

ELSEWHERE



23 killed, 130 injured in Sudan tile factory fire
KHARTOUM
At least 23 people have died in a huge explosion that tore through a tile factory in Sudan's capital on Tuesday. The blaze also injured over 130 people, several critically, the government said, suggesting the death toll could rise as burn victims were being treated at local hospitals. AP

Smoke grenade blast injures 2 in Indonesia
JAKARTA
Indonesian police said a smoke grenade exploded on Tuesday near the presidential palace in Jakarta, wounding two soldiers. Police said the soldiers were exercising in Jakarta's National Monument Park when they spotted the grenade on the ground. He said it exploded when they tried to pick it up. REUTERS

Putin signs Bill targeting journalists and bloggers

Govt. to register them as foreign agents

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW



Vladimir Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a Bill into law that gives the government the right to register bloggers, journalists and social media users as foreign agents.

The Bill extends an existing law involving foreign-funded media outlets. That was adopted in 2017 in response to the decision by the U.S. Justice Department to label the Russian state-funded RT television a foreign agent.

The law can apply to anyone who distributes content produced by media outlets registered as foreign

Kim unveils a ‘modern mountainous city’

North Korea is projecting Samjiyon as a ‘socialist utopia’ with the latest amenities

REUTERS
SEOUL



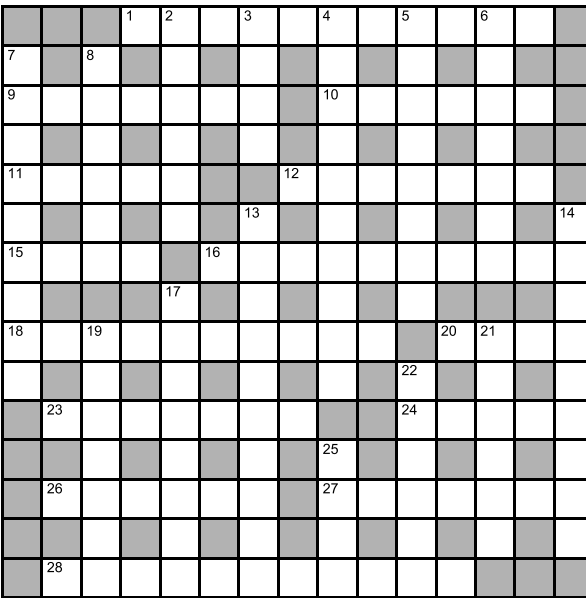
Dream come true: Kim Jong-un cutting the ribbon during a ceremony at Samjiyon, North Korea. ■ REUTERS/KCNA


sands of people, while state television showed beige, green and purple buildings covered in snow.

The city named Samjiyon is envisaged as what North

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12797

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles





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

■ ACROSS

1 Manage to get a part of the fist in front of the inept individual (11)

9 Jedi, fierce, hiding an inspiring instructor (7)

10 Recall upset More logging into a Malaysian website (6)

11 Disagree after the force removes Charlie in the blink of an eye (5)

■ DOWN

2 Dissenting chorus on the radio with some animal sounds (6)

3 Witty joker discarded hard beet (4)

4 Spoofing a parliamentarian acting after eating egg and fish outside (10)

U.S. threatens 100% tariffs on French goods

Announcement comes after USTR concluded that France’s digital services tax harms tech firms

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC



Trade friction: U.S. President Donald Trump with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, left, in London on Tuesday. ■ AFP

On the eve of President Donald Trump’s meeting with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in London on the sidelines of the NATO alliance talks, the U.S. announced that it could levy duties up to 100% on \$2.4 billion in French imports into the country. The announcement comes after the office of the U.S. Trade Representative’s (USTR) probe into France’s Digital Services Tax (DST) concluded that a French tax measure is discriminatory towards specific U.S. technology companies.

The proposed tariffs could include French champagne, porcelain and some cheese varieties.

‘301’ probe

The ‘301’ trade probe against France was launched in July after Mr. Macron signed the DST into law, aimed at taxing

tool authorised by Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which the U.S. uses to assert its rights under trade agreements if it decides American industries are facing “unfair” foreign trade practices.


“USTR’s decision today sends a clear signal that the United States will take action against digital tax regimes that discriminate or otherwise impose undue burdens on U.S. companies,” U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said via a statement released on Monday.

The USTR was focusing on countering the “growing protectionism of EU member states” and may also open 301 investigations into the digital services tax against Turkey, Austria and Italy, Mr. Lighthizer said.

The announcement comes two days after the U.S. said it would consider increasing tariffs on EU im-

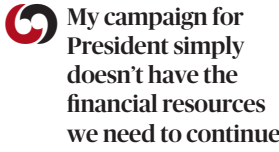
Kamala Harris ends her presidential bid

Slumping poll numbers trigger the move



Bowing out: A file photo of Senator Kamala Harris during a Democratic presidential primary debate in Atlanta. ■ AP

ASTEAD W. HERNDON
SHANE GOLDMACHER
WASHINGTON



KAMALA HARRIS
California Senator

Senator Kamala Harris of California dropped out of the Democratic presidential race on Tuesday after months of slumping poll numbers, a dramatic come-down after her campaign began with significant promise.

The decision to drop out of the race comes after upheaval among staff and disarray among her own allies.

She told supporters in an email on Tuesday that she lacked the money needed to fully finance a competitive campaign.

“My campaign for President simply doesn’t have the financial resources we need to continue,” Ms. Harris wrote.

Unexpected move

The announcement is both dramatic and unexpected, perhaps the most sudden development to date in a Democratic presidential campaign where Ms. Harris began in the top tier.

She began her campaign on Martin Luther King Jr. Day with comparisons to historic black politicians such as Barack Obama and Shirley Chisholm. Her

Sri Lanka’s President suspends Parliament ahead of snap polls

Move gives govt. freedom to rule sans obstruction from MPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has prorogued the Parliament for one month and fixed January 3, 2020 for the commencement of the next session, a move that will give his minority government freedom to rule without obstruction from the Opposition.

The Parliament should have met on Tuesday, according to the schedule.

Mr. Rajapaksa issued a special gazette notification overnight proroguing the legislature, which said the Parliament would be recon-

vened on January 3.

“The President is constitutionally empowered to do so,” officials said.

He is expected to make a

Swiss embassy staffer told not to leave Lanka

ceremonial address at the re-opening on January 3, during which he will outline his new government’s policies, they added.

President Rajapaksa was sworn in as Sri Lanka’s seventh President on November 18 after he defeated the ruling party candidate Sajith Premadasa by more than 13 lakh votes.

His party – Sri Lanka People’s Front – lacks the working majority in the 225-member Assembly and ending the session will give him freedom to govern without obstruction from the Opposition.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA

A Sri Lankan court on Tuesday blocked a Swiss embassy staffer from leaving the country until December 9. It also asked her to give a statement to police about allegations that she was abducted and threatened to disclose embassy-related information.

The Sri Lankan government said evidence collected by its investigators did not support the sequence of events given by the Swiss embassy in Colombo.

Switzerland on Tuesday summoned Sri Lanka’s Ambassador Karunasena Hettiarachchi to Bern to explain the evidence.

Iraq parties, allies debate new PM as violence hits shrine city

Talks include Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, Hezbollah members

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Iraqi politicians and their regional allies gathered in Baghdad on Tuesday to discuss a way out of two months of protests that brought down the government, as violence hit southern cities.

Demonstrators demanding root-and-branch reform have flooded the capital and the Shiite-majority south since October in one of the largest grassroots movement in the country. In the shrine city of Najaf, 35 protesters were wounded when armed

guards fired shotguns and tear gas on crowds on Tuesday.

Seen as a threat to the ruling elite, the rallies were met with a heavy-handed response from security forces that has left over 420 people dead and nearly 20,000 wounded.

Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi formally resigned last Saturday.

Among those attending the negotiations are two key allies of Iraq’s main Shiite parties: Iran’s Revolutionary Guards commander Major General Qasem Soleimani

Student, officer injured in U.S. school shooting

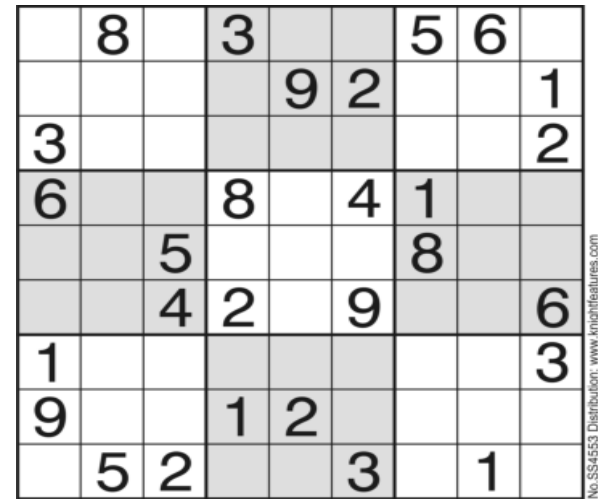
ASSOCIATED PRESS
OSHKOSH

A student with a gun confronted a school resource officer at a Wisconsin high school on Tuesday morning and both were wounded, police said, in the second such shooting at a school in the State in as many days.

The latest shooting happened at Oshkosh West High School just after 9 a.m. The student and the officer were taken to hospital, but no one else was injured in the shooting.

On Monday, a police officer responding to a situation at Waukesha South High School shot an armed male student in a classroom.

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12796

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

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

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

FAITH

Love for devotees

Sugreeva wondered how Rama would tackle Vali. So, he told Rama about the killing of Dundubhi. Dundubhi was huge, but Vali picked up Dundubhi with ease, dashed him to the ground, and killed him. Dundubhi was reputed to have the strength of a thousand elephants and yet Vali had flung him across a distance of one yojana. Rama showed Sugreeva how much stronger He was by just using His toe to toss the skeleton of Dundubhi one thousand yojanas. But Sugreeva was unconvinced. He said that Rama had kicked away the skeleton, which would not be as heavy as the body of Dundubhi. So Sugreeva wanted further proof of Rama’s ability, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. Rama then shot an arrow, which pierced seven trees and returned to Rama’s quiver. And only then was Sugreeva confident that Rama could help him in the fight against Vali.

Vali and Sugreeva engaged in combat, with Rama promising to strike an arrow at Vali. But while the two monkeys engaged in a fight, Rama did not intervene, and Sugreeva was beaten up and chased by Vali. Sugreeva took refuge in mount Rishyamukha, for Vali would not enter this area, because of a curse. But why did Rama not kill Vali? Although He said it was because He could not distinguish between the two brothers and was afraid He might hit Sugreeva, the real reason was different.

When Rama and Lakshmana had first met Sugreeva, the latter had offered a seat to Rama, but not to Lakshmana. Rama could not excuse this, for Lakshmana was devoted to Rama. So, although Sugreeva had honoured Rama, the lack of respect to Lakshmana could not be tolerated by Rama. That is why He allowed Sugreeva to take blows from Vali initially. That is the kind of concern He has for His devotees.