

Defying U.S., U.K. gives 5G role to Huawei

Chinese company's involvement will be capped at 35% and it will be banned from all critical networks

REUTERS
LONDON
Prime Minister Boris Johnson granted Huawei a limited role in Britain's 5G mobile network on Tuesday, resisting U.S. pressure to exclude the Chinese company from next generation communications over fears Beijing could use them to spy.

Britain had to weigh its "special relationship" with the U.S. against Chinese trade and investment ties which it wants to develop after leaving the EU.

Mr. Johnson, in the biggest test of his post-Brexit foreign policy to date, ruled that "high-risk vendors" would be allowed into the "non-sensitive" parts of 5G networks.

However, their involvement will be capped at 35%, they will be excluded from the sensitive core, where data is processed, and they will be banned from all critical

networks and locations such as nuclear sites and military bases, the government said.

The decision will dismay President Donald Trump's administration which fears China could use Huawei to access Western communications. It warned London that giving Huawei a role would risk intelligence cooperation

U.K.-specific solution

"This is a U.K.-specific solution for U.K.-specific reasons and the decision deals with the challenges we face right now," Communications Secretary Nicky Morgan said following a meeting of the National Security Council chaired by Johnson.

The telecoms industry has warned that banning Huawei would cost it billions of dollars and delay the 5G roll-out. Huawei's equipment is already used by Britain's biggest telecoms companies such as BT and Vodafone,



New connection: Pedestrians near a Huawei advertisement at a bus stop in central London. ■ AFP

but it has been largely deployed at the edge of the network.

China's Ambassador to London Liu Xiaoming said last year that a block on Huawei would hurt Chinese trade and investment in Britain, telling the BBC it would "send a very bad message not only to Huawei but also to Chinese businesses".

Huawei was not men-

tioned by name in the British government's statement, but British cyber security officials said they had always treated the company as a "high risk" vendor.

Evidence-based decision

Huawei said it was reassured by the U.K. government's confirmation that it could continue working with its customers to keep the 5G

EU will not ban Huawei, but impose 'strict' 5G rules

BRUSSELS
The EU will not ban Huawei or any other company in Europe, a top official said on Tuesday, despite intense pressure from Washington to shun the firm over spying fears. The European Commission will unveil recommendations to member states on Wednesday, but commissioner Thierry Breton said that Brussels will choose tight scrutiny over any blanket ban.

roll-out on track.

"This evidence-based decision will result in a more advanced, more secure and more cost-effective telecoms infrastructure that is fit for the future," Huawei vice president Victor Zhang said.

A U.S. official involved in talks with the U.K. said the limitations were a positive step, but didn't go far enough.

Xi says China fighting 'demon' virus as death toll rises to 106

First human-to-human infections reported outside China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WUHAN

President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday China was in a struggle against a "demon" epidemic, as the death toll from the new SARS-like virus soared to 106 and the first cases of human-to-human contagion were detected abroad.

Mr. Xi made his remarks during talks with head of the World Health Organisation in Beijing as a host of nations prepared to airlift their citizens from Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak.

"Chinese people are currently engaged in a serious struggle against an epidemic of a new type of coronavirus infection," Mr. Xi told WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Pledges transparency

"The epidemic is a demon, and we cannot let this demon hide," the Chinese leader said, pledging that the government would be transparent and release information on the virus in a "timely" manner.

His comments came after anger simmered on Chinese social media over the handling of the health emergency by local officials in central Hubei province, where the disease first emerged in December.

Some experts have praised Beijing for being more reactive and open about this virus compared to its handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic of 2002-2003.

But others say local cadres had earlier been more focused on projecting stability than responding to the outbreak when it began



Desperate measures: People standing in queue for free masks outside a pharmacy in Hong Kong on Tuesday. ■ AP

Hong Kong cuts air, ferry links with China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Hong Kong on Tuesday announced drastic measures to cut the number of people crossing into the city from mainland China.

With tour groups from the mainland already suspended, the new measures include blocking individual travellers from visiting the city.

The number of flights from the mainland to Hong Kong will be halved

and all ferry services suspended to "reduce the mobility of people from both sides", city leader Carrie Lam said, adding six of 14 border checkpoints will close from January 30.

Hong Kong has declared the new coronavirus a public emergency and on Saturday ramped up measures to reduce the risk of more infections.

Eight people in Hong Kong are known to be suffering from the illness.

Trump unveils West Asia plan, Palestinians protest

Proposal includes Palestinian state with capital in eastern Jerusalem, recognition to Israeli settlements

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday proposed creation of a Palestinian state with capital in eastern Jerusalem, dependent on Palestinians taking steps to become self-governing, as part of a peace plan to end decades of conflict in the region.

Senior administration officials said that under Mr. Trump's proposed West Asia peace plan, the U.S. will recognise Israeli settlements on the occupied West Bank.

In exchange, Israel would agree to accept a four-year freeze on new settlement ac-



Talking peace: U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, right, in Washington. ■ BLOOMBERG

tivity while Palestinian statehood is negotiated.

"Today, Israel has taken a giant step toward peace," Mr. Trump said as he announced the plan at the White House

with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his side, saying he also sent a letter about it to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. "This is a historic day," Mr.

Netanyahu said, comparing Mr. Trump's peace plan to former President Harry Truman's 1948 recognition of the state of Israel. "On this day, you became the first world leader to recognise Israel's sovereignty over areas in Judea and Samaria that are vital to our security and central to our heritage," he added, using the Biblical names for the West Bank.

Skepticism over deal

The absence of the Palestinians from Mr. Trump's announcement is likely to fuel criticism that the plan tilts toward Israel.

U.S. officials said they

were braced for initial Palestinian skepticism but hoped that over time they will agree to negotiate.

Mr. Trump has endorsed a proposed map outlining the two states, the officials said. The Palestinian state would be double the size of land that Palestinians currently control and would be connected by roads, bridges and tunnels, the official said.

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians demonstrated in Gaza and Israeli troops reinforced positions near a flashpoint site between the Palestinian city of Ramallah and the Jewish settlement of Beit El in the West Bank.

ELSEWHERE



Gas cylinder explosion kills 11 in Pak. factory

LAHORE
A massive explosion and fire triggered by a gas cylinder explosion engulfed a small perfume factory in eastern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing at least 11 people, police said. Two people were also injured in the blast. ■ AP

Qatar emir appoints confidant as PM

DOHA
Qatar's ruling emir on Tuesday appointed Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, another member from the ruling Al Thani family who has deep experience in the royal court, as the Prime Minister. ■ AP

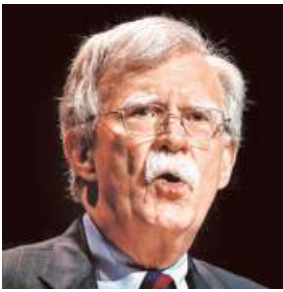
Trump trial: support increasing within GOP for new witnesses

Republican Senators want to hear from Bolton on Ukraine issue

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

As reports of U.S. President Donald Trump having told his former National Security Adviser John Bolton to hold assistance to Ukraine pending politically-charged investigations spread, pressure from within the GOP to call new witnesses intensified, with some GOP Senators publicly expressing their interest in hearing from Mr. Bolton and other new witnesses.

Mr. Trump's defence team, however, side-stepped the Bolton issue as they defended their client in the Senate on Monday.



John Bolton

In a book manuscript, some details of which were reported by *The New York Times* on Sunday, Mr. Bolton had said that Mr. Trump asked him to continue freezing \$391 in military aid to Ukraine pending Ukraine an-

nouncing investigations that were politically advantageous to Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives in December on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

"I think it's increasingly likely that other Republicans will join those of us who think we should hear from John Bolton," GOP Senator from Utah Mitt Romney told reporters on Monday.

During lunch, GOP Senators had discussed at greater length the need to call Mr. Bolton and other witnesses, as per some media outlets.

U.S. top court gives go ahead to Trump's green card rule

Poor immigrants more likely to be denied permanent residency

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

The U.S. Supreme Court, voting along conservative-liberal lines of 5-4, permitted the continuation of a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that makes it more likely that poorer immigrants would be denied green cards.

The court stayed an injunction on an August policy of DHS that expanded the definition of which potential immigrant seeking admission into the U.S. is likely to become a "public charge", i.e., in need of state support. Such individuals can be denied admission into the U.S.,

or if seeking to adjust their visa status to a green card, once already in the U.S., can be denied their green card. Refugees and asylum seekers are among those exempt from the provision.

'public charge'

Among the risk factors of making an individual a "public charge" under the new definition are age, English speaking ability and education. Non-white individuals are likely to be disproportionately affected by the new rule as per critics.

The new rule may also cause individuals to discontinue their enrollment in

Medicaid (a programme that helps individuals on a low income with medical costs) or deter them from enrolling, as per a study from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Several lower courts had blocked the DHS rule after immigrant groups, State and city governments had gone to court over the issue.

All four liberal justices said they would have denied the stay on the injunction. Conservative justice and Mr. Trump's appointee Neil Gorsuch took issue with lower courts, particularly the U.S. District Court in New York, which passed a nation-wide injunction on the policy.

Pak. Hindu girl abducted, married off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

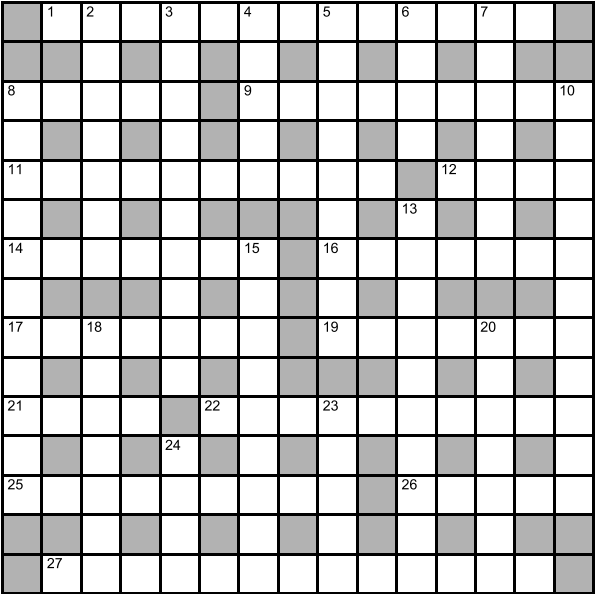
A 24-year-old Hindu girl was allegedly abducted by armed assailants from her wedding ceremony in Pakistan's Sindh province and forcibly converted to Islam before being married off to a Muslim man.

The All Pakistan Hindu Council on Sunday said Bharti Bai was abducted last week from Hala town in Sindh province. She was then married off to a Muslim man, named Shahruk Gul, after forcibly converting her to Islam.

Meanwhile, India has demanded investigation and urgent action to protect the minority communities in the country.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12844

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ACROSS

- 1 Bit dangerous perhaps to become less vigilant (4,4,5)
- 8 Gizmo we refurbished includes device to cut grass (5)
- 9 Nervous reaction resulting from insensitive wife breaking heart (4,5)
- 11 Contentment after a little sexy dance by model in erotic form of entertainment (10)

(set by Dr. X)

- 12 Dismiss fellow with anger (4)
- 14 Father on stage receives posh collage (5-2)
- 16 Weary revolutionary avoiding a precinct in African country (7)
- 17 Member eating oriental duck and aromatic herb (7)
- 19 Dreadful boy breaks new camera (7)
- 21 Reviewing some sightings of unnatural aerial phenomena (1,1,1,1)
- 22 They replace European character involved in disputes (5,5)
- 25 One avoided disrupting term with on-line registration (9)
- 26 Become frosty when India gets trophy, overwhelming England (3,2)
- 27 Slept with hot lesbian slyly? Tell all (5,3,5)

DOWN

- 4 Mother-of-pearl caught in net, not small (5)
- 5 Marketing crew's enthusiasm after consuming alcoholic beverages (5,4)
- 6 Honours astronomers discovering a constellation (4)
- 7 More gluttonous? Avoid grease primarily to become thinner (7)
- 8 Manufacture large quantities of fancy upper-class cars and mopeds (4-7)
- 10 All is revealed as a result of beating? (3,4,2,2)
- 13 Correct to criticize film's revolting sequence (10)
- 15 Troublesome person about to cavort with model is most eager (9)
- 18 English leave and stumble in act of self-aggrandizement (3,4)
- 20 Bit of bacon, egg and mushroom (7)
- 23 Not right to stop working! Join again (5)
- 24 Start to enjoy brief peace in twelfth month of Jewish calendar (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12843

S T E A L T H Y S P A W N S
U E R T A I N F O R M O S A
I J A T G O S D U C
N O T C H P R O C E D U R E
E A S A T T N A
C O O R D I N A T I N G
D S M L N G T E
I N T H E P I C T U R E
S I O A H E P
P R O G R A M M E E R R O R
U D I E D M O O
T R O D D E N O N E S T O P
E U G T O N E E
S U T T L E R P R A T F A L L

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Charming Vamana

Andal, in Her Nachiar Thirumozhi, describes Her dream, about Her marriage to Lord Narayana. She speaks of a 'shake' when Lord Narayana enters as bridegroom. We may think that because of the Lord's stature, the earth shook. But She is talking of His shivering as Vamana interpreted Parasara Bhatta! Why would Vamana shiver?

Lord Narayana had promised Prahlada that his descendants would not be killed. He had also promised Indra that He would get back Indra's kingdom from Mahabali. Mahabali was Prahlada's grandson. So, the Lord had to retrieve Indra's rajya without killing Mahabali. And this was one of His anxieties. The other was that He had no experience in asking anybody for anything. He was the Supreme One. So why would He have asked for anything? This too was a reason for His shiver. But He need not have been afraid. Mahabali took one look at Him and was totally impressed, said M.A.Venkatkrishnan in a discourse. When Vamana asked him for land, measured with three steps of His, Mahabali agreed readily. Mahabali would have willingly given anything He asked for, but He says in Srimalad Bhagavatam that none should ask for more than what they needed. More and more wealth only leads to destruction. Hence Vamana asked only for as much land as He required.

So, what was the need for the land that Vamana asked for? He needed land to do yagas. Sastras say that yagas should be done on one's own land, and for this He needed nothing extensive. So perfect and convincing was the Lord's pretence at being Vamana, the short One, that Mahabali was taken in by His appearance. Sukracharya, the guru of the asuras, however, perceived that Vamana was Vishnu, and warned Mahabali. But Mahabali paid no heed to his guru.



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