

Trump: We can't Let N. Korea Build Better Missiles

SEOUL, South Korea - US President Donald Trump calls North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un "a pretty smart cookie" for being able to hold onto power after taking over the reclusive Asian nation at a young age.

Trump tells CBS' "Face the Nation" television show on Sunday that "people are saying, 'Is he sane?' I have no idea."

The president also was asked about the failure of several North Korean missile tests recently and why those launches keep blowing up. Trump says he'd "rather not discuss it. But perhaps they're just not very good missiles. But eventually, he'll have good



missiles." Trump says he's not going to talk about U.S. military options because "we shouldn't be announcing all our moves. It is a chess game. I just don't want people to know what my thinking is. So eventually, he will have a better delivery system. And if that happens, we can't allow it to happen."

Trump's national security adviser, Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, says North Korea's most recent missile test represents "open defiance of the international community." He says North Korea poses "a grave threat" not just to the United States and its Asian allies, but also to China. (AP)

Russia Backs China's "Double Suspension"

Proposal on Korean Peninsula

MOSCOW - Russia backs China's proposal on the suspension of missile and nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and of joint military drills by the United States and South Korea at the UN Security Council, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

"During a broad discussion, members of the council (UNSC) unanimously called upon the DPRK to renounce missile and nuclear tests and implement relevant UNSC resolutions," the ministry said in a statement following an open ministerial meeting on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue held by the UNSC Friday.

The UNSC also called for "a political and diplomatic solution" to the issue during the meeting, the statement added.

"In this context, the Russian Federation supports China's proposal for a 'double suspension' (the suspension of Pyongyang's missile and nuclear tests and implementation of UNSC resolutions),"

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Le Pen Visits French Factory, Macron Wins Ally before Runoff

PARIS - France's presidential candidates are pushing their rival views of Europe, as far-right Marine Le Pen calls the shared euro currency "dead" and centrist Emmanuel Macron visits a Holocaust memorial and calls for unity.

A day after European Union leaders nailed down their negotiating stance over Britain's departure, attention is now on France as its voters decide May 7 whether to choose Le Pen, whose anti-EU stance could unravel post-war unity, or Macron, who wants greater

European cooperation and trade.

"I think the euro is dead," Le Pen is quoted as saying in Sunday's *Le Parisien*.

While she is sticking to plans for a referendum on France's membership in the EU, Le Pen offered to allow big companies that operate internationally to continue using the euro while ordinary citizens would use a new franc.

Le Pen is also trying to win over those worried about the worried about the environment and paid a surprise visit Sunday to

a factory whose waste is at the heart of a political debate on the Mediterranean coast. Unlike a factory visit last week when Le Pen upstaged Macron and took selfies with workers, however,

Le Pen's visit Sunday to the Alteo plant in the town of Gardanne appeared to fall flat. She did not meet with workers and quickly left after making a statement to a local TV crew. (AP)

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EU to Discuss Crucial Issues in Complex Brexit Talks

BRUSSELS - The European Union leaders endorsed a set of "divorce" terms for Britain at a summit in Brussels on Saturday, rejoicing in a show of unity.

While the agreement on the guidelines, or "red lines", for the upcoming Brexit talks has been reached, the bloc will face crucial issues in the coming negotiations.

"Unity in action," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker declared on Saturday as he announced the 27 EU governments adopted the negotiating strategy.

"Guidelines adopted unanimously. EU27 firm and fair political mandate for the Brexit talks is ready," European Council President Donald Tusk tweeted while EU leaders burst into applause when the guidelines were waved through.

Those will bind Michel Barnier, former EU commissioner and the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, to seek an agreement that secures the rights of 3 million EU expats living in Britain and ensure London pays tens of billions of euros Brussels thinks it will be owed. One of the thorniest issues is the size of the

divorce bill with EU officials estimating at 60 billion euros (65 billion U.S. dollars) because of EU budget rules. British politicians have said the government will not pay a sum of that size. Ireland is another po-

tential obstacle to any deal. Britain will be reminded in the coming weeks to abide by the terms of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

EU leaders have also reiterated that they will rule out ... (More on P4)... (22)

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May Expects Tough Talks; EU Alarmed at Brexit 'Illusions'

LONDON/BRUSSELS - British Prime Minister Theresa May expects divorce talks with the European Union to be tough, she said on Sunday after EU leaders agreed stiff terms and voiced alarm at "illusions" in London that may wreck a deal.

"What this shows, and what some of the other comments we've seen coming from European leaders shows, is that there are going to be times when these negotiations are going to be tough," May told the BBC a day after her EU peers agreed on demands they want met to avoid chaos when Britain leaves the bloc in 2019. At Satur-

day's Brussels summit of the 27 other EU states, EU chief executive Jean-Claude Juncker accused unnamed pro-Brexit figures of underestimating the complexity of the task and German Chancellor Angela Merkel repeated her concern that London still harbored "illusions" about negotiating a quick free-trade pact.

May, who has called an election for June 8 in the hope of strengthening her position, repeated her insistence that no deal would be better than a bad deal - a position many in Brussels view as bluff, arguing that the legal ... (More on P4)... (21)

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ASEAN Leaders Urge DPRK to Comply with Int'l Obligations

MANILA - Southeast Asian leaders have urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to seriously comply with its international obligations during their summit on Saturday, voicing concerns over Pyongyang's test-firing of mid-range ballistic missiles.

The 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held their 30th annual summit and retreat in Manila on Saturday. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whose country holds the rotating chair of ASEAN

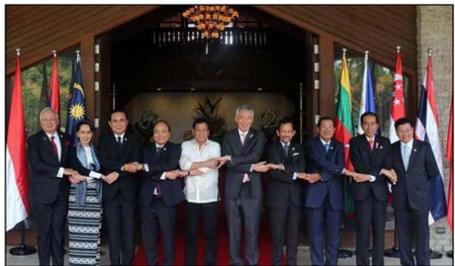
this year, officially released the chairman's statement on Sunday. "We discussed the situation on the Korean Peninsula and are gravely concerned about recent developments, including (DPRK's) two nuclear tests

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Trump to Talk with Singapore, Thailand Leaders on North Korea

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump will speak with leaders of Singapore and Thailand on Sunday about the threat North Korea poses of massive, nuclear destruction in Asia, White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said.

"We need cooperation at some level with as many partners in the area as we can get to make sure that we have our ducks in a row," Priebus told ABC's "This Week." Trump spoke to Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday about North Korea and his outreach to regional leaders aims to get "everyone in line backing up a plan of action" if the situation in North Korea deteriorates, Priebus said.

He added that Trump was in regular contact with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and that the president had become "very close" to ... (More on P4)... (24)

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UAE Signs Cooperation Deal to Improve Patent System

DUBAI - The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Ministry of Economy (MoE) signed a cooperation deal with Korean Intellectual Property Office KIPO to improve the state's patent system, the state news agency WAM reported Sunday.

The agreement falls within the framework of completing and implementing the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties in October 2016, aiming to upgrade the UAE's patent system.

The agreement was signed during the recently held Emirati-Korean bilateral meeting in Seoul by MoE Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs, Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, and General Commissioner of KIPO, Choi Dong Yu, reported WAM.

Under the terms of the agreement, Korean "highly qualified technical experts and patent examination experts" will be assigned to the International Centre for Patent Registration to assess how they can consolidate and reinforce the UAE's intellectual property infrastructure.

Furthermore the experts will simultaneously provide consultation and training services to update legislative and regulatory frameworks, thereby assisting efforts in support of the UAE's strategy toward intellectual property.

The Arab world lags behind emerging markets concerning patents issued. The Arab-American newspaper Arab Times reported that only 3,000 patents were issued to Arabs in all Arab countries in 2016, compared with 20,000 patents issued to South Koreans in the same period. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China, Britain Urge Peaceful Solution to DPRK Nuclear Issue

UNITED NATIONS - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his British counterpart, Boris Johnson, agreed Friday that the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula should be resolved peacefully.

The two met on the sidelines of a UN Security Council ministerial level meeting regarding the nuclear activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Both agreed that tensions on the Korean Peninsula are escalating and the situation is likely to spiral out of control, saying the meeting at the Security Council was necessary.

Wang and Johnson also

said all parties should stay committed to the goal of denuclearization, strictly implement DPRK-related Security Council resolutions, stop the DPRK's nuclear and missile program, and stay committed to the path of dialogue and negotiation.

All the 15 members of the Security Council addressed the council on the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue and the implementation of relevant UN resolutions. In his address at the special session, Wang noted that "as the only way out, dialogue and negotiation also represent the sensible choice for all parties." (Xinhua)

Iran, EU Join Hands to Build Nuclear Safety Center

TEHRAN - Iran said on Saturday that it will start building an advanced nuclear safety center in cooperation with the European Union in the near future, Press TV reported.

The nuclear safety center would extend services to regional countries as well, Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said in a joint press conference with visiting European Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete.

On April 18, Iran and the European Commission signed the 2.5-million-euro (2.73 million U.S. dollars) project, which aims at improving the capabilities of the Iranian Nuclear Regulatory Authority by preparing feasibility study for the nuclear safety center.

According to Salehi, three rounds of talks with the

EU commissioner have been held since 2015 and "very good achievements" have been made.

Iran and the EU also plan to set up a roadmap based on The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and use its facilities in nuclear research and development, he said.

The Euratom is an international organization founded in 1957 with the purpose of creating a specialist market for nuclear power in Europe, developing nuclear energy and distributing it to its member states while selling the surplus to non-member states.

Iran and the EU would draw up a five-year plan for bilateral cooperation, Salehi said, adding that the bloc would "most likely" supply 20 million euros of credit for the projects to be carried out in Iran. (Xinhua)

Pakistan to Join Developed Countries Due to CPEC: Abbasi

HAVELIAN - Acting National Assembly Speaker of Pakistan, Murtaza Abbasi, on Sunday said Pakistan would soon join the developed countries due to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which would bring an economic revolution in the country.

The CPEC would start a new era of friendship in the region as neighbouring countries, including enemies, had desired to become part of it, he added.

Murtaza Abbasi was addressing public gatherings here at Nowshera and Phullanwali villages after inaugurating Sui gas supply projects.

He said Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had made Pakistan an atomic power due to

which enemies could not cast an evil eye on it.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government had adopted prudent policies due to which the menace of terrorism had almost been defeated and the country was again put on the path to development and prosperity.

Foreign investors were showing interest to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan, which was a proof of the government's investment-friendly policies, and better of law and order situation, he added.

Murtaza Abbasi said a new era of development and prosperity had started in the country. Energy crisis would soon end with addition of more electricity to the national grid. (APP)

Mirziyoyev Visits South Kazakhstan Region

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited South Kazakhstan region and had a working meeting with President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have been developing in the spirit of good neighbourliness, fraternity and mutual respect. Mutual interactions have been reinvigorating in all spheres.

The state visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan on 22-23 March 2017 has opened a new page in the cooperation of our countries. The

important documents, signed following the negotiations and the agreed arrangements have been steadily implemented in life.

During the meeting in South Kazakhstan region, the process of realizing the agreements, reached between the two countries during the state visit of the President of our country to Kazakhstan in March this year, was discussed.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev underlined that the intensity of bilateral meetings directly translates to the efficiency of the inter-state relations. (Agencies)