



### Trump threatens N Korea with 'fury and fire'

President Donald Trump issued an extraordinary ultimatum to North Korea yesterday, warning "Pyongyang not to make any more threats against the United States or they will face fire and fury like the world has never seen".

"North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen... it has been very threatening beyond a normal state. They will be met with fire, fury and frankly power the likes of which this world has never seen before," he said.

Trump's harsh words come as US intelligence analysts have assessed that North Korea has produced a miniaturised nuclear warhead, according to multiple sources familiar with the analysis of North Korea's missile and nuclear program.

It is not believed that the capability has been tested, according to the sources. This is not a consensus view from the entire intelligence community, one US official said. The Washington Post, which was first to publish details, reported that it was the analysis of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The US official familiar with the analysis of North Korea's missile and nuclear program says, in reference to North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un's boasts about the program, "we have to take him at his word and we need to be prepared to deal with it."

This official said the "assessment" is being updated as more intelligence is collected.



A Kenya Administration police officer monitors access to a polling station at Kariokor Community Centre in Nairobi during general elections yesterday.

## Jittery Kenyans vote in key polls

Kenyans queued in large numbers to vote yesterday in an electoral showdown between the country's foremost political dynasties, as the two sides traded barbs about the fairness of the ballot.

Shrouded in fears of violence, the vote pits President Uhuru Kenyatta, the 55-year-old businessman son of Kenya's founding president, against Rala Odinga, a 72-year-old former political prisoner and son of Kenya's first vice-president.

The rivals are facing each other for the second time, with opinion polls pointing their neck-and-neck after two months of campaigning marked by fiery rhetoric but public speeches largely free of the ethnic hate that has sullied previous contests.

Were Odinga to win, it would upend the political dominance of the Kikuyu ethnic group, which has supplied three of Kenya's four presidents since independence from Britain in 1963.

Kenyatta called for unity, saying he would accept the result and urged rivals to do the same.

The razor-thin polling is giving grounds for the loser to complain about the result, as Odinga did in 2007 and in 2013, despite a high-tech electronic voting system.

First results are not expected before today, but a very close race means it might take three days before a winner emerges. Officially, election authorities have up to a week to declare the outcome, reported Reuters.

## Diplomacy hits roadblock

Say sources as Beijing escalates war of words against New Delhi

India's diplomatic efforts to end a seven-week military standoff with China have hit a roadblock, people briefed on the talks said, prompting Chinese state-run media to trumpet rhetoric of "unavoidable countermeasures" on the unmet border.

China has insisted that India unilaterally withdraw its troops from the remote Doklam plateau claimed by both Beijing and Indian ally Bhutan.

But China did not respond to India's suggestion in the talks that it move its troops back 250 metres (820 ft) in return, said one source with close ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

In the low-key diplomatic manoeuvres that took place outside the public eye, the Chinese countered with an offer to move back 100 metres (328 ft), so long as they received clearance from top government officials.

But there has been no comeback since, except for China's mounting warnings of an escalation in the region, which it calls Donglang.

"It is a logjam, there is no movement at all now," said a second source with knowledge of the talks.

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry, which has repeatedly urged India to withdraw, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the state of talks.

Indian troops went into Doklam in mid-June to stop a Chinese construction crew from extending a road India's military says will bring China's army too close for comfort in the northeast.

Their faccess since, military experts say, is the most serious since going toe-to-toe in the 1980s, with thousands of soldiers each, elsewhere along the 3,500-km (2,175-mile) border.

China has held off going to war in the hope New Delhi would see reason, the state-run Global Times, which has kept up a barrage of hostile commentary, said yesterday.

"If the Narendra Modi government continues ignoring the warnings coming from a situation spiralling out of control, countermeasures from China will be unavoidable," it said.

The border crisis caps a year of souring diplomatic ties between the Asian giants, even though trade between the fast growing economies is rising rapidly.

India has grown concerned at China's ties to its arch rival Pakistan, viewing their trade corridor across Kashmir as an

### US-SOUTH CHINA TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN DOKLAM



## Destroying IS could lead to 'Iran empire'

Wams ex-US secy of state Kissinger

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK Henry Kissinger has warned that destroying Isis could lead to an "Iranian radical empire".

The former diplomat has suggested that once Isis is defeated, if Iran occupies the free territory, the result could lead to the emergence of a new empire.

The 94-year-old, who was the Secretary of State under President Richard Nixon, also spoke about the complications of taking sides in Middle Eastern conflicts.

In these circumstances, the traditional adage that the enemy of your enemy can be regarded as your friend no longer applies. In the contemporary Middle East, the enemy of your enemy may also be your enemy.

The Middle East affects the world by the volatility of its ideologies as much as by its specific actions," he wrote in an article for CaPex.

"The outside world's war with Isis can serve as an illustration. Most non-Isis powers — including Shia Iran and the leading Sunni states — agree on the need to destroy it. But which entity is supposed to inherit its territory? A coalition of Sunnis? Or a sphere of influence dominated by Iran?"

"The answer is elusive because Russia and the Nato countries support opposing factions. If the Isis territory is occupied by Iran's Revolutionary Guards or Shia forces trained and directed by it, the result could be a territorial belt reaching from Tehran to Beirut, which could mark the emergence of an Iranian radical empire," Kissinger added.

Last year, the former Harvard professor said the biggest challenge the Middle East faced was the "potential domination" by Iran, the Algemeiner reported.

## Street auctioned over property tax in US

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The wealthy residents of an exclusive San Francisco street have threatened legal action after learning that the communal areas outside their homes have been sold to a private investor for a combined total of just £720,000.

Despite the street's mansions selling for millions of dollars, an unpaid tax bill saw the carefully manicured lawns and pristine pavements of Presidio Terrace auctioned for a mere \$90,000.

Michael Cheng and his wife Tina Lam bought the gated street and now own the road, footpaths and other areas of "common ground" in the private development.

The auction stemmed from an unpaid bill after the homeowners' association for Presidio Terrace failed to pay a \$14-year property tax, something that owners of all 181 private streets in San Francisco must do, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The Californian city's tax office put the property up for sale for \$994 in an online auction to claw back unpaid back taxes, penalties and interest. The couple eventually won the street with a \$90,100 bid in an April 2015 auction.

Cheng and Lam are said to be looking for other ways to make money from their investment, including charging residents to park on their street or renting out the 120 parking spaces that line the road.

However, the street's residents have attempted to block the new landowners by petitioning the city's Board of

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Smoke billows following a reported air strike on a rebel-held area in the southern Syrian city of Daraa, yesterday. The US-led coalition campaign to destroy the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria enters its fourth year this week, and the Pentagon believes the jihadists' defeat is inevitable.

## VENEZUELA VIOLENCE UN points finger at Maduro

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The responsibility for human rights violations in Venezuela "lies at the highest level of government," the United Nations human rights office said yesterday.

Venezuelan security forces have wielded excessive force to suppress protests, killing dozens, and have arbitrarily detained 15,000 people since April, including 1,000 still in custody, the team's analysis found.

It said it had investigated 124 deaths in connection with demonstrations against President Nicolas Maduro's government, and found 46 attributable to security forces and 27 to pro-government armed groups, with the rest unexplained.

The "house said violations included" "house raids, torture and ill-treatment of those detained in connection with the protests."

"We are concerned that the situation in Venezuela is escalating and these human rights violations show no signs of abating."

UN human rights spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini said in a statement: "These violations have occurred amid the breakdown of the rule of law in Venezuela, with the Government against the National Assembly and the Attorney-General's Office."

## N Korea has missile-ready nukes

W Post report says the regime has 60 nuke weapons; China vows to enforce UN sanctions

AGENCIES

North Korea has produced a nuclear warhead small enough to fit inside its missiles, the Washington Post reported yesterday, a major development sure to further inflame tensions.

The Post cited parts of an analysis conducted by the Defense Intelligence Agency that says the intelligence community thinks North Korea has "nuclear weapons for ballistic missile delivery" -- including intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Post said the assessment's broad conclusions were verified by two US officials familiar with the analysis.

The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It was not known if North Korea has successfully tested the smaller warhead design, the Post said, though North Korea last year claimed to have done so.

The progress means North Korea is further along the path to having a deployable nuclear missile than has previously been acknowledged.

community by the pace and progress of its missile development program, and in July leader Kim Jong Un conducted two tests of an ICBM -- the first time he had demonstrated ICBM capability.

The first of these trials, which Kim described as a gift to "American bastards," showed the rocket

had the potential to hit Alaska.

The second rocket test last week flew even longer, with some experts even suggesting that New York could be in range.

Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi yesterday said his country will pay the biggest price from the new UN sanctions against North

Korea because of its close economic relationship with the country, but will always enforce the resolutions.

The UN Security Council unanimously imposed new sanctions on North Korea on Saturday over its continued missile tests that could slash the reclusive country's \$3 billion annual export revenue by a third.

The latest UN resolution bans North Korea exports of coal, iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood. It also prohibits countries from increasing the numbers of North Korea labourers currently working abroad, bans new joint ventures with North Korea and any new investment in current joint ventures.

US President Donald Trump praised other nations for addressing North Korea's missile programme. "After many years of failure, countries are coming together to finally address the dangers posed by North Korea. We must be tough and decisive," Trump wrote in a post on Twitter.

North Korea vowed Monday that though new UN sanctions would not stop it from developing its nuclear arsenal, rejecting talks and angrily threatening retaliation against the United States.

## South Africa leader Zuma survives

AFP, Cape Town

South African President Jacob Zuma yesterday survived a parliamentary vote of no confidence, as ruling ANC lawmakers stuck by their leader despite divisions and fierce criticism of his rule.

The no-confidence motion needed to secure 201 of the 400 votes of parliament to succeed, but fell short with 177 votes, national assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete announced.

Mbete made a surprise decision Monday to hold the ballot in secret after a campaign by the opposition who hope to encourage ANC members to vote against their leader without fear of intimidation.

Criticism of Zuma from within the African National Congress (ANC) has grown amid multiple corruption scandals and mounting economic woes. The Nelson Mandela has declined sharply after the polls in recent years.

But ANC officials and most analysts had predicted that the president would survive the vote given the party's large parliamentary majority.

The ANC parliamentary party celebrated victory over what it described as an attempted "soft coup".

Several opposition parties led thousands of anti-Zuma protesters outside the national assembly before the vote, while supporters of the president held a rival march.

Zuma, who has built up a network of loyalists in the ANC since coming to power in 2009, has survived several previous parliamentary votes but these had been held

## 6.5-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE Dozens feared dead in China

AFP, Beijing

A 6.5-magnitude earthquake rattled southwest China last yesterday, killing at least five people, with up to 100 feared dead, according to a government estimate.

Five people died and more than 100 were injured in the quake, the official Xinhua news agency said, including 30 who were in critical condition.

But China's National Commission for Disaster Reduction estimated that as many as 100 people may have perished, based on 2010 census data of the mountainous, sparsely populated region.

Over 130,000 houses may be damaged, it added in a statement posted on its website, based on a preliminary analysis of the disaster in a remote region of Sichuan province.

Restaurant owner Tang Sesheng held her establishment in Jiujiang town after she felt the earth moving under her. "I was also in Jiujiang in 2008 during the last big quake, so I knew what it was. This felt even stronger," she told AFP by phone.

She said people had come out of their homes to sit out in the town's large public square, far from any tall structures, afraid to go back inside for fear that buildings might topple. Many were also sitting in cars, thinking it safer. "People didn't dare grab anything like money or clothes"