

5 sentenced to death for killing Khashoggi

Three more get jail, while two senior Saudi figures are let off; murder ‘not premeditated’, says prosecutor

REUTERS

SAUDI Arabia on Monday sentenced five people to death and three more to jail for the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi last year and said the killing was not premeditated, a verdict criticised by a UN investigator as a “mockery” of justice.

The court dismissed charges against the remaining three of the 11 people that had been on trial, finding them not guilty, Saudi deputy public prosecutor and spokesman Shalaan al-Shalaan said. None of the defendants’ names was immediately released.

“The investigation showed that the killing was not premeditated... The decision was taken at the spur of the moment,” Mr. Shalaan said, a position contradicting the findings of a United Nations-led investigation.

Khashoggi was a U.S. resident and critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom’s de facto ruler. He was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018, where he had gone to obtain documents for his impending wedding. His body was reportedly dismembered and removed from the building, and his remains have not been found.

Eleven Saudi suspects were put on trial over his death in secretive proceedings in the capital Riyadh.

Khashoggi’s murder caused a global uproar, tarnishing the crown prince’s image. The CIA and some Western governments have said they believe Prince Mohammed, also known as Mbs, ordered the killing.

Saudi officials say he had no role, though in September Mbs for the first time indicated some personal accountability, saying “it

Crime and punishment

A look at the profiles of some of those who have been held or investigated in Saudi Arabia in the Khashoggi case. The Saudi public prosecutor did not name the sentenced individuals on Monday

Those facing death sentences:

Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb



The General was an aide to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s former right-hand man

Salah Mohammed Tubaigy



He is a forensic expert at the Saudi Interior Ministry’s Criminal Evidence Department.

In the Istanbul operation, he was supposed to remove evidence such as fingerprints or proof of the use of force. He was specifically recruited to dispose of the body

Fahad Shabib al-Balawi and Waleed Abdullah al-Shehri, both members of the Saudi Royal Guard, and **Turki Muserref al-Shehri**, an intelligence officer

Source: Reuters, AFP

OTHERS ON TRIAL:

Ahmed Mohammed al-Assiri

The former deputy head of general intelligence was among those sacked by King Salman. The prosecutor said he ordered the operation to repatriate - but not kill - Khashoggi. He was acquitted for insufficient evidence

Mustafa Mohammed al-Madani

Brigadier General Madani led the intelligence efforts of the 15-man team in Istanbul. He donned Khashoggi’s clothes, eyeglasses and Apple watch and left through the back door of the Istanbul consulate in an attempt to make it look like the journalist had walked out of the building

ALSO ON TRIAL:

Mohammed Saad al-Zahrani, Saif Saad al-Qahtani, Mansour Othman Abahus-sain, and Muflih Shaya al-Muslih

NOT ON TRIAL

Saud al-Qahtani

Qahtani, seen as the right-hand man of Prince Mohammed, was removed as a royal court adviser and is the highest-profile figure implicated



He was the Istanbul Consul General at the time of Khashoggi’s murder. The UN rapporteur’s report recorded conversations Otaibi had with other Saudi officials days before Khashoggi’s murder, in which he discussed “a top secret mission”. Otaibi left Istanbul and has not been heard from since. On Monday, the Saudi deputy public prosecutor said Otaibi had been released after being questioned

Mohammed al-Otaibi

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Jamal Khashoggi

Mr. Shalaan also said the Saudi Consul General to Turkey at the time, Mohammed al-Otaibi, had been freed after Turkish witnesses said he was with them on the day of the crime.

Sources said last year that Maher Mutreb, the lead negotiator, and Salah al-Tubaigy, a forensic expert specialising in autopsies, were also on trial for the murder and could face the death penalty.

Mr. Shalaan said that when the Saudi team that entered the consulate saw it would not be possible to transfer Khashoggi to a safe place to continue negotiating, they decided to kill him.

“It was agreed, in consultation between the head of the negotiating team and the culprits, to kill Jamal Khashoggi inside the consulate,” Mr. Shalaan said.

31 people investigated

Noting the verdict, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stressed the need for “an independent and impartial investigation into the murder”, a spokesman said.

Turkey said on Monday the trial outcome was far from serving justice and repeated its call for better Saudi judicial cooperation.

Human rights group Amnesty International criticised the closed trial, branding the verdict a “whitewash” that it said failed to address the Saudi authorities’ involvement or the location of Khashoggi’s remains.

However, one of Khashoggi’s sons – who weeks after the murder appealed for the return of his father’s body – said the verdicts had been fair to his children. “We affirm our confidence in the judiciary at all levels, that it has been fair to us and that justice has been achieved,” Salah Khashoggi said on Twitter.

Amid thousands of complaints, Afghan election runoff likely

Preliminary results had given Ashraf Ghani a narrow victory

REUTERS

KABUL

Afghanistan’s Electoral Complaints Commission said on Monday the election might go to a second round as it begins reviewing thousands of complaints a day after the preliminary result handed incumbent President Ashraf Ghani a narrow victory.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) announced on Sunday a much delayed preliminary result of the September 28 presidential vote which was marred by allegations of massive fraud, technical problems with biometric devices used for voting, attacks and irregularities.

The IEC said the total turnout was over 1.8 million, with Mr. Ghani securing 50.64% to win the first round of voting, beating his main rival Abdullah Abdullah, who currently shares



Ashraf Ghani

power with him in a unity government. However, if a review by the complaints commission reduces Mr. Ghani’s vote share to below 50% and no other candidate has a majority, a second round will be held between the two top contenders.

Deen Mohammad Azimi, deputy head of the Electoral Complaints Commission, said there is a “strong possibility” the election would go to the second round.

“Looking at the scope of complaints and objections that needs a thorough re-

view, there could be a run-off,” he said. The review might take five weeks, he said, adding that thousands of complaints from candidates had already been filed.

According to the tally released by the IEC, the total turnout was 18,24,401 with Mr. Ghani winning 9,23,868 votes and Mr. Abdullah second with 7,20,099 (39.52%).

“President Ghani avoided a run-off just by over 11,000 votes and the complaints commission might invalidate tens of thousands of votes from all candidates,” another election official said on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to speak to the media.

Mr. Ghani welcomed the IEC decision and said the country was on the right path towards prosperity but Mr. Abdullah dismissed the result as fraudulent as he called for a full review.

House Speaker Pelosi ‘not ready’ to name team for Trump Senate trial

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

House speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday that she was not yet ready to name her team for President Donald Trump’s trial in the U.S. Senate on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

“The House cannot choose our impeachment managers until we know what sort of trial the Senate will conduct,” the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives said on Twitter.

House managers will prosecute the case against Mr. Trump before the Republican majority Senate in a trial expected to begin in January.

Ms. Pelosi has not yet sent the impeachment articles passed by the House over to the Senate amid a standoff with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell over the form the trial will take.

Democrats have been pushing for four current and former White House aides with direct knowledge of Mr. Trump’s Ukraine dealings to

testify in the Senate. Mr. Trump blocked all four from testifying in the House.

“President Trump blocked his own witnesses and documents from the House, and from the American people, on phony complaints about the House process,” Ms. Pelosi said. “What is his excuse now?”

Mr. McConnell, speaking on a TV show on Monday, said Mr. Pelosi “apparently believes that she can tell us how to run the trial.” “We haven’t ruled out witnesses,” he added.

IN BRIEF



Continue restraint on Hong Kong, Abe urges Xi

BEIJING

Hong Kong should “continue to be free and open”, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told the Chinese President on Monday. Mr. Abe met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing ahead of flying to the city of Chengdu to join a trilateral meeting on Tuesday, which will also be attended by South Korean President Moon Jae-in. In a press briefing after the Xi-Abe meeting, Otaka Masato, spokesman for the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, said Mr. Abe “urged China to continue its self-restraint” over Hong Kong. AFP

Boeing replaces CEO as Max crisis deepens

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NEW YORK

Boeing on Monday replaced its embattled chief executive Dennis Muilenburg, saying a change was necessary as it attempts to restore its reputation amid the protracted 737 MAX crisis.

Boeing named board chairman David Calhoun as chief executive and president, saying the company needed to “restore confidence” and “repair relationships with regulators, customers and all other stakeholders.”

The company pledged to “operate with a renewed commitment to full transparency, including effective and proactive communication with the FAA, other global regulators and its cus-



Dennis Muilenburg

tomers.” The aerospace giant’s financial picture remains clouded following the global grounding of the MAX in March after two deadly crashes.

The move comes a week after Boeing took the monumental step of temporarily shutting down MAX production because of the crisis, which has pushed the aircraft’s return to the skies into 2020.

Beijing attacks Washington for ‘weaponisation’ of outer space

President Trump had recently unveiled a ‘Space Force’

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

Beijing warned on Monday that the U.S. was turning the cosmos into a “battlefield”, after Washington announced a new military arm called the Space Force.

Following concerns that China and Russia are challenging its position in space, U.S. President Donald Trump signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act on Friday – which created a new branch of the U.S. military.

Beijing responded by accusing the U.S. of “pursuing the weaponisation of outer space”. “These actions from



Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang

the U.S. strongly violate the international consensus of the peaceful use of outer space... posing a direct threat to outer space, peace, and security,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng

Shuang at a regular press briefing.

‘Responsible attitude’

Mr. Geng called for the international community to “adopt a prudent and responsible attitude to prevent outer space from becoming a new battlefield”.

The Space Force will be the sixth formal force of the U.S. military, after the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. “Going to be a lot of things happening in space, because space is the world’s newest warfighting domain,” Mr. Trump told members of the military gathered for the signing.

Two dead, over 65,000 hit by rain in Sri Lanka

Gotabaya reviews relief measures

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

At least two persons died and more than 65,000 people have been affected in the recent spells of heavy rain in Sri Lanka, the Disaster Management Centre has said.

According to a ‘situation report’ released by the Centre on Monday, two persons from the North Western Province died in the incessant rain lashing several parts of the country.

More showers

Authorities have forecast showers or thunder showers on Tuesday, in the northern, north-central and southern regions of the island. So far, more than

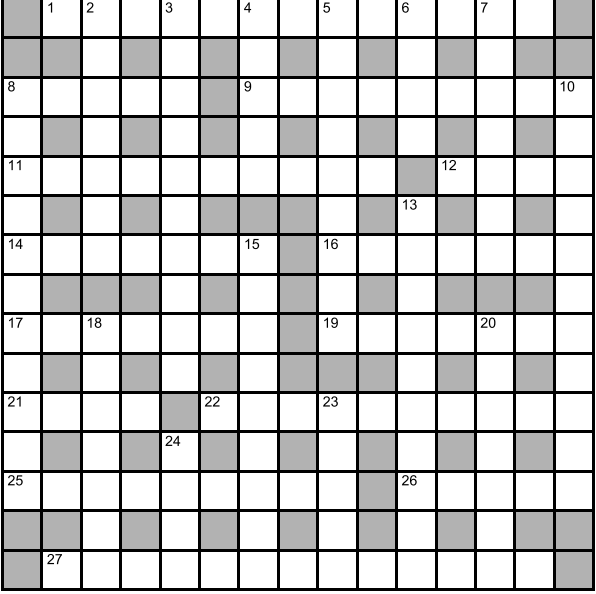
17,000 people have been displaced from their flooded homes and are seeking shelter in safer locations.

On Monday, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa visited Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts in the North Central Province that were among the badly-affected areas. He chaired a special discussion with officials to review response and relief measures, his office said in a statement.

Citing the over-75 mm rainfall recorded in the past 24 hours, the Disaster Management Centre issued an early warning for possible landslips in hilly areas and urged residents to exercise caution.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12814

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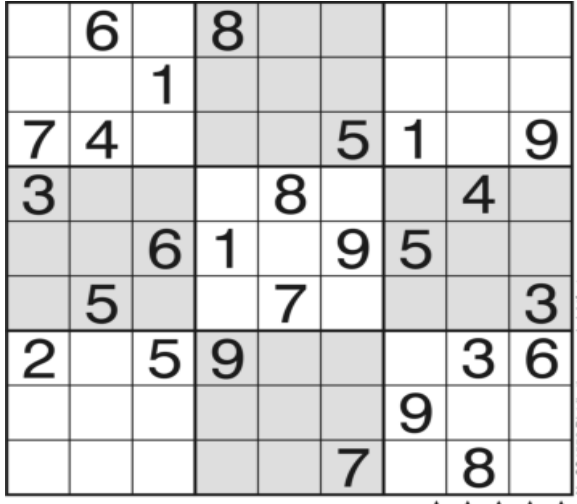
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ACROSS

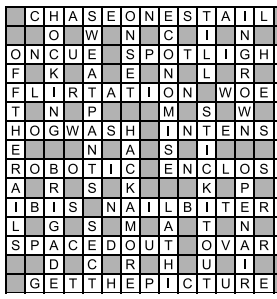
- 1 Takes the blame and moves to prison (7,3,3)
- 8 What botanists study in seminars about origin of life? (5)
- 9 Begs Congress to reorganize after absorbing results at Centre (9)
- 11 She drives with purpose, pursuing essentially drunk

- (set by Dr. X)
- fellow in anger (10)
 - One pursuing drug dealers sprung around club (4)
 - Craving alcoholic spirit for a period of five years (7)
 - Criminal in detention after killing wife with oriental poison (7)
 - Fool about to tackle girl beginning to exercise in that place (7)
 - Smoke a cigarette and become happy (5,2)
 - Drags husband away from ruffians (4)
 - A commotion by good maiden grabbed by bare film star (7,3)
 - Ross happily enters to consume sponge cake (5,4)
 - Set fire to rubbish around church (5)
 - Joke that’s expressed casually – not what a fisherman might do? (9,4)
 - DOWN
 - 2 Open declarations of war primarily embodied by firing a salvo (7)
 - 3 Feared criminal controlling syndicate testified again (10)
 - 4 Scoring runs, secure result (5)
 - 5 Escapes from trouble after revolution on street (5,4)
 - 6 Item useful to trap birds (4)
 - 7 Neighbour’s good husband held by a fiend with knife at Centre (7)
 - 8 Assists one drunk American model encircled by mugs (11)
 - 10 Cock-up! He’s run out scoring zero – an unexpected blow (6,5)
 - 13 Incurable cheat, cheerful after ensnaring model (10)
 - 15 Drunkard stabbing men in a sozzled state in America (9)
 - 18 Hot single naughtily shows tongue (7)
 - 20 South American monkey in a train angrily bites man (7)
 - 23 Greek character beginning to dance, knocking back drink around bar (5)
 - 24 Old wife leaves uninteresting city in Europe (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12813



Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku



FAITH

Service to the guru

Ignorance of the eternal and everlasting Truth is the bane of human existence and stands as the greatest hindrance to spiritual attainment. Sastras reiterate that this ignorance prevails in beings owing to individual bad prarabdha karma and is removed only by the grace of God and the grace of the Guru. This grace is automatically obtained when one studies under a guru, follows his teachings with faith and commitment, and serves him in a selfless manner, says Krishna in the Uddhava Gita, pointed out Swamini Satyavratnanda in a lecture. The Upanishads reflect the traditional method of instruction when transmission of knowledge from guru to sishya takes place in a unique way.

The disciple is expected to cultivate humble reverence, inquiry and devoted service along with the bhava that his guru is equal to God. The simple and austere way of life in the Gurukula trains him to be self disciplined and patient when he serves the guru. The student is rid of fear and confusion. The Katopanishad says that many might have heard of the Self as most wonderful but may not fully understand the deep import of it. But this esoteric truth shines as a living experience in the disciple’s inner consciousness when taught by a good teacher. In the Manu Smriti, there is famous verse that explains how an ardent student can get the best from the ocean of knowledge that the guru exemplifies by his obedient and patient bhava even as a man uses a spade to dig water from the earth. The Mundaka says that a student has to humbly approach the guru devoted to Brahman to imbibe the essence of eternal truth.

To a disciple who approaches reverently, the guru who has the experience of God gives that knowledge faithfully by which is known the truly existing, the changeless self.