controlled by Republicans.

Based on their impeachment inquiry of over two months, House Democrats have concluded that Mr. Trump conditioned a White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the release \$ 391 million in military aid to Ukraine on the Ukrainians publicly announcing investigations into Mr. Trump's political rival, former Vice-President Joseph Biden and his son, Hunter. Mr. Trump had also wanted Ukraine to

probe a thus far unsubstantiated theory that Ukraine had meddled in the 2016 American elections.

“Our President holds the ultimate public trust. When he betrays that trust, and puts himself before country, he endangers the Constitution, he endangers our democracy and he endangers our national security,” Mr. Nadler said.

“It is an impeachable offence for the President to exercise the powers of his public office to obtain an improper personal benefit while ignoring or injuring the national interest. That is

exactly what president trump did when he solicited and pressured Ukraine to interfere in our 2020 presidential election,” he said, about the abuse of power charge.

A 300-page report by House Democrats last week on their impeachment inquiry's conclusions said that Mr. Trump tried to obstruct the process by trying to publicly attack and intimidate witnesses. “President Trump engaged in unprecedented, categorical and indiscriminate defiance of the impeachment inquiry,” Mr Nadler said.

“No one, not even the Pre-

sident, is above the law”.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said the argument that Democrats should have waited for the courts to compel individuals who had been ordered by the White House not to testify before the impeachment panel, was giving Mr. Trump the opportunity to cheat again.

“The argument, ‘Why don't you just wait?’ amounts to this: ‘Why don't you just let him cheat in one more election? Why not let him cheat just one more time?’” Mr. Schiff said.

It's witch hunt: Trump
“WITCH HUNT!” Mr. Trump tweeted shortly after the Democrats' press briefing had concluded. The President also said that Mr Nadler's charge that he [Mr Trump] pressured Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 election was “ridiculous”.

He has denied any wrongdoing and the Republicans have argued that Democrats have been trying to overturn the results of the 2016 presidential elections.

Suu Kyi in ICJ to defend Myanmar in genocide case

Gambia's team details mass rapes, burning alive of families

REUTERS
THE HAGUE

Mass rapes, the burning alive of Muslim Rohingya families in their homes and the killing with knives of dozens of children were described by Gambia's legal team as it set out its genocide case against Myanmar at the U.N.'s highest court on Tuesday.

Myanmar's leader and Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi looked on impassively as the alleged atrocities were detailed on the first of three days of hearings at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The case was instituted by Gambia against Buddhist-majority Myanmar in November.

“All that The Gambia asks is that you tell Myanmar to stop these senseless killings,” Gambia's Justice Minister Abubacarr Tambadou said in opening comments.

“To stop these acts of barbarity and brutality that have shocked and continue to shock our collective conscience. To stop this geno-



Battle lines drawn: Aung San Suu Kyi at the start of a three-day hearing on a Rohingya genocide case at the ICJ. •AFP

cide of its own people.”

Suu Kyi is expected on Wednesday to repeat denials of genocide and argue that military “clearance operations” launched in August 2017 were a legitimate counterterrorism response to attacks by Rohingya militants.

Detailing events at the village of Min Gyi, Gambia's lawyer Andrew Loewenstein drew on witness accounts recorded in a report by U.N. investigators, who estimated 750 people were killed there, including over 100 children under the age of 6. “There were dead bodies

on the floor: young boys from our village,” Mr. Loewenstein quoted from one survivor's testimony to the U.N. fact-finding mission.

“As we entered the house, the soldiers locked the door. One soldier raped me. He stabbed me in the back of my neck and in my abdomen. I was trying to save my baby, who was only 28 days old, but they threw him on the ground and he died.”

At the end of Tuesday's hearing, Gambia asked the court to order special measures to protect the Rohingya.

Cabinet reshuffle not an immediate task: Lam

She is scheduled to visit Beijing for the first time since humiliating poll debacle

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

A reshuffle of Hong Kong's Cabinet is not an “immediate task”, the city's Beijing-backed leader Carrie Lam said on Tuesday, as she prepared to visit the Chinese capital for the first time since her government's humiliation at local polls last month.

On Sunday, pro-democra-

cy protesters participated in the largest rally since their candidates scored a landslide victory in the district elections, raising further doubts over how long Beijing is prepared to back Ms. Lam.

Declaring her priority was to restore law and order after more than six months of often violent protests, Ms. Lam said at a weekly media address that she would depart

on Saturday for a regular visit to Beijing, where she would brief officials on Hong Kong's biggest political crisis in decades.

With pressure mounting on her government, the *Apple Daily* newspaper, owned by pro-democracy publishing tycoon Jimmy Lai, reported that China was considering a Hong Kong Cabinet reshuffle by end of the year.

Since the protests began until now, Ms. Lam has avoided mention of the prospects of changes to her team.

“My first priority now is really to restore law and order in Hong Kong and to ensure that Hong Kong could continue to move ahead, both economically and socially,” Ms. Lam said during her weekly address to the media. “This is not an immediate task that I would accord a lot of attention to,” she said, when asked about a potential reshuffle.

Bomb defused
Meanwhile, Hong Kong police said they defused two ho-

memade nail bombs discovered in the grounds of a school, and are investigating whether the devices were linked to political unrest in the city.

“The bombs were complete, fully functional and ready to be used,” senior bomb disposal officer Alick McWhirter said.

Nails had been added to the bombs, which used a homemade ammonium nitrate based explosive, to increase their destructiveness, he added.

Israeli MPs submit Bill to dissolve Parliament

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israeli legislators submitted a Bill on Tuesday that would dissolve Parliament and trigger an unprecedented third national elections in less than a year.

Israel has been mired in political deadlock for months.

With the two largest parties, Likud and Blue and White, unable to form a power-sharing agreement ahead of a Wednesday dea-

cline, lawmakers from the rival sides together tabled the Bill.

It is expected to go to a vote in Parliament on Wednesday, setting the date for the next election on March 2.

“Under the exceptional circumstances that have emerged, and after two adjacent election campaigns in which no government was formed, the dissolution of the 22nd Knesset is being proposed,” the Bill reads.

Chile military plane missing with 38 aboard

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SANTIAGO

Chile's Air Force lost radio contact with a transport plane carrying 38 people on a flight on Monday evening to the country's base in Antarctica, and authorities indicated several hours later that they were not optimistic about the aircraft's fate.

The military said earlier that it had declared an alert and activated search and rescue teams.

The C-130 Hercules carried 17 crew members and 21 passengers, including three civilians. The personnel were to check on a floating fuel supply line and other equipment at the Chilean base.

President Sebastián Piñera said via Twitter that he along with his Ministers are at the Air Force headquarters monitoring developments.

On Tuesday, the Air Force said the plane had not been heard from in more than seven hours and likely would have run out of fuel around 12-40 a.m.

Drake's Passage, where the plane was missing, is infamous for severe weather conditions, including freezing temperatures and ferocious storms. But the Air Force said late on Monday that the weather was good when the plane began its flight.

ELSEWHERE



Martial law in Southern Philippines may be lifted

MANILA
President Rodrigo Duterte is likely to lift martial law in the southern Philippines by year's end, more than two years after it was imposed to stop the Islamic State from gaining a foothold there. AFP

In a sign of thaw, Qatari PM attends Gulf summit

RIYADH
Qatar's PM Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani attended a Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, a first sign of thaw in relations since the boycott of Doha began in 2017. REUTERS

Gunman shoots down six, kills self in Czech hospital

PM describes it as an 'individual act'

REUTERS
OSTRAVA

A 42-year-old gunman killed six people on Tuesday at a hospital waiting room in the eastern Czech city of Ostrava before fleeing and fatally shooting himself in the head, police said.

It was unclear what motivated the shooting, which happened in the early morning at the outpatient clinic of the University Hospital in Ostrava.

Prime Minister Andrej Babis told reporters it was an “individual act”. “He came home and announced he had shot people, and that he is going to shoot himself,”

Mr. Babis said. He said the attacker's mother was cooperating with police.

The shooter fled the hospital after the attack, prompting a manhunt involving hundreds of officers. He later shot himself in the head in his car with a police helicopter flying overhead.

The shooter was identified as Citrad Vitasek, a construction technician, by the company's chairman Ales Zygula.

Vitasek had been on medical leave for over a month and was convinced he was seriously ill and that no one wanted to cure him, Mr. Zygula said.

‘U.S., Saudi Arabia at bottom of climate class’

For the first time, India ranks among the top 10 in terms of performance: CCPI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are among major polluters showing “hardly any signs” of reducing their greenhouse gas production, a global assessment of countries' emissions trajectories said on Tuesday at United Nations climate talks.

The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) measures the emissions, renewable energy share and climate policies of 57 countries and the European Union.

It found the U.S. ranks last, followed by Saudi Arabia and Australia, although several countries did report falls in emissions last year, largely due to an industry-



Time to act: Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, right, at the COP25 Climate Conference in Madrid on Tuesday. •GETTY IMAGES

wide fade out of coal.

While climate performance varied greatly – even within the EU, with Sweden leading the way – the report found that none of the countries surveyed were current-

ly on a path compatible with the Paris climate goals.

The 2015 accord saw nations agree to work towards limiting global temperature rises to “well below” two degrees Celsius above pre-in-

dustrial levels.

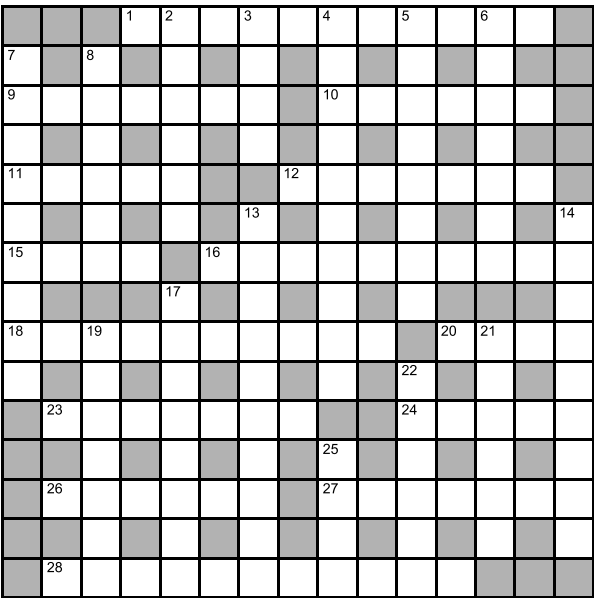
China, the world's largest single emitter, was found to have taken “medium action” due to its high investment in renewables.

India, for the first time, ranks among the top 10 in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) presented on Tuesday at the COP25 climate summit here.

The current levels of per capita emissions and energy use in India, ranked 9th in the “high category”, are still comparatively low and, along with ambitious 2030 targets, result in high ratings for the green house gas emissions and energy use categories, said the report released here in the Spanish capital.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12803

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



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

ACROSS

- 1 Indifference to deformed icy iron suit (11)
- 9 Schematic of Indian city in blur (7)
- 10 Holiday internal to lone asteroid (6)
- 11 Picture of one wizard (5)
- 12 Mother houses broker in shade (7)

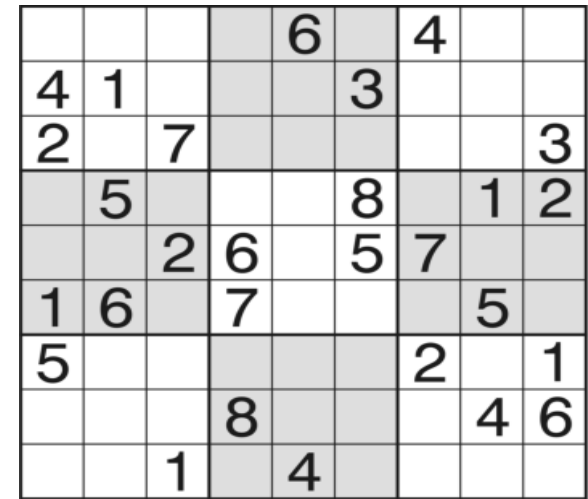
DOWN

- 2 Somehow sever new source of tension (6)
- 3 Muslim community found in Belgium, Malaysia (4)

(set by Anon)

- 15 Start to call for piece of work (4)
- 16 Food that does not need to be cooked (5-2-3)
- 18 Started shooting candid editor's passion (6,4)
- 20 Starts assembling petrol industry at Samoa capital (4)
- 23 Crush boyfriend's armour plate (7)
- 24 Due to faction is outstanding (5)
- 26 Finch to endlessly circle (6)
- 27 At home, doctor stern with trainees (7)
- 28 Christians house worker during appeals (11)
- 4 With indignation, needing no introduction, defames Europeans (10)
- 5 Calls into question putting back government industry into divisions (8)
- 6 Initially the hero evacuates all trapped runners expertly from auditorium (7)
- 7 Dependence on flyer for speech (9)
- 8 Dishes for South Africa boys (6)
- 13 Yeomen are meat consumers? (10)
- 14 Most unusual province between two streets (9)
- 17 In a riot, they'd bar bowler (5,3)
- 19 Charm eccentric Euro man (7)
- 21 Tools to remove first part from torn slipper (6)
- 22 Roman god returned, idiot broke down (4,2)
- 25 Prima donna's enthusiastic comeback (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12802									Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
H	A	T	T	R	I	C	K	S	C	A	R	C	E	8	4	7	9
E	A	U	O	L	A	S								3	6	9	5
A	L	L	E	G	O	R								2	7	4	8
V	L	B	O	F	B	I	E										3
E	B	O	N											2	1	5	3
N	R	J												8			1
A	D	J												5	8	3	7
P	A	R	A	P	E	T								1	9	4	2
H	A	P	E	T										7	2	6	1
E	A	G	E	R	N	E	S							4	3	8	7
L	A	R	H	M										6	7	8	4
I	S	O	B	A	N									9	3	2	8
O	O	B	A	N										5	6	1	4
N	O	M	A	D	S									4	5	1	6

FAITH

The path of Bhakti

The Itihasas and the Puranas are said to contain the essence of the Vedas and the Upanishads, wherein scriptural truths are reinforced in such a way that people are able to imbibe them and gain spiritual progress. The Bhagavata Purana plays an important role in Kali Yuga to counter its evil domination. It is vibrant with the effects of Krishna avatar which in turn continues to have a direct bearing on the moral and virtuous life of many by enabling them to experience His greatness and remain devoted to Him. Narada, who had provided the stimulus to Valmiki to write the Ramayana, also had motivated Vyasa to compose the Bhagavata Purana, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

Narada advised Vyasa to expound the glories of the Lord and His incarnations with Krishna as the main theme. Vyasa, who had composed the other puranas and had also classified the Vedas into simpler versions for the benefit of mankind, then composed the Bhagavata Purana that stirs devotion in those who read or listen to it. Vyasa taught it to his son Suka and Suka narrated it to Parikshit who was under a curse to die of snake bite in seven days.

As the narratives unfold the glories and auspicious qualities of the Lord, it is also made clear that no elaborate qualifications are necessary to enter into spiritual life except getting drawn to the path of bhakti. The antecedents of Narada show that he had a chequered background but by the grace of the Lord was blessed to become one of the greatest bhaktas. The study and teaching of the Bhagavata Purana sets the record straight about the main purpose of life, which is to gain salvation through devotion. It first destroys the ignorance in people who tend to think that practice of dharma is to gain wealth and with this wealth to satisfy one's desires.