



DIPLOMATIC ROW  
Russia may cut  
US personnel  
by 155: Putin

AFP, Xiamen

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday threatened to expel up to 155 more US diplomatic personnel from his country as the diplomatic feud between Washington and Moscow rumbled on.

"We reserve the right to make a decision on how many American diplomats there are in Moscow. But we will not do that for the moment," Putin told a press conference after a summit of BRICS nations in southern China.

Moscow had previously ordered Washington to reduce its diplomatic presence to 455 people by September 1, the same number that Russia has in the US.

That number, however, includes 155 people who work for Russia's diplomatic mission to the UN in New York, Putin said, meaning his country could further cut the number of US diplomats to 300: "It's 455 minus 155."

On Saturday Russia was forced to vacate its consulate in San Francisco and two diplomatic buildings in New York and Washington after the US ordered the move, the latest twist in a lengthy feud.

Russia demanded Sunday that the US rethink its shattering of Moscow's diplomatic premises, insisting that Washington bore sole responsibility for worsening ties after the "hostile act".

US intelligence agencies have accused Putin of orchestrating a sweeping hacking and influence campaign to tip the November 2016 presidential election in favour of Donald Trump -- prompting several investigations, including one led by the FBI.

# N Korean ICBM on the move

Says report; Trump offers 'sophisticated' arms to South Korea, Japan amid tensions

AGENCIES

South Korea yesterday said an agreement with the United States to scrap a weight limit on its warheads would help it respond to North Korea's nuclear and missile threat after it conducted its sixth and largest nuclear test two days ago.

South Korean officials believe more weapons tests by the reclusive state are possible, despite international outrage over Sunday's nuclear test and calls for more sanctions against it.

South Korea's Asia Business Daily, citing an unidentified source, reported that North Korea had been observed moving a rocket that appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) towards its west coast.

The rocket started moving on Monday and was spotted moving only at night to avoid surveillance, the newspaper said.

South Korea's defence ministry, which warned on Monday that North Korea was ready to launch an ICBM at any time, said it was not able to confirm the report.

Analysts and South Korean policymakers believe North Korea may test another weapon on or around Sept 9, when it celebrates its founding day.

North Korea's fifth nuclear test fell on that date last year, reflecting its tendency to conduct weapons tests on significant dates.

North Korea says it needs to develop its weapons to defend itself against what it sees as US aggression.

South Korea, after weeks of rising tension, is talking to the United States about

agreed on Monday to scrap a warhead weight limit on South Korea's missiles, South Korea's presidential office said, enabling it to strike North Korea with greater force in the event of war.

Trump yesterday said he would allow Japan and South Korea to buy more "highly sophisticated" US military equipment, amid soaring tensions after Pyongyang's latest atomic test.

"I am allowing Japan & South Korea to buy a substantially increased amount of highly sophisticated military equipment from the United States," Trump said in a tweet.

Trump's statement came after North Korea on Sunday detonated what it described as a hydrogen bomb designed for a long-range missile, sparking global alarm with what was by far its most powerful test to date.

On Monday, the South's military launched a volley of ballistic missiles simulating an attack on the North's nuclear test site.

Trump did not elaborate on the kind of weaponry and equipment he had in mind.

South Korea and the United States are technically still at war with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce, not a peace treaty.

Both sides have thousands of rockets and artillery pieces aimed at each other across the world's most heavily armed border, but the North's rapid development of nuclear weapons and missiles has altered the balance, requiring a stronger response from South Korea, officials say.



South Korea's naval ships take part in a military drill for possible attack from North Korea in the water of the East Sea, South Korea, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

deploying aircraft carriers and strategic bombers to the Korean peninsula, and has been ramping up its own defences.

US President Donald Trump and his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in,

Seoul was previously restricted to a maximum warhead weight of 500 kilograms (1100 pounds) on its ballistic missiles, according to a bilateral agreement with the United States signed in 2001.

## Trump slams doors on 'Dreamers' Scraps DACA ending amnesty for 800,000 young immigrants

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump on Tuesday scrapped a program that protects from deportation almost 800,000 young men and women who were brought into the United States illegally as children, giving a gridlocked Congress six months to decide their fate.

Trump's action, announced by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, rescinds a program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The program, created by Democratic former President Barack Obama, is supported by Democrats and many business leaders. The Trump administration said no current beneficiaries of the program would be affected before March 5.

Sessions said the action does not mean the DACA recipients are "bad people." "To have a lawful system of immigration that serves the national interest, we cannot admit everyone who would like to come here. It's just that simple. That would be an open-border policy and the American people have rightly rejected that," Sessions said.

The move marked the latest action by Trump that is sure to alienate Hispanic Americans, a growing segment of the US

population and an increasingly important voting bloc. Most of the immigrants protected by DACA, dubbed "Dreamers," came from Mexico and other Latin American countries.

Trump's action, deferring the actual end of the program, effectively kicks responsibility for the fate of the Dreamers to his fellow Republicans who control Congress. But Congress has been unable since the president took office in January to pass any major legislation and has been bitterly divided over immigration in the past.

Obama bypassed Congress and created DACA through an executive order.

Trump appeared determined to pressure US lawmakers to act. "Congress, get ready to do your job - DACA!" the president wrote on Twitter yesterday morning before the policy announcement was made.

There were some signs that Congress might be willing to act, with a number of senior Republican lawmakers coming forward to express an interest in protecting the Dreamers.

The president's decision may have been forced by nine Republican state attorneys general, led by Texas, who had threatened a legal challenge in federal court if Trump did not act to end DACA. A number of Democratic state attorneys general have threatened legal action to defend the program.



## Caribbean braces for monster hurricane

AFP, Marigot

Irma strengthened into an "extremely dangerous" Category Five hurricane yesterday, meteorologists warned, sparking alarm and flooding alerts as it barrelled towards the Caribbean.

The monster hurricane coming on the heels of Harvey, which struck Texas and Louisiana late last month is expected to make landfall along the string of French islands including Guadeloupe late yesterday before heading to Haiti and Florida.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center in its 1200 GMT bulletin said Irma had strengthened to the most powerful Category Five, packing winds of 175 miles (280 kilometers) per hour.

The front was moving west at 14 miles (22 kilometers) per hour, and is expected to drop between four and eight inches (10 and 20 centimeters) of rain when it hits land.

"These rainfall amounts may cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides," the NHC warned.

Irma's centre was located about 320 miles (515 km) east of the West Indies' Leeward Islands, the NHC said, urging that "preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion" in the region.

The governor of the US state of Florida, Rick Scott, declared a state of emergency, saying Irma posed "a severe threat to the entire state of Florida", barely a week after Harvey claimed at least 42 lives.

Category Five hurricanes are rare and are capable of inflicting life-threatening winds, storm surges and rainfall.

NY Daily News sold for \$1

AFP, New York

The New York Daily News, the storied century-old tabloid known for its provocative headlines, has been sold for \$1, in the latest sign of turmoil in the newspaper sector.

The deal which closed over the weekend allows Tronc, the owner of the Los Angeles Times and Chicago Tribune, to acquire the New York daily for virtually nothing while assuming its pension and operating liabilities, according to a regulatory filing.

The Daily News has won 11 Pulitzer awards since its founding in 1919, including a prize this year for its reporting on police abuse of eviction rules to oust poor residents from their homes.

Ironically, the sale returns the newspaper to its roots, founded by Joseph Medill Patterson, who was a co-publisher of the Chicago Tribune, which eventually became part of Tribune Co.

Still, the deal underscores the deep woes of the print newspaper sector, where values have been plummeting over the past two decades as more readers and advertising turn to online sources.

Earlier this year, Tronc acquired the Chicago Sun-Times newspaper, also for \$1.

Tribune Co. owned the New York paper until 1991, when it was bought by British newspaper magnate Robert Maxwell. The latest owner, real estate billionaire Mortimer Zuckerman, purchased the daily in 1993.

Throughout its history, the Daily News has been known for its colorful and provocative headlines.

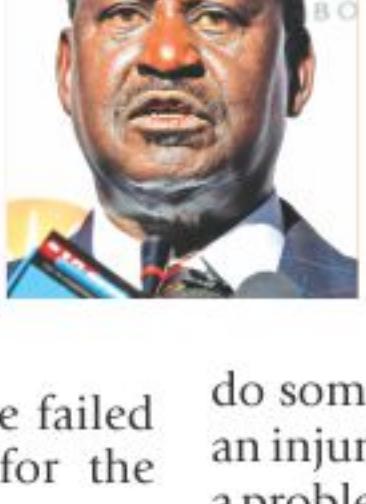
Among its most famous was the "Ford to City: Drop Dead" in 1975 when president Gerald Ford refused federal aid to stave off imminent municipal bankruptcy.

## POLITICAL IMPASSE IN KENYA

# Odinga sets conditions after SC clears way for poll re-run

AFP, Nairobi

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga yesterday sought the sacking of several poll commission officials and set other conditions for taking part in a presidential vote re-run in October after the landmark scrapping of last month's poll won by President Uhuru Kenyatta.



On Friday, Supreme Court Chief Justice David Maraga created history in Africa by declaring Kenyatta's victory in the August 8 election "invalid, null and void", citing widespread irregularities in the electronic transmission of vote results.

It was the first time a presidential election result was overturned in the continent and followed three failed bids by the 72-year-old Odinga for the presidency -- in 1997, 2007 and 2013.

"There will be no election on the 17th of October until terms and conditions which we have spelt out in this statement are met," a combative Odinga told reporters.

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

Odinga said the IEBC had not given the opposition access to its servers despite a Supreme Court injunction and called for a revamp of the system.

After the shock ruling, an enraged Kenyatta said he would respect the decision but lashed out at the judges, saying: "Every time we do something a judge comes out and places an injunction. It can't go on like this... there is a problem and we must fix it."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats" which they called an "assault on the judiciary."

The 55-year-old president also branded the judges "hyenas" and "crooks", sparking a strong reaction about his "veiled threats"