

# I do not draw red lines

Trump says he has 'severe' options for Pyongyang's 'dangerous manner', commits nothing

US President Donald Trump chided North Korea for its recent missile tests, saying it is "behaving in a very very dangerous manner." On the eve of what is likely to be a prickly G20 summit, with Trump facing animosity from traditional US allies, he used his keynote address in Warsaw to warn that a lack of collective resolve could doom an alliance that endured through the Cold War.

"It's a shame they're behaving this way -- they're behaving in a very, very dangerous manner and something will have to be done about it," Trump yesterday said in a news conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda.

The president said he has "some pretty severe things" available to him when asked about military action against North Korea, but declined to elaborate.

"As far as North Korea is concerned, I don't know, we will see what happens," Trump said when asked about military action against North Korea. "I have some

pretty severe things that we are thinking about. That doesn't mean we are going to do it. I don't draw red lines."

Trump's comments came after North Korea launched what is believed to be its first test of an intercontinental ballistic missile Tuesday. US officials estimate it had a range of 3,400 miles, capable of hitting Alaska.

At a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council Wednesday, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley warned military action was on the table in response

**NORTH KOREA'S 'ICBM TEST'**  
Pyongyang says 'piece of cake' to wipe out South

**US, EU, Japan urge additional sanctions**

**China warns 'words and deeds' can raise tensions**

to the test.

"The US is prepared to use the full range of our capabilities to defend ourselves and our allies,"



she said, adding the US would "prefer not" to use force. She called on China to use its economic influence over North Korea to rein in the regime of King Jong Un.

Meanwhile, Pyongyang warned it would be a "piece of cake" to destroy "gangster" South Korea, state media reported yesterday.

The test prompted the US and the South to stage a joint missile drill aimed at countering the North's threats, after South Korean President Moon Jae-In called for a

response beyond "just words".

North Korea hit back Thursday, with its propaganda National Peace Committee for Korea criticising Moon for denouncing Pyongyang "instead of getting rejoiced over the praiseworthy event" staged by its northern neighbour, according to the KCNA news agency.

Mocking the South as "puppet military gangsters," the KCNA report added: "It will be as easy as a piece of cake for the (North) to wipe out the puppet forces... as we

are now able to destroy even the US mainland across the ocean."

The North's leader Kim Jong-Un described the ICBM launch -- staged on the US Independence Day holiday -- as a gift to "American bastards" and vowed to give more "gift packages" to the US in the future.

The impoverished North is already under onerous international sanctions imposed over its past nuclear and missile tests held in violation of UN resolutions, which ban it from using any ballistic or nuclear technologies.

The EU and Japan yesterday called for further sanctions against North Korea for repeated violation of UN resolutions.

EU president Donald Tusk said after talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Brussels on a landmark free trade accord that both sides shared basic values about how a rules-based global order should work.

China meanwhile warned against "words and deeds" that could heighten tensions over North Korea and pressed again for negotiations.

## ALLEGED US ELECTION MEDDLING

# Russia 'could have' interfered: Trump

US President Donald Trump on Thursday conceded that Russia may have interfered in the 2016 election that brought him to power but said other countries may also have been involved.

"I've said it very simply. I think it could very well have been Russia. I think it could well have been other countries. I won't be specific. But I think a lot of people interfere," Trump said during a visit to Warsaw.

"Nobody really knows. Nobody really knows for sure," he said, challenging US intelligence agencies which suspect Russian President Vladimir Putin orchestrated a sweeping campaign to tilt the November vote in Trump's favour.

"I remember when I was sitting back listening about Iraq. Weapons of mass destruction. How everybody was 100 percent sure that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Guess what -- that led to one big mess," Trump said of intelligence claims that prompted the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Russian meddling in the 2016 election is the subject of numerous investigations in Washington, casting a pall over the White House. The swirl of Russia investigations -- and possible connections between Trump's orbit and Russian officials -- has caused friction on Capitol Hill, hampering Trump's ability to score a number of legislative victories.



## Qatar using Twitter to stoke dissent

### Accuses Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, which is leading a four-country blockade of Gulf neighbour Qatar, yesterday accused Doha of being behind over 23,000 Twitter accounts it blames for trying to stoke dissent in Saudi Arabia.

"We found over 23,000 Twitter accounts driven by Qatar, some of them linked to accounts calling for 'revolution' in Saudi Arabia," Information Minister Awwad Saleh al-Awwad told AFP during a visit to Paris.

They included the @mujtahidd account, which claims to have the inside track on the Saudi royal household and has over 1.8 million followers, he said.

The account, which has backed Qatar, claimed that Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates had set out to overthrow Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani but decided against after coming under pressure from the United States, an ally of both Riyadh and Doha.

Al-Awwad accused a London-based Saudi dissident, Saad al-Faqih, of being behind the account, "together with Qatar".

His remarks came as Saudi Arabia vowed to push on with its month-old boycott of Qatar after the emirate refused to meet a list of demands to end the diplomatic crisis.

These include Doha ending support for the Muslim Brotherhood and closing its flagship broadcaster Al-Jazeera. Saudi Arabia and its supporters have severed air, sea and ground links with Qatar, cutting off vital routes for imports including food.

Qatar has dismissed the demands as "unrealistic".

Meanwhile, Germany's foreign minister said he no longer sees the risk of military escalation in the Gulf standoff.

Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said that, while the reaction sounded harsh, many demands that were initially made were no longer mentioned.

Gabriel visited Saudi Arabia, Qatar and mediator Kuwait this week as the Saudis and others seek to isolate Qatar over its alleged support for extremists.



A reveller cheers as she celebrates the 'Chupinazo' (start rocket) to mark the kickoff of the San Fermin Festival, in front of the Town Hall of Pamplona, northern Spain, yesterday. A red-and-white sea of revellers soaked each other with wine in a packed Pamplona square yesterday to kick off Spain's most famous fiesta, the San Fermin bull-running festival.

## UK opens separate 'jihadi jails'

Britain yesterday said it had begun housing Islamist extremists in separate prison units to prevent them radicalising other inmates, as it grapples with a mounting terror threat.

A new "separation centre" has been opened at Frankland jail near Durham, northeast England, the interior ministry said.

It is first of three centres which together will have a capacity of 28 inmates.

"The most dangerous and subversive offenders are now being separated from those they seek to influence and convert," said the minister for prisons, Sam Gyimah.

The move was recommended by a review into Islamist extremism in prisons published last year, which highlighted similar schemes in the Netherlands, France and Spain.

It found some "charismatic" prisoners were acting as self-styled "emirs" and exerting a controlling and radicalising influence on the wider Muslim prison population, and also found some "aggressive encourage-

ment" to convert to Islam.

The review also highlighted incidents of unsupervised collective worship, intimidation of prison imams and the availability of extremist literature.

The interior ministry said 4,500 frontline prison staff had received specialist training on how to identify and challenge extremist views, adding that new recruits would receive the training as standard.

Britain has suffered a string of terror attacks in recent months, and police say they have foiled 18 plots since 2013.

Official figures show there were 186 people in custody for terrorism-related offences and domestic extremism on March 31 this year, up 15 percent on the previous year.

In the year to March, 304 people had been arrested for terrorism-related offences -- the highest number since records began in September 2001, and an annual increase of 18 percent. Of these, 108 were charged and 88 were released on bail pending further investigation.

## STOPPING 'MIGRANT FLOOD' IN EUROPE

# EU ministers pledge steps

EU interior ministers yesterday pledged to back an urgent European Commission plan to help crisis-hit Italy, which has been overwhelmed by a wave of migrants arriving by sea from North Africa.

Ministers from across the bloc gathered in the Estonian capital Tallinn after Italy, which has accepted around 85,000 of the 100,000 people who have arrived this year, appealed desperately for help.

Most of those landing in Italy are sub-Saharan Africans who have crossed the Mediterranean from Libya, a journey that has so far claimed more than 2,200 lives this year, UN figures show.

In recent weeks, Italy has stepped up

calls for help, pleading with its European partners to make a "concrete contribution" by opening their ports to rescue ships to share the burden.

At the end of June, Italy threatened to stop vessels from other countries disembarking rescued migrants at its ports.

And the influx has exacerbated tensions with neighbouring Austria, which this week threatened to send troops to its border with Italy to stop migrants entering.

Central to yesterday's talks was a European Commission plan which earmarks 35 million euros (\$40 million) in aid for Rome as well as proposals for working with Libya and other countries to stem the flow of migrants at source.

Ministers expressed support for the plan as well as for a proposed "code of

conduct" to regulate non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on rescue missions patrolling off the coast of Libya.

Meanwhile in Rome, top diplomats from the EU and Africa met officials from the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) over the ongoing crisis.

The talks grouped foreign ministers from Libya, Niger, Tunisia, Egypt, Chad, Ethiopia and Sudan with their counterparts from Germany, Austria, Spain, France, The Netherlands, Malta and Estonia.

The ministers ended by issuing a statement calling for investment to help young people and women in the countries of origin, as well as supporting beefed up border controls in such countries.



## Macron backs two-state solution

French President Emmanuel Macron said he supported a two-state solution to end the Middle East conflict as he welcomed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to the Elysee Palace Wednesday.

Speaking publicly on the issue for the first time, Macron said any deal "must recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to have an independent state, but also ensure Israel's security."

"There is no viable alternative to a two-state solution," he said, adding "but today this solution is under threat both on the ground and in people's minds."

The UN reported in June that Israel had announced a substantial increase in settlements in the past three months despite a United Nations resolution demanding a halt to the Jewish outposts in occupied Palestinian territory.

Macron said that "France has always condemned the continuation of settlement building, which is illegal under international law, and has reached an unprecedented level since the beginning of the year."

His comments came after Donald Trump called on Israelis and Palestinians to make compromises for peace, saying he was "personally committed" to helping Israel reach a deal with the Palestinians.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gesture yesterday as they talk on Olga Beach in Hadera, Israel. In yesterday's talks, they sought to deepen ties between the countries beyond defence deals. Modi is the first Indian premier to visit Israel.

## 'No deal' not an option for Brexit: EU's Barnier

The EU's top Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier yesterday warned Britain there were no grounds for walking away without a deal, a scenario that would only harm the UK's interests.

"No deal would make a lose-lose situation even worse... in my mind, there is no reasonable justification for a no-deal," Barnier said, referring to recent suggestions by British ministers that London could go its own way if the talks fail.

"A fair deal is far better than no deal," he told an EU panel on Brexit, repeating the phrase twice in English.

Britain and the EU began the formal Brexit talks last month based on Barnier's timetable of dealing first with the rights of more than three million EU citizens in Britain, and more than one million Britons living in Europe.

Then follows the thorny issues of Britain's estimated 100-billion-euro (\$112 billion) exit bill and future of the border

between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which remains in the EU.

Only once "sufficient" progress has been made on these issues, will the European Union consider London's demand for talks on its future relationship with Brussels, including all important trade arrangements.

Barnier told the panel the EU would make no compromises on this agenda, insisting repeatedly that Britain could not expect to cherry-pick its ties with the bloc as many British politicians say it should.

Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said that it "wasn't new that some on the EU side have strong feelings" about Brexit, but that both parties would benefit from a trade deal.

"We're just at the beginning of the negotiations, but I would say that the most frictionless possible trade between the UK and the EU is clearly in the interests of both sides," he said.

"We want a comprehensive free trade agreement and a new customs agreement."