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Publisher: Wea H. Lee
General Manager: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai
Business Manager: Jennifer Lopez
Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com

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North Korean media hails summit as Trump presses for full denuclearization

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea's state news agency on Saturday called the inter-Korean summit a turning point for the Korean peninsula, while U.S. President Donald Trump said he would maintain sanctions pressure on Pyongyang ahead of his own unprecedented meeting with Kim Jong Un. The North's KCNA news agency separately released the joint statement North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in presented on Friday after the first summit in more than a decade between the two Koreas. Kim and Moon had pledged to work for "complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula and agreed on a common goal of a "nuclear-free" peninsula.

"At the talks both sides had a candid and open-hearted exchange of views on the matters of mutual concern including the issues of improving the north-south relations, ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula and the denuclearization of the peninsula," KCNA said, reporting that the night wrapped up with a dinner with an "amicable atmosphere overflowing with feelings of blood relatives."

A day after the meeting between Kim and Moon produced dramatic images and a sweeping declaration of goodwill, South Korean media were replaying striking scenes of the two leaders and North Korea's main state newspaper published a multi-page spread with more than 60 photos from the visit.

On Saturday afternoon, North Korean state TV broadcast its first footage of the summit. Most of the specific commitments outlined in the official declaration focused on inter-Korean relations and did not clear up the question of whether Pyongyang is willing to give up its arsenal of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. In their coverage of the summit, North Korean state media made rare mentions of the denuclearization discussion, but did not go into specifics, instead highlighting the broad themes of peace, prosperity, and Korean unity.

The declaration earned guarded but optimistic praise from world leaders, including Trump, who said on Friday that only time would tell, but that he did not think Kim was "playing."

"It's never gone this far. This enthusiasm for them wanting to make a deal ... We are going to hopefully make a deal."

Still, Trump told reporters, he would maintain pressure on North Korea and "not repeat the mistakes of past administrations."

On Saturday, Trump said on Twitter that he "just had a long and very good talk with President Moon of South Korea. Things are going very well, time and location of meeting with North Korea is being set."

Trump added that he had also spoken with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to inform him of ongoing negotiations.

A senior U.S. official said Singapore is being considered as a possible venue for the Trump-Kim



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attend the inter-Korean summit at the truce village of Panmunjom, in this still frame taken from video

summit.

Speaking on Saturday at a televised news conference in Sydney, Australian prime minister Malcolm Turnbull praised Trump's negotiations on North Korea and said he helped bring the two Korean leaders together.

"I have given him that credit because Donald Trump has taken a very, very strong, hard line on the denuclearization issue and he has been able to bring in the support of the global community and, in particular, China," Turnbull said. "North Korea's economic relationship is overwhelmingly with China. And so China's preparedness to impose those sanctions has been the critical change that has put the economic pressure on North Korea."

Turnbull said the pressure from China and the U.S. had brought Kim to the point of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

"What we've now got to do is not relent on the economic pressure until that goal is achieved," he said.

Australia will send a military aircraft to monitor North Korean vessels suspected of transferring illicit goods in defiance of U.N. sanctions, he said.

Iran, facing a possible U.S. exit from its nuclear deal with world powers, welcomed the inter-Korean summit, but said Washington was not a "qualified" partner in the negotiations.

"Iran sees (the summit) as an important step in the right direction that can contribute to lasting regional and global peace and security," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying by state media.

"The U.S. government is not a credible actor, doesn't comply with its international obligations and doesn't qualify to take part in arrangements between countries," Qasemi added.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (inside a vehicle) bids farewell to South Korean President Moon Jae-in as he leaves after a farewell ceremony at the truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarized zone separating the two

Koreas, South Korea, April 27, 2018. Korea Summit Press Pool/Pool via Reuters

An editorial in the official China Daily on Saturday said denuclearization could end hostilities between the two sides and "usher in a new era of development" on the peninsula, but noted Friday's declaration lacked a plan for achieving the goal.

"The denuclearization of the peninsula, written into the Panmunjom Declaration, is only a prospect with no specific plan. That is because such specifics can be reached only between the US and North Korea, and South Korea has only limited authority to bargain," it said. For all survivors of sexual assault, female and male," Bernard told reporters, using a high estimate of the number of Cosby's accusers. "I feel like my faith in humanity is restored."

The seven-man, five-woman jury reached a unanimous verdict after deliberating for 14 hours over two days.



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un walk together at the truce village of Panmunjom

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Texas City hosts first Supertanker as U.S. crude gushes

A 2 million barrel-carrying supertanker arrived for the first time at a jetty in Texas City as surging U.S. oil output drives up incentives to export.

The Nave Quasar, a Very Large Crude Carrier, signaled from the jetty at the Gulf of Mexico terminal on Friday morning, according to vessel-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg.

The tanker is being brought into Enterprise Products Partners LP's Texas City terminal to determine measurements for future VLCC loadings, at least of partial cargoes, according to a person familiar with the matter. Nave Quasar will not load any supplies at this time for shipment, the person said. This site's water depth, also known as draft, needs to be increased to about 76 feet from 45 feet to enable supertankers to fully load. The company said it was too premature to discuss the project.

While profits from shipping U.S. oil overseas are surging on paper, the logistics to do so remain a challenge in a country that was set up for decades as an importer. The price of crude at Houston earlier this week tumbled to a record discount of more than \$4 a barrel relative to Brent, the international benchmark. Freight costs on a very large crude carrier for delivery to Asia would probably be less than half that, highlighting the potential return for companies with the ability to get oil onto ships.

Oil continued its rally on Thursday, approaching \$70 for the first time in more than three years. West Texas Intermediate rose about 1% to \$69.56 at session highs around 7 a.m. On Wednesday, the US Energy Information Administration released a report showing oil inventories in the US fell by 1.1 million barrels last week to about 428 million barrels. Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia has been hinting the OPEC could extend production caps into next year. The country — OPEC's biggest producer — is targeting a crude price of \$80 or even \$100, Reuters reported.

Shipments on VLCCs have proven difficult from U.S. Gulf Coast ports where waters can be too shallow once carriers are fully loaded, meaning cargoes move on smaller ships. It still remains to be seen how much oil Nave Quasar will actually load. Another carrier, the Anne, tested at the Port of Corpus Christi last May but didn't collect a cargo.

The deepening price discounts are already driving up exports, which soared to a record 2.3 million barrels a day in the most recent data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, known

as the LOOP facility, started exports in February and will receive its third VLCC in May, according to a person familiar with the matter. U.S. crude output surged to 10.59 million barrels a day in the week to April 20, the highest in weekly data going back to 1983. The U.S. ended 40-year-old trade limits on crude exports in late 2015.

Lists of charters compiled by Bloomberg show the cost of recent U.S. Gulf of Mexico bookings to Asia would work out at about \$1.50 to \$2 a barrel, depending on where in the continent the ships go.



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Editor's Choice Pictures



South Korean President Moon Jae-in's wife Kim Jung-sook walks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's wife Ri Sol Ju during a farewell ceremony at the truce village of Panmunjom



Attorney Gloria Allred stands with accusers of actor and comedian Bill Cosby after a jury convicted him in a sexual assault retrial at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attends a news conference at the Alliance's headquarters, in Brussels



Soccer Football - Premier League - Newcastle United v West Bromwich Albion - St James' Park, Newcastle, Britain - April 28, 2018 Newcastle United's Jonjo Shelvey in action with West Bromwich Albion's Jake Livermore REUTERS/Scott Heppell EDITORIAL USE ONLY. No use with unauthorized audio, video, data, fixture lists, club/league logos or "live" services. Online in-match use limited to 75 images, no video emulation. No use in betting, games or single club/league/player publications.



Members of a historical military club in World War Two uniform listen to the national anthem during the traditional Convoy of Liberty in Prague



Security guard views parachuter at Air Games near Giza Pyramids near Cairo



Armenian opposition leader Pashinyan takes his seat during a news conference in Yerevan



Buddhist monks, nuns and people attend a prayer service wishing for a successful inter-Korean summit in Seoul, South Korea



A hand of a devotee is pictured as she sprinkles rice grains while offering prayer on the mask of Bhairab, which is kept on the chariot of Rato Machhindranath, during the chariot festival in Lalitpur

HCC To Launch Challenger Learning Center

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



inary step to provide students in the area with a STEM experience that will spark a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime.

new innovation corridor in Midtown and partnerships with NASA and the University of Houston to build a Mars surface habitat and other additional facilities for manned missions to Mars."

Space City with this project. This new partnership with Challenger Center is a perfect match made in the heavens."

The organization offers dynamic, hands-on exploration and discovery opportunities to students around the world. These programs equip students with the knowledge, confidence, and skills that will help better our national social and economic well-being.

HOUSTON [April 12, 2018] - Houston Community College is on a mission to thrill and educate young students in simulated flights to Mars, the Moon and beyond.

In February, HCC submitted a formal application to Challenger Center, headquartered in Washington D.C., to open a Challenger Learning Center at the HCC Southeast College Felix Fraga Campus.

"We are incredibly impressed with Houston Community College's vision for a seamless STEM pathway that launches students on a trajectory to higher education and 21st century skills.

The Challenger Learning Center at Houston Community College will join a network of more than 40 Challenger Learning Centers around the globe. Each Center is a fully immersive experience, including a Mission Control Room and Space Station where students work with hands-on labs, conduct experiments and analyze data during a Challenger Center Mission.

in southeast Houston, offers a rigorous STEM curriculum that includes engineering, maritime logistics, drafting, math, physics and astronomy. It also has an astronomical observatory to serve students and the community.

The Challenger Center

As a leader in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, Challenger Center provides more than 250,000 students annually with experiential simulation-based programs that engage students in hands-on learning opportunities.

About HCC

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society.

"This will add to HCC's growing innovative educational offerings that already include participation in the city's

"HCC is proud to have been selected as the site for the newest Challenger Learning Center," said HCC Board Chair Carolyn Evans-Shabazz. "Houston put a man on the moon and now HCC is adding to Houston's heritage as



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Advertisement for 阿拉斯加幸福極光 (Alaska Aurora) and other travel packages, including a table of prices for various tours.

Advertisement for 明星假期 (Majestic Vacations), offering vacation packages and services.

Advertisement for 幸福新邨 (Happy Village Apartments), listing amenities and contact information.

Advertisement for 百樂公寓 (Bellaire Silk), a new apartment complex with modern amenities.

Advertisement for 美聯混凝土 (Mei Lian Concrete), specializing in concrete services and repairs.

Advertisement for 李元鐘保險 (Lee Yuan Zhong Insurance), offering various insurance policies.

US, South Korean Presidents Likely To Meet Before Trump-Kim Summit

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



South Korean president Moon Jae-in and US President Donald Trump

US President Donald Trump and his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, will likely hold their own summit ahead of Trump's historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

A senior official in Moon's administration told CNN the meeting is likely to take place in Washington DC, where Moon would brief Trump on the results of this week's inter-Korean summit.

Moon and Kim are meeting face-to-face Friday in the demilitarized zone that divides the two Koreas. It will be the first time leaders from the two countries speak in person in more than a decade.

South Korea's top national security officer, Chung Eui-yong, raised the possibility of a Trump-Moon summit during a meeting with US National Security Adviser John Bolton in Washington Tuesday, according to South Korean President's secretary for public relations, Yoon Young-chan.

Yoon said Chung called his meeting with Bolton "very substantial and beneficial."

"The two countries have agreed to consult after the inter-Korean summit for the success of the North Korea-US summit," Chung said, according to Yoon.



Details about Friday's meeting have been slowly trickling out from the Blue House, South Korea's presidential office.

Moon's administration revealed Tuesday the symbolic dishes being served to the two leaders for dinner.

Guests will be served food from the Korean Peninsula's far north and south, including cold noodles, dumplings and barbecued beef. There will even be food sourced from the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that divides the two countries.

On Wednesday, Seoul released pictures of the room where Kim and Moon will meet in the Peace House, in the DMZ between the two countries.

South Korea redecored the room especially for the historic occasion, with attention paid to the symbolism of the smallest details.



The room where Kim Jong Un and Moon Jae-in will meet during Friday's inter-Korean summit.

South Korea says it chose a rounded table to reduce the physical distance between the two sides and allow people to talk candidly. The diameter of the oval-shaped table where Moon and Kim will sit face-to-face is 2018mm to mark the year of the summit.

The room will also feature a painting of Mt. Kungang, a mountain in North Korea that once once open to South Koreans but was closed to them in 2008. The artwork is meant to symbolize reconciliation and cooperation between Pyongyang and Washington, the Moon administration said. The walls are meant to evoke the feeling of being inside a Hanok, a traditional Korean house, while the blue carpet is meant to capture the "beautiful and healthy spirit of the nature of the Peninsula." (Courtesy cnn.com)

Related

A timeline of more than 60 years of tensions between North and South Korea



A South Korean soldier stands guard

as a North Korean flag flutters on top of a tower at the propaganda village of Gijungdong in North Korea on Sept 28, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL (AFP) - Tensions have remained high in the more than 60 years since North and South Korea fought a fierce war from 1950-53.

Here is a timeline of relations between the two Koreas, who remain technically at war:

WAR ENDS IN STALEMATE

On June 25, 1950, the army of communist North Korea crosses the 38th parallel, which separates it from capitalist South Korea, seizing Seoul in three days.

Beijing is Pyongyang's main backer, while Washington supports Seoul during the three-year war in which between two and four million Korean, Chinese and US soldiers and civilians are killed.

North and South Korea sign an armistice on July 27, 1953 and a Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is established near the 38th parallel. It is never ratified by a formal peace treaty, leaving the two Koreas technically still at war.

INFILTRATIONS AND ATTACKS

Since the end of the war, numerous attacks, troop infiltrations and clashes, mostly provoked by Pyongyang, have threatened the fragile ceasefire.



The DMZ 1960

Pyongyang has on several occasions placed its troops on a war footing:

January 21, 1968: a team of 31 North Korean commandos is sent to Seoul to assassinate President Park Chung Hee, but is intercepted by South Korean security. All

but two are killed, and only one of those captured.

August 18, 1976: North Korean soldiers attack a work party trying to chop down a tree inside the demilitarized zone. Two US army officers are killed in what becomes known as the "axe murder incident".

October 9, 1983: An attempt to kill South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan takes place when North Korea plants a bomb in a mausoleum in Yangon, Myanmar during a visit by Chun. He survives but 21 people, including some government ministers, are killed.

November 29, 1987: A bomb planted on a Korean Air flight explodes over the Andaman Sea, killing all 115 people on board. Seoul accuses Pyongyang, which denies involvement.

September 18, 1996: A North Korean submarine on a spying mission runs aground off the eastern South Korean port of Gangneung. After a 45-day manhunt, 24 crew members and infiltrators are killed.



The DMZ 2018

DIRECT CONFRONTATION

June 15, 1999: South Korean and North Korean naval ships clash off South Korea's Yeonpyeong island. North Korean casualties are estimated at around 50.

March 26, 2010: The South Korean corvette Cheonan sinks, killing 46 sailors.

An international investigation concludes it had been torpedoed by a North Korean submarine. Pyongyang denies the charge.

November 23, 2010: North Korea fires 170 artillery shells at Yeonpyeong, the first attack on an area populated by civilians since the war: four are killed, including two civilians. South Korea's troops fire back with cannon.

August 20, 2015: South and North Korea

trade artillery fire across their border.

PYONGYANG'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

North Korea has steadfastly pursued development of its nuclear programme and ballistic missiles capable of hitting targets in Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

October 9, 2006: It carries out its first successful nuclear test. Since then it has come under a series of international sanctions.

In 2017, Pyongyang multiplies its ballistic missile tests and on September 3 carries out its sixth and biggest nuclear test to date amid a verbal escalation between the US President Donald Trump and the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.



A North Korean soldier moving towards Panmunjom on the north side of the truce village of Panmunjom on June 2, 2017. PHOTO: AFP

September 21, 2017: South Korea's new President Moon Jae In tells the United Nations he does not want the "collapse" of North Korea but warns against tensions becoming "overly intensified" and "accidental military clashes".

November 2017: Seoul imposes new unilateral sanctions, putting 20 North Korean organisations including banks on a blacklist. The measures are in addition to fresh sanctions by the UN.

NORTH AGREES TO TALKS

January 3, 2018: the Korea reopen a cross-border hotline, shut down for two years, after Kim Jong Un suggests Pyongyang could send a team to next month's Winter Olympics in the South.

January 5, 2018: North Korea accepts the South's offer of talks to take place on January 9, the first since 2015. Courtesy <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia>

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