



ELSEWHERE

Strong earthquake in Philippines kills one

DAVAO
A powerful earthquake hit the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on Sunday, killing a child, injuring dozens and damaging buildings in an area still recovering from a string of deadly quakes in October. Police said a rescue operation had been launched at a heavily damaged market building in Padada near the 6.8 magnitude quake's epicentre, which is about 90 km south of Davao. **AFF**

French New Wave icon Anna Karina is dead at 79

PARIS
Danish-French actress Anna Karina, muse of New Wave director Jean-Luc Godard, has died of cancer at the age of 79. Ms. Karina starred in seven films made by her ex-husband Godard, including *Pierrot Le Fou*. She also had some success as a singer, recording the hit *Sous Le Soleil Exactement* with Serge Gainsbourg in 1967. "Today, French cinema has been orphaned. It has lost one of its legends," Culture Minister Franck Riester tweeted.

Rebels kill 22 in Congo in latest massacre

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DR CONGO**

Islamist rebels hacked to death at least 22 civilians, including 13 women, in an overnight raid in the DR Congo's troubled Beni region bordering Uganda, local officials said on Sunday.

Members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist militia that originated in Uganda, were armed with machetes, Beni region administrator Donat Kibwa-

Protests flare in Hong Kong malls with leader in Beijing to meet Xi

Monday's talks could yield fresh directives, including a possible Cabinet reshuffle

**REUTERS
HONG KONG**

Small groups of protesters gathered in shopping malls across Hong Kong on Sunday amid brief scuffles with riot police as attention turned to an upcoming meeting between Hong Kong's leader and China's President.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam is scheduled to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing on Monday and some observers say the visit could yield fresh directives including a possible Cabinet reshuffle.

Ms. Lam, however, appeared to play that down before she left, saying the first task was to curb violence and restore order.

On Sunday, in the peak shopping season ahead of Christmas, groups of masked protesters, clad in black, marched through several malls chanting slogans including "Fight for freedom" and "Return justice to us".

Riot police used pepper spray on crowds in one Kow-



Control measures: A police officer detaining a protester inside a mall in Hong Kong on Sunday. **REUTERS**

loon mall, local media reported.

In Shatin, Reuters witnessed police firing a tear gas canister outside the New Town Plaza mall, and several people were taken away after entrances and walkways were blocked, glass panels smashed, and graffiti sprayed.

Police said in a statement that some shops had been damaged and that a smoke bomb had been set off. Many shops closed early.

In the evening, several hundred protesters held a vigil for a protester, who fell to his death outside a luxury mall exactly six months ago after holding up a banner. Some laid white flowers, as others softly hummed 'Sing Hallelujah' to commemorate Leung Ling-kit, known as "raincoat man" for what he wore at the time.

In memory of first victim
"He is the first person to die because of this revolution,"

said Tina, 18. "I came tonight because I want to always remember that we can't give up and we have to keep fighting for freedom."

Several hundred people, many social workers, gathered earlier to reiterate demands that include full democracy and an independent inquiry into allegations of police brutality. Some called for more mass strikes, while others sat at tables to write Christmas cards to those who have been jailed.

Pro-govt. rally

Separately, a pro-government rally drew over a thousand people, with participants denouncing the use of violence during protests.

Hong Kong has been embroiled in its worst political crisis in decades since June with anti-government protests posing a populist challenge to Mr. Xi and complicating ties between China and the U.S. at a time of heightened tensions.

Johnson eyes key vote on Brexit ahead of Christmas

U.K. PM's other top domestic goal is shoring up health service

**REUTERS
LONDON**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will "get Brexit done" by January 31 and then agree a new trade deal with the European Union by the end of 2020, Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove said on Sunday, vowing to deliver on the government's top priority.

Mr. Johnson and his team were triumphant last week when he won a commanding majority of 80 at an early election. Winning over many traditionally Labour voters in northern and central England, Mr. Johnson has proclaimed he will lead a "people's government".

First, the Conservative leader must make good on his often-repeated promise to "get Brexit done" and then turn to realising another priority: to increase funding into Britain's much loved but struggling public health service. "I can absolutely confirm that we will have an opportunity to vote on the



Boris Johnson

Withdrawal Agreement Bill in relatively short order and then we will make sure that it passes before January 31st," Mr. Gove said.

On a new trade accord with the EU, Mr. Gove said: "It will be concluded next year. We will be in a position to leave the EU before the 31st of January next year and then we will have concluded our conversations with the EU about the new framework of free trade and friendly cooperation that we will have with them by the end of next year."

The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has cast

doubt over whether the trade talks will be so swiftly concluded, warning Britain the bloc "will not tolerate unfair competitive advantage".

Rishi Sunak, a Deputy Finance Minister, said the government aimed to re-submit the Withdrawal Agreement Bill to Parliament for ratification before Christmas to allow Ministers to start work on other priorities such as "levelling up" the country.

Corbyn to step down

Mr. Corbyn, who apologised to Labour supporters in two newspapers on Sunday, has said he will step down as soon as a new leader has been elected by the party membership.

"I will make no bones about it. The result was a body blow for everyone who so desperately needs real change in our country... I'm sorry that we came up short and I take my responsibility for it," he wrote.

U.S. secretly expelled 2 Chinese diplomats

They trespassed into a Virginia base that is home to special operations forces

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON**

The U.S. quietly expelled two Chinese embassy officials in September after they drove onto a sensitive military base in Virginia, *The New York Times* reported on Sunday.

The newspaper, which cited multiple people with knowledge of the episode, said it appeared to be the first time in more than 30

years that the U.S. has expelled Chinese diplomats on suspicion of espionage.

At least one of the diplomats was believed to be an intelligence officer operating under cover, the *Times* said.

The incident comes as the U.S. and China, the world's two biggest economies, wrangle over trade. The two sides announced a mini-deal on Friday to reduce some tariffs.

The Times said the diplomats, accompanied by their wives, drove up to the checkpoint at the entrance to a sensitive installation near Norfolk, Virginia that includes special operations forces.

Warnings ignored

The guard saw that they didn't have permission to enter and directed them to go through the gates, turn

around and exit.

The Chinese officials continued onto the base, evading military personnel pursuing them until they were forced to stop by fire trucks blocking their path, according to the *Times*.

The Chinese officials said they had not understood the instructions they were given, but U.S. personnel were unconvinced by their explanation.

Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh bags Miss World title

France's Ophely first runner-up, followed by India's Suman Rao

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON**

Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh has bagged the Miss World 2019 crown at an annual beauty pageant held here, with India's Suman Rao becoming second runners-up.

The 23-year-old was declared the winner at a televised event held at ExCeL London here on Saturday.

Born to Indo-Caribbean father Bradshaw Singh and African-Caribbean mother Jahirne Bailey, Ms. Singh is a student of women's studies and psychology at Florida State University and she aspires to be a medical doctor. During the competition,



Toni-Ann Singh



Suman Rao

she earned a resounding applause from audiences for singing Whitney Houston's hit *I Have Nothing*.

Ms. Singh was closely fol-

lowed by France's Ophely Mezino, who was adjudged first runner-up, while India's Suman Rao was declared second runner-up.

Turkey to sign off on military pledge to Libya

Egypt warns against interference in Tripoli

**REUTERS
ISTANBUL**

Turkey moved closer to military support for Libya's internationally recognised government late on Saturday when a bilateral deal that provides for a quick reaction force if requested by Tripoli was sent to Parliament.

Ankara's latest move raises tensions in the Mediterranean region and risks confrontation with forces led by Khalifa Haftar based in eastern Libya, where rival political factions have been based since 2014.

Late last month, Ankara and Tripoli signed an expanded security and military accord and, separately,

a memorandum on maritime boundaries that Greece said violates international law.

While the maritime accord has been sent to the United Nations for approval, the military deal has been presented to Turkey's Parliament. "Parliament will enter it into force after approval," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Sunday.

Egypt, which has condemned the maritime deal as "illegal", urged other countries on Sunday to stop intervening in Libya to enable the country to restore its own security and stability, in an apparent rebuke to Turkey.

10 killed in Bangladesh factory fire

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA**

At least 10 people died in a factory fire outside the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, officials said on Sunday, the second deadly industrial blaze in four days.

The flames engulfed a small fan factory in the Gazipur industrial district on Sunday evening, with firefighters extinguishing the blaze after a two-and-a-half hour battle.

They found 10 bodies in the charred structure and were searching for more possible casualties, fire service spokesman Zillur Rahman said.

Officials do not yet know how many people were in the factory.

14 pilgrims killed in Nepal bus crash

Four of the dead were children



Rescue workers standing near the wreckage of a bus following an accident in Sindhupalchowk on Sunday. **AFF**

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KATHMANDU**

At least 14 people died after a bus carrying pilgrims veered off a highway and rolled down a steep slope in central Nepal on Sunday, officials said, the latest deadly traffic accident in the Himalayan nation.

Police said the bus carrying 32 passengers plunged 70 m onto a lower stretch of the winding road in Sindhupalchowk district, around 80 km north-east of the capital Kathmandu.

"We have recovered the bodies of 12 passengers from the accident," police officer Prajwal Maharjan told AFP, adding that two others had died in hospital.

Four of the dead were children, traffic police added.

Some 18 passengers who were injured were taken to

hospital, with officials unclear if the bus driver was among them or had fled the scene of the crash.

The passengers were returning from a pilgrimage to Kalinchowk Bhagawati, a popular Hindu temple located at a height of almost 4,000 m in the hills of Dolakha district, around 140 km east of Kathmandu.

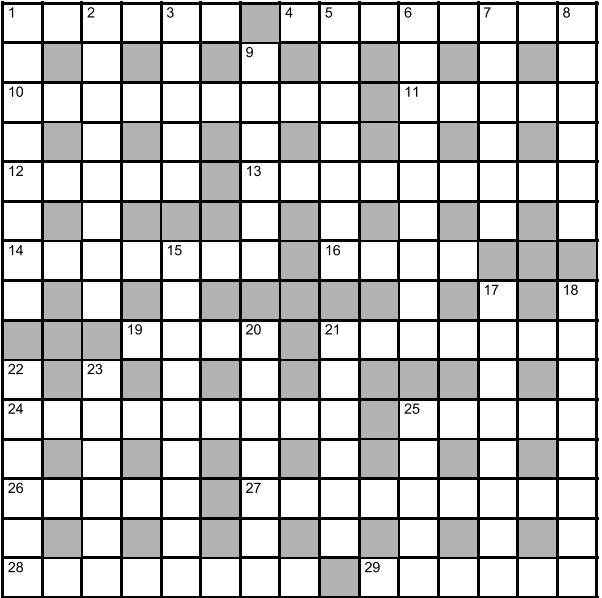
The cause of the accident was not yet known, but police said reckless driving down the steep and winding road could have been a key factor.

Deadly traffic accidents are relatively common in the impoverished Himalayan nation because of poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

At least 18 passengers were killed when a bus plunged into a gorge in central Nepal last month.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12807

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

ACROSS

- 1 First two letters dispatched is missing (6)
- 4 A little fair on a spot (4,1,3)
- 10 Somehow my boss is inspiring one to create a mutually beneficial relationship (9)
- 11 Fluid leak on queen's vessel (5)

(set by Sunnet)

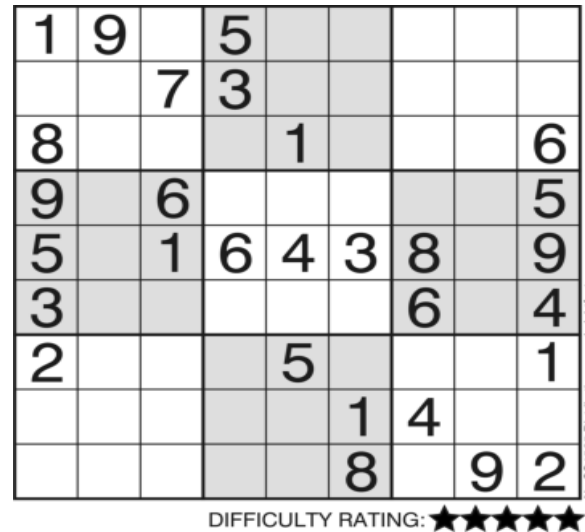
- 12 Tax measures (5)
- 13 Concerning since graders rebelled (2,7)
- 14 Control, direction provided by director (7)
- 16 Witticism on eastern city (4)
- 19 Roll some dirt to create an embankment (4)
- 21 Goes to capture leaderless pack of lizards (7)
- 24 Set of printed questions in old morning daily (4,5)
- 25 Killing obese criminal (5)
- 26 Group of stars taking part in mushy drama (5)
- 27 Very soon, in between the tarpaulin, a mom entered (2,1,6)
- 28 Sane deed done when required (2,6)
- 29 Wrote and enclosed (6)

DOWN

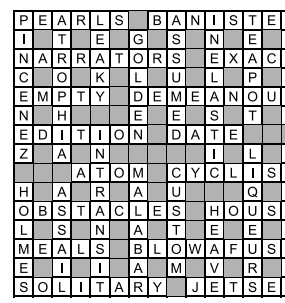
- 1 Theoretical take away (8)
- 2 Old thing is upset when held by a few (8)

- 3 Traps? No worries (5)
- 5 Release of one small retrospective segment (7)
- 6 Note stage maybe nice and suitable for TV (9)
- 7 Break-dancing at the end of university's patisserie (6)
- 8 Bull avoids husband's whack (6)
- 9 One's region surrounded by water (6)
- 15 Slide uncontrollably on water jet (9)
- 17 Small amount supported by the sailors below the equator (8)
- 18 Cut off from world standards body sustained by old democrat (8)
- 20 Rob record found in motor (7)
- 21 Roger managed to smuggle a native (6)
- 22 Unevenly preps the weak prime minister (6)
- 23 Plot of paper back found near study (6)
- 25 Set direction to follow French wizard's place (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12806



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

True knowledge

Parikshit, who is on the threshold of death, wishes to know what he should do. "What is the duty of a man who faces imminent death? What should such a person hear about, repeat, do, remember and worship? What are the acts to be avoided?" Being a true jnani, Suka is impressed by the import of these questions. He is most willing to teach a disciple who seeks jnana from life rather than material benefits, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

In the same way when Adi Sankara meets a young 13-year-old boy who does not speak but who seems to reflect jnana, he is very much impressed. The acharya merely asks him who he was. The boy who had not spoken all these years responds with Sanskrit verses that reflect the essence of truth and atma tatva in the most lucid terms like a gooseberry in one's palm. So, the boy gets the name Hastamalaka. Adi Sankara realises that the boy is not suited for the life of a householder and accepts him as his disciple. In addition, Adi Sankara takes great delight to write a commentary on the verses of this disciple. He shows by example that true jnana is not bound by the formalities of guru sishya roles. Suka too is most happy to instruct Parikshit whose questions are applicable to all.

The entire posterity stands to benefit when wrong notions and perceptions about life are clarified. It is sad that though people have eyesight and see the inevitable, fleeting nature of life, they get cheated by it and fail to perceive and identify what is permanent. As Tiruvalluvar puts it rightly, the quest for true knowledge should lead one to perceive only the true and everlasting quality in the innumerable things and objects in this universe, regardless of whatever may be its outward appearance and nature or quality.