

PROPAGANDA BROADCAST North, South Korea exchange artillery fire

South Korean artillery units fired dozens of shells into North Korea yesterday in response to a rocket fired over the heavily-militarised frontier, as both sides pushed already elevated cross-border tensions to dangerously high levels. North Korea followed up with an ultimatum sent via military hotline that gave the South 48 hours to dismantle loudspeakers blasting propaganda messages across the border or face further military action. The message, issued by the Korean People's Army general staff, stipulated that the 48-hour period would expire at 5:00pm tomorrow. Direct exchanges of fire across the inter-Korean land border are extremely rare, mainly, analysts say, because both sides recognise the risk for a sudden and potentially disastrous escalation between two countries that technically remain at war.

Yesterday's incident came amid heightened tensions following mine blasts that maimed two members of a South Korean border patrol earlier this month and the launch this week of a major South Korea-US military exercise that infuriated Pyongyang. A defence ministry spokesman said South Korea had detected a rocket fired from the North Korean side across a western section of the border shortly before 4:00pm. The South's Yonhap news agency said the rocket landed in a mountainous area not far from a South Korean military base in Yeoncheon county -- some 60 kilometres north of Seoul. There were no casualties or damage. South Korean military units retaliated by launching "dozens of rounds of 155mm shells" targeting the rocket launch site, the defence ministry said in a statement.



Migrants wait to cross the Macedonian-Greek border near the town of Gevgelija, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

WORST MIGRANT CRISIS IN EUROPE SINCE WWII France, UK to set up crisis centre Macedonia declares 'state of emergency' on its border with Greece

AFP, Calais

Britain and France announced a new "command and control centre" yesterday to tackle smuggling gangs in Calais, as Europe grapples with its biggest migration crisis since World War II. Under a deal signed by Home Minister Theresa May and her French counterpart Bernard Cazeneuve, British teams will help bust smuggling gangs and reduce nightly attempts by desperate migrants and refugees to break into the Channel Tunnel. Macedonia said yesterday it had declared a "state of emergency" on its southern border with Greece and would draft in the army to help control the influx of migrants crossing the frontier. "Due to an increasing pressure on the southern border... it is estimated that greater and more efficient control is needed in the region where illegal border crossings from the Greek side have been massively registered," a government statement said. In an interview with AFP, the head

of the Red Cross slammed the "indifference" of governments across Europe that has allowed a continental crisis to take hold. "What will be the saturation point? When will everybody wake up to see that it is a real crisis?" Elhadj As Sy, head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said in Geneva. His comments came as a barrage of alarming statistics showed that hundreds of thousands of migrants -- many fleeing war and persecution in countries like Syria -- are pouring into the European Union, with no end in sight. The new deal for Calais includes extra French policing units, additional freight searches, and tighter security at the entrance to the Channel Tunnel near Calais through more fencing, cameras, floodlighting and infrared detection technology. A control centre will also be built there to try and bring down entry attempts, which at the start of the summer numbered up to 2,000 per night, but have

since reduced due to tighter security. Under the agreement, seen by AFP, Britain will also provide 10 million euros over two years to speed up asylum applications and boost humanitarian aid in the northern port city. Some 3,000 people from Africa, the Middle East and Asia are camped in Calais, and at least nine have died trying to cross over into Britain, where many have family and work is thought easier to find. These numbers are a tiny fraction of those entering other European countries, particularly Germany, which said this week it expects a new record 800,000 asylum seekers in 2015 -- far more than the 500,000 initially expected. Cazeneuve was due to travel to Germany yesterday evening to discuss the issue, which Chancellor Angela Merkel has warned could become a bigger challenge for the European Union than the Greek debt crisis. EU border agency Frontex on Tuesday reported a record high of 107,500 migrants at the European Union's borders last month.

'China secret agents number spikes in US'

CNN ONLINE

The number of Chinese government secret agents in the U.S. has spiked in the last several months and is now in the double digits, according to US officials. The agents are from the Ministry of Public Security, China's security service. US officials charged Wednesday that the increase suggests China lacks concern for US laws. It would also not be surprising if there are Chinese law enforcement agents on the ground of whom the US is not aware, officials said. The agents enter the US on tourist and business visas and do not report their presence to U.S. authorities as required by law, according to US authorities. Placing a law enforcement official here without notifying American authorities is criminal, they said. US diplomats previously warned China to stop using covert law enforcement agents on US soil. CNN reported that the agents pressure Chinese citizens to return to the country to face justice, often on corruption charges, United States officials confirmed to CNN. The agents have successfully coerced several Chinese nationals to return to China from the US, they said. China said Monday that they are not violating a legal cooperation treaty between the US and China, but that their government was simply fighting corruption under a program called Fox Hunt 2015. 'Fox Hunt 2015,' which targets corrupt officials of government departments and state-owned enterprises, is an important effort of China to crack down (on) corruption."

A sorry tale from Syria

Trapped under rubble for 36 hours after a bomb in a busy market, a Syrian man finally made it home – only to walk into his own funeral

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A man who was presumed dead after the bombing of a busy marketplace in Syria has woken up and returned home to walk in on his own funeral. Mohammed Rayhan was stood in the marketplace at Douma, near Damascus, on Sunday when it was shelled by government forces. The latest death toll from the attack – and a subsequent air raid while bodies were still being recovered – stands at 117, including 16 children and seven women, activists say. Rayhan's family believed after he failed to come home from the market that he was among that number, and began mourning him that day. But on Tuesday morning, around 36 hours after the bombing, Rayhan woke up, escaped the rubble and made his way home – with dust still covering his hair



and beard. Wakes typically last three days – and according to Middle East Eye, Rayhan arrived just in time to interrupt the final day of his own. While Rayhan's story sounds extraordinary, the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it is the sort of thing that "happens many times in Syria now". "Lots of people go missing, get lost in rubble, and only turn up later," Rami Abdurrahman, the activist group's director, told The Independent. Human Rights Watch urged the United Nations yesterday to impose an arms embargo on the Syrian government after air strikes on a rebel town near the capital killed more than 100 people. The New York-based group said the Sunday attack on Douma showed the government's "appalling disregard for civilians".



A police officer and a protester have a confrontation during an arrest after a shooting incident in St. Louis, Missouri, on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US cops kill another black man

AFP, Chicago

Protests broke out and US police responded with teargas after an 18-year-old black man was shot dead in a confrontation with white officers in St. Louis, Missouri, officials said Wednesday. The city is close to the trouble spot of Ferguson, where a police killing of an unarmed black man last year prompted angry protests and renewed discussion of race and policing in the United States. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said the 18-year-old had pointed a gun at two officers on Wednesday who were serving a search warrant. They then opened fire, killing him. Shortly afterwards, protesters began gathering at the site. St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson said they threw bottles and bricks at police and refused to move from an intersection. Police had to fire tear gas to clear the intersection. Nine arrests have been made, police said.

IAEA happy over Iran's military site inspection

REUTERS, Vienna

The United Nations nuclear watchdog said it is satisfied with access Iran will grant it to the country's Parchin military site, suspected by some states to have in the past hosted atomic bomb-related experiments. Without International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmation that Iran is keeping promises enshrined in a landmark nuclear deal reached with world powers on July 14, the country will not be granted much-needed relief from sanctions. According to data given to the IAEA by some member states, Parchin might have housed hydrodynamic experiments to assess how specific materials react under high pressure, such as in a nuclear blast. Under a roadmap agreement Iran reached alongside the political deal, Iran is required to give the IAEA enough information about its past nuclear program to allow the watchdog to write a report on the issue by year-end. Iran says its nuclear program has no military dimensions. The IAEA says it repeatedly asked for access to Parchin.

canconIMPORTS

Premium Brand
Luxury Automobiles

Importer/Wholesaler/Retailer

We are open 7days, Time: 10am - 8pm

LIMITED STOCK

01615-553000
01878-647322, 01878-647311

House: 21, Road:103, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212

UN PEACEKEEPERS New claims of rape surfaces in Central Africa

AFP, United Nations

United Nations officials have received disturbing new allegations that peacekeepers in the Central African Republic raped three young women -- the latest in a series of recent claims against the UN mission there. The new allegations came a week after UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon fired the head of the UN's mission to the country, declaring "enough is enough" after a string of accusations of child sex abuse and other misconduct by the troops. The rapes allegedly took place in the town of Bambari, northeast of the capital Bangui, in recent weeks. The victims' families notified the mission on August 12. One of the alleged victims is a minor. There have been at least 61 claims of misconduct against them, 12 of which involve sexual abuse.

Eternal Love
Wonders never cease

Hazoorilal
BY SANDEEP NARANG

SPARKLING SINCE 1952

Greater Kailash I, M - Block Market, New Delhi | T: +91 11 41734567

www.hazoorilaljewellers.com | Follow us: