

# NEWSIN brief

## Typhoon kills six in Macau, Hong Kong

AP, Hong Kong  
Typhoon Hato left five dead in the gambling hub of Macau yesterday as it brought chaos and destruction to the enclave after sweeping through neighbouring Hong Kong, where one man also died. Local media showed severe flooding. Dead lefties under water and people swimming in Macau's city streets.

## Sri Lankan outspoken justice minister axed

AP, Colombo  
Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena sacked his controversial justice minister yesterday for speaking out against a deal to sell states of a deep sea port to China.

## India train accident injures at least 42

AP, New Delhi  
At least 42 passengers were injured yesterday after several cars of an express train derailed in northern India, police said, four days after another rail accident killed 23 people in the country. The train crashed into a truck in northern Uttar Pradesh before derailing, causing 12 carriages to flip over, sources told AFP.

## Pak ex-PM's wife to run in polls despite illness

AP, Islamabad  
A Pakistani official says former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's wife will run for a seat in parliament despite being diagnosed with throat cancer. Information Minister Mairan Aurangzeb says Kulsoom Nawaz is being treated at a London hospital and plans to return to Pakistan for the vote next month in Lahore.



**Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers inspect damaged army vehicles after a blast in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, yesterday. A Taliban suicide bomber killed five people and wounded dozens of others, mainly children as young as five, after detonating a car packed with explosives at a police headquarters in southern Afghanistan.**

# Kim starting to respect US

Claims Trump as N Korea reveals missile plans after new sanctions

AP, Seoul  
North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un is "starting to respect" the United States, President Donald Trump declared, even as Pyongyang revealed plans for its missile development yesterday and Kim ordered a production boost. Trump's remarks, at a rally in Phoenix, came hours after Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said talks with the nuclear-armed North over its banned weapons programmes might be possible "in the near future."

aggressive rhetoric was starting to bear fruit. "Some people said it was too strong. It's not strong enough," he told thousands of supporters. "But Kim Jong-Un, I respect the fact that I believe he is starting to respect us. I respect that fact very much." "And maybe, probably not, but maybe something positive can come about."

The comments are a marked contrast to the rhetoric of recent weeks, when Trump spoke of raining "fire and fury" on the North, and as tensions have eased after Kim pulled back from a plan to send a salvo of missiles towards the US Pacific territory of Guam.

restraint Tillerson acknowledged Pyongyang's recent "escalation" in not carrying out fresh nuclear or missile tests in response to tough new United Nations sanctions, the seventh set imposed on it.

Kim ordered more production of rocket engines, ICBMs  
Tillerson says talks with Pyongyang may be close  
New sanctions target Chinese, Russian firms, individuals

The Trump administration's rhetoric has been highly variable but Washington has said it would be open to dialogue if Pyongyang took steps to calm tensions. In a commentary earlier this week, the North's official Korean Central News Agency described Trump as a "mad dog" who "frequently posts weird articles of his ego-driven thoughts in his twitter and spouts rubbish".

But Washington also imposed new sanctions on Chinese and Russian firms suspected of doing business with the North. Pyongyang, meanwhile, revealed significant technological advances in its missile programmes and ambitious plans to further improve its capabilities.

US criticism of its efforts to fight terrorism saying it should not be used as a "scapegoat" for the failure of the US military to win the war in Afghanistan, reported Reuters.

## SUPPORT TO MILITANTS IN AFGHANISTAN

# Pak's status as privileged ally in question, says US

Agencies  
US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned Tuesday that Pakistan's privileged status as a major non-Nato ally could be in question if it continues to give safe haven to extremists.

consequences if it does not get behind a renewed US effort to help Kabul repel the Taliban and force them to negotiate a political settlement, reported AFP.

"We have some leverage," Tillerson told reporters, "in terms of aid, their status as a non-Nato alliance partner -- all of that can be put on the table."

On Tuesday, Tillerson met journalists to brief them on the details of the strategy, and to lay out what Islamabad might expect if it does not fall into line.

"Pakistan is one of 16 countries to currently enjoy 'major non-Nato ally' status, which is not a mutual defence pact like the Atlantic alliance, but allows close military cooperation."

The president has been clear that we are going to attack terrorists wherever they live," Tillerson said. "We've had people on notice that if you're providing safe haven to terrorists, be warned -- we are going to engage those providing safe haven and ask them to change what they are doing."

On Monday, President Donald Trump sternly rebuked Pakistan for supporting groups like the Taliban and the Haqqani network, which launch cross-border raids on US and Afghan troops.

Meanwhile, Pakistan rejected yesterday US criticism of its efforts to fight terrorism saying it should not be used as a "scapegoat" for the failure of the US military to win the war in Afghanistan, reported Reuters.

US officials in northern Nigeria say the children are often encouraged to go to busy areas, including markets, while the explosives they carry are sometimes triggered from a distance. Occasionally, children get scared approaching checkpoints and detonate the bombs without injuring anyone else.

rather than referring to the children as suicide bombers. "Children used as 'human bombs' are above all victims, not perpetrators," UNICAF said in a statement on Tuesday. The latest figures show a huge rise from 2016, when UNICAF documented 19 cases where children were used as bombers in northeast Nigeria and neighbouring Niger, Cameroon and Chad. Of these, 15 were girls and four were boys.

# World record for largest samosa

AP, London  
The world record for the largest samosa was smashed on Monday on Tuesday by weighing in at 153.1 (337.5 pounds) kilograms.

# Boko Haram's use of child bombers soars in Nigeria

Independent Co. UK  
There has been a fourfold increase in the number of children used as bombers in northeast Nigeria this year, the United Nations Children's Agency (Unicef) has said.

# Mattis in Turkey for talks on Syria, Kurds

AP, Ankara  
Pentagon chief Jim Mattis held talks with Turkish leaders in Ankara yesterday focusing on Washington's arming of a Syrian Kurdish militia viewed as a terror group by Turkey, a move which has strained ties between the Nato allies.

# Qatar ensures rights of domestic workers

AP, Doha  
Qatar has approved a law limiting domestic staff to a maximum of 10 hours' work a day, the first such protection for household maids, nannies and cooks in the emirate.

"My heart was beating really fast," said Farid Islam, 26, the project organizer.

Since its insurgency began in 2009, Boko Haram has aimed to carve out a caliphate in Nigeria's northeast and neighbouring countries. More than two million people have been displaced as the group has gained and lost territory across the region.

They will also receive end-of-service benefits equivalent to a minimum of three weeks wages for each year of service when their contract ends. The law prohibits staff being recruited from abroad who are older than 60 and younger than 18.

Other domestic workers covered by the new law include cleaners, gardeners and drivers.

UN SAYS 83 CHILDREN USED SINCE START OF THE YEAR

aid workers prefer to describe such incidents as the use of "human bombs"

Critics have long campaigned for legal protection for domestic staff, with some claiming that they are subjected to working in slave-like conditions. These included physical and sexual abuse, no wages being paid and passports being confiscated.

In 2014 it was reported that hundreds of Filipino domestic workers had sought sanctuary at their Doha embassy

# Air raids kill 35 in Yemen capital

AP, Sanaa  
More than 30 people, including civilians, were reported killed in air raids on Yemen's capital, where a Saudi-led coalition has been bombing Iran-backed Huthi rebels.

The Huthis, who control Sanaa along with forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, blamed the pro-government Arab coalition for the attack on Adnan district.

The rebels' claim that the Saudi-led coalition had carried out the attack was made in a statement on their Al-Massira television channel. A spokesperson for the coalition not reachable for comment.

Human rights groups have repeatedly criticised the coalition over the civilian deaths from the bombing campaign it launched in support of Yemen's internationally recognised government in March 2015.

Since then, thousands of people have been killed in the conflict, most of them civilians.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have called on the United States, Britain and France to stop their deliveries of bombs and other weapons to Saudi Arabia because of concerns over the civilian casualties.

Yesterday's strikes on Sanaa's northern outskirts killed at least 35 people, and rescue workers were still pulling bodies from the rubble, said Hussein al-Tawil, head of the Sanaa branch of Yemen's Red Crescent.

An official with an international aid organisation confirmed to AFP that at least 30 people had been killed in a series of strikes on the capital.

# UN warns US over alarming racism

22m Americans support neo-Nazis: poll

AP, Geneva  
A UN committee tasked with combating racism has issued a formal "early warning" over conditions in the United States, a rare move often used to signal the potential of a looming civil conflict.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it had invoked its "early warning and urgent action procedure" because of the proliferation of racist demonstrations in the US. It specifically noted the unrest in Charlottesville, Virginia, in which a woman was killed after an avowed white supremacist ploughed his car into a group of anti-racism counterprotesters.

The racism committee, part of the UN human rights office, can issue a formal early warning to help prevent "existing problems from escalating into conflict" or to "prevent a resurgence of conflict where it has previously occurred", according to the rights office website.

The UN committee urged Washington, "as well as high-level politicians and public officials, to unequivocally and unconditionally reject and condemn racist hate speech", without mentioning Trump by name.

According to a new poll, nine percent of Americans say holding neo-Nazi or white supremacist views is acceptable. The Washington Post ABC poll was carried out in the wake of the deadly racially-charged violence in Charlottesville earlier this month. If extrapolated to the entire US population, nine percent would equate to 22 million people. According to the survey, 83 percent of Americans think holding neo-Nazi views is unacceptable.

The Seventh Fleet, headquartered at Yokosuka in Japan, is the centrepiece of the US military presence in Asia, undertaking sensitive missions such as operations in the South China Sea and around the Korean peninsula.

Aucoin, who had held the post since September 2015, had been in the navy for almost four decades and US media reports said he had been due to retire in weeks.

He was replaced by Rear Admiral Phil Sawyer. Monday's accident was the second fatal collision in 10 hours' work a day, the first such protection for household maids, nannies and cooks in the emirate.

The "Domestic Employee Law" also orders employers to pay staff wages at the end of each month and entitles workers to at least one day off per week and an annual leave of three weeks, the Qatar News Agency reported.

They will also receive end-of-service benefits equivalent to a minimum of three weeks wages for each year of service when their contract ends. The law prohibits staff being recruited from abroad who are older than 60 and younger than 18.

Hundreds of thousands of foreign workers have flocked to the gas-rich Gulf emirate in recent years, including almost 100,000 women working as house staff.

Other domestic workers covered by the new law include cleaners, gardeners and drivers.



**People are rescued from a flooded village in Motihari, Bihar State, India, yesterday. Almost 1,000 people have been killed over a period of two weeks in some of the worst flooding to hit South Asia in decades, with residents running out of food and clean water, officials said.**

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